

### Introduction:

Nawabs and kings gradually lost their power and authority from the mid- 18th century. Their freedom was reduced, their armed forces were disbanded and their earnings and territories were taken away. Many ruling families like Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi tried to negotiate with the company to protect their interests but they were unsuccessful. Now the company began preparing plans to end the Mughal dynasty. The company has taken several steps to make this plan a success. The name of the Mughal emperor was removed from the coins minted by the company.

### 1. Representations of 1857

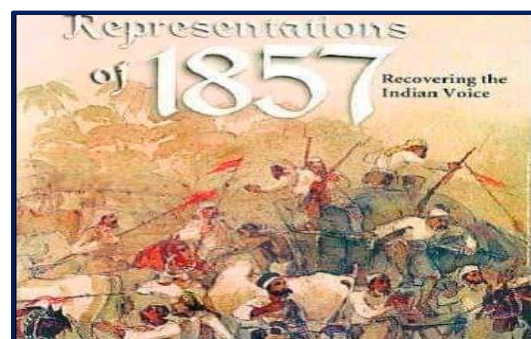
Nawabs and kings gradually lost their power and authority from the mid- 18th century. Their freedom was reduced, their armed forces were disbanded and their earnings and territories were taken away. Many ruling families like Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi tried to negotiate with the company to protect their interests but they were unsuccessful. Now the company began preparing plans to end the Mughal dynasty. The company has taken several steps to make this plan a success. The name of the Mughal emperor was removed from the coins minted by the company.

In 1849, after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, it was announced that the royal family would be evacuated from the Red Fort and given another place to live in Delhi. In 1856, the company decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar was the last Mughal king and after his death, his successors would be called princes. Farmers and landowners in rural areas opposed high taxes and strict methods of revenue collection. Indian soldiers are dissatisfied with their salary, allowances, and terms of service. Some of the company regulations also violated his religious sentiments. Dissatisfaction with this spread everywhere. The reforms brought by the British in Indian society required some reforms but there were also no positive responses.

The company made a law to stop the practice of sati. Promoted English language education. In 1850, a new law was passed to facilitate conversion to Christianity. Some Indians felt that the British were destroying their religion and their social customs, while some wanted to change the existing social practices. Gradually people started to consider the British as their common enemy and hence they stood against this enemy at the same time. In May 1857, there was a large-scale uprising in India that threatened the very existence of the company.

From Meerut, the sepoys revolted in many places and a large number of people from different sections of the society revolted. On March 29, 1857, a young soldier named Mangal Pandey was hanged for attacking his officers at Barrackpore. This is too much for the soldiers. He refused to conduct military exercises suspected of being coated with cows and pigs using new cartridges. This increased the tension between the company and the soldiers.

The sepoys were determined to end the rule of the company. Reached Delhi from Meerut. Regiments in Delhi also revolted when news of his arrival broke. They killed several British officers, seized weapons and ammunition, and set fire to buildings. They met the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar and proclaimed him their leader. The Mughal emperor had the support of the rulers and chiefs of the country and all of them together stood against the British forces. After the expulsion of the British from Delhi, there was no revolt for a few days. After this, the period of rebellion began. Regiment after regiment revolted and went to join other forces at nodal points like Delhi, Kanpur, and Lucknow. After them, the people of the towns and villages also rose in revolt and gathered around the local leaders, landlords, and chiefs who were ready to fight the British. Thus, a widespread uprising shook the British confidence in the rule of India.



The company had no choice but to suppress the revolt with its power. It brought reinforcements from England, passed new laws so that the rebels could easily be convicted, and attacked the rebel centers. In September 1857, the Company captured Delhi from the rebel forces. Bahadur Shah Zafar was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was sent to Rangoon Jail along with his wife. But people from other areas continued to protest and the British fought them. The British had to fight for two years to suppress the huge rebel forces.

By the end of 1859, the British had regained control of the country, but they could no longer rule the country with the same policies. The British Parliament passed a new law in 1858 and transferred the powers of the East India Company to the British Crown to make Indian affairs more accountable. The Governor-General of India has conferred the title of Viceroy, the Crown's representative. Thus, the British government took direct responsibility for governing India.

All the rulers of the country were allowed to hand over their kingdoms to their successors, including their adopted sons. However, he had to consider the British Queen as his supreme authority. The uprising began on May 10, 1857, with the outbreak of rebellion in Meerut. After seizing control of the local administration, the sepoys marched towards Delhi along with the people of the surrounding villages. They sought the support of the Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah. The soldiers came to the Red Fort and asked the emperor to give them blessings. There is no other way but to support Bahadur Shah.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

**Weapon Bells:** Weapons Store.

**Artillery:** A word of Persian origin, meaning white-skinned foreigner.

**Rebellion:** Rebellion by soldiers.

**Rebellion:** A mass uprising by the people against the ruler.

## 2. 1857 Uprising:

The sepoys started the uprising by looting weapons in the shops and looting the treasury, then looting all the government offices like jail, treasury- telegraph office, record room, bungalow etc. Advertisements were made in Hindi, Urdu and Persian. Calls. They want to join them and put an end to foreign rule. As the civilians joined the sepoys, the uprising turned into a coup, and the targets of the attack expanded. During the uprisings in cities like Lucknow, Kanpur and Bareilly, the rich and moneylenders were also attacked and their property looted because they were considered by the British as their allies and they also oppressed the peasants in recent times.



#### DO YOU KNOW?

**Enfield Rifle:**

These cartridges were greased with cow and pig fat, which angered both Hindus and Muslims.

**Resident:**

Representative of the East India Company to the local kings, which is located in the next capital.

**Affiliate Coalition:**

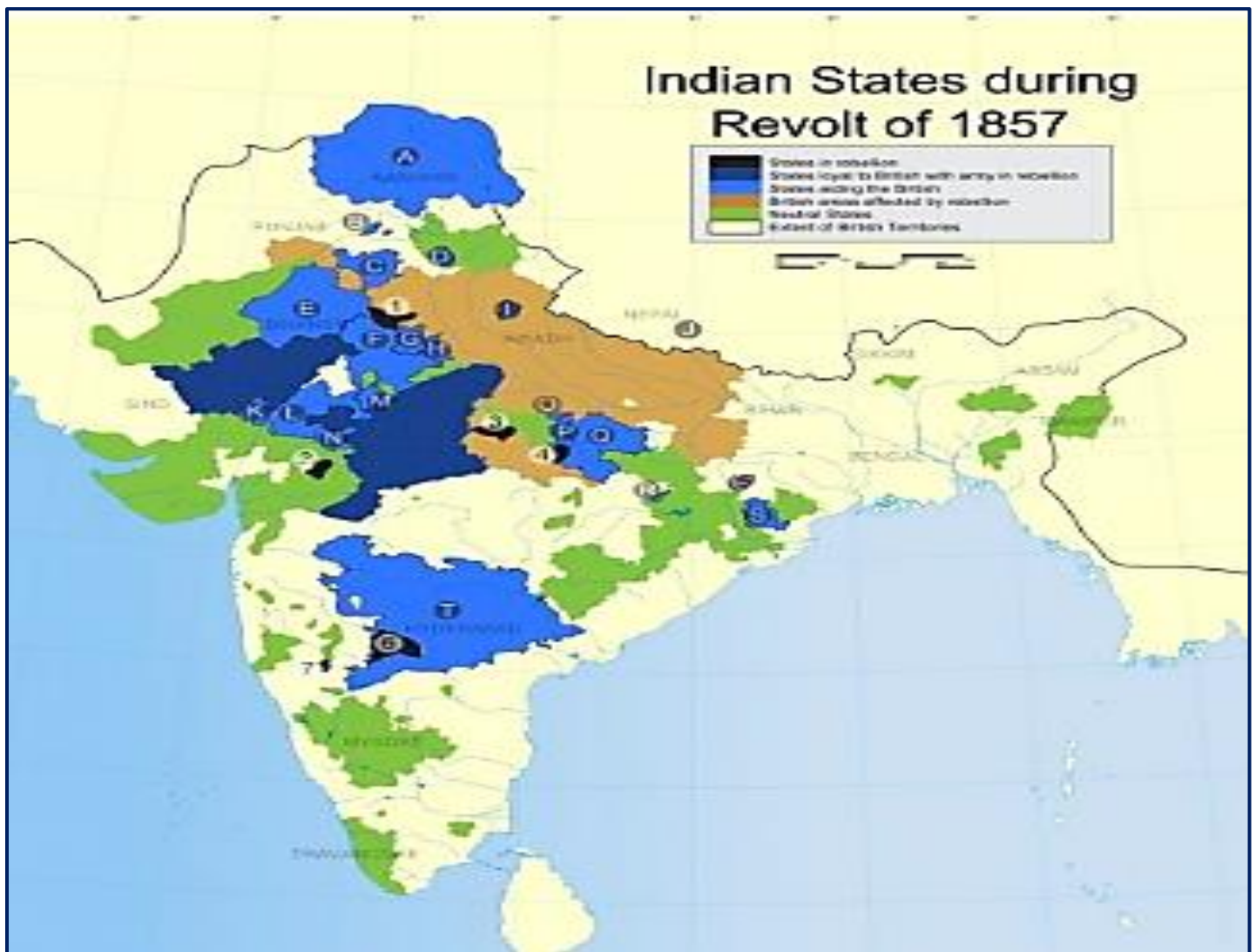
Agreement to make local states dependent on the Company for military power. It was brought by Lord Wellesley.

## 3. Communication methods during the uprising:

There is evidence of communication between soldiers of different regiments before and during the uprising. His messengers moved from one place to another. The sepoys or historians say that there were panchayats and these were formed with local officers taken from each regiment. These panchayats collectively took some decisions. The sepoys had the same lifestyle and many of them belonged to the same caste, so they sat together and rebelled.







#### 4. Famous leaders and followers of the uprising:



Leadership and organization are essential to fight the British. For leadership the rebels resorted to rulers overthrown by the British. Many of these displaced rulers joined the rebellion either because of pressure from the local people or because of their own enthusiasm.

In some places the religious elders also took the lead and inspired the people to fight like the fakir in Meerut and the religious elders who taught about the destruction of the British rule in Lucknow.

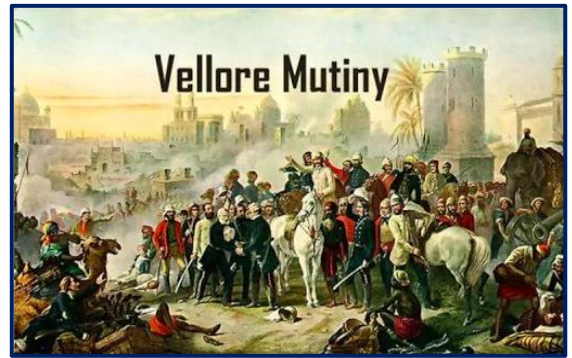
Local leaders such as Shah Mai in Baraut in Uttar Pradesh and Gonu, the tribal leader of the Kol tribe in Singhbhum, mobilized groups for the uprising.

### The role played by rumors and prophecies in the uprising:

Rumors and prophecies played an important role in the uprising and the spread of the uprising. It was rumored that the cartridges of the Enfield rifle were mixed with cow and bore coating and dust.

Both these rumors were believed and it was felt that it would harm the religion and caste of Hindus and Muslims. There was fear and suspicion that the British wanted to convert the Indians to Christianity. Expectations were also high that British rule would end by the centenary of the Battle of Plassey on June 23, 1857. Therefore, these rumors and speculations provided important psychological reasons for the revolt against British rule. To believe the rumors. In the years before 1857, the British introduced many things that were new to Indian society and aimed at reforming Indian society, such as Western education, Western ideas, institutions, schools, colleges and universities. The British enacted new laws to ban the practice of sati and to allow widow remarriages. In the 1850s, the British merged states such as Awadh, Jhansi and Satara by refusing to adopt and due to maladministration. New land and revenue settlements were made.

All these factors led the Indians to believe that the British were changing their lives, customs and rules and replacing them with foreign customs and rules. Christian missionaries spread rapidly and suspicion grew with their activities.



## 5. Rebellion in Awadh:



Lord Dalhousie described the kingdom of Awadh as a cherry that will one day fall into our mouths.

Lord Wellesley founded the Allied Alliance in 1801. Gradually, the British developed more interest in the state of Awadh. The British see Awadh as a producer of cotton and indigo and also as a major market in upper India.

By the 1850s, the British had conquered the Maratha lands, all major parts of India such as Doyab, Karnataka, Punjab and Bengal. Completed the territorial integration that began with the annexation of Bengal a century earlier with the incorporation of Awadh in 1856. Dalhousie Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was deported and deported to Calcutta on maladministration charges against Awadh. The British government mistakenly believes that Nawab Wajid Ali was an unpopular ruler. On the contrary, he was widely loved and the people mourned the loss of the Nawab. The removal of the Nawab led to the abolition of the courts and the decline of culture. Musicians, dancers, poets, cooks, detainees and administrators all lost their livelihoods.

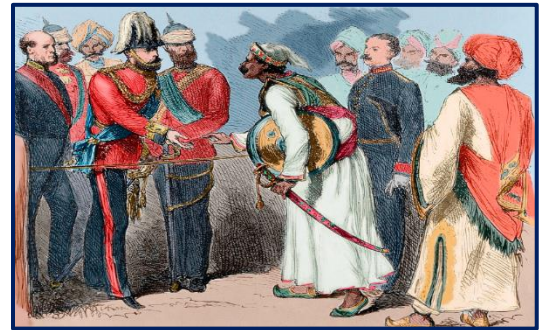


## 6. British Raj and the end of the war:

With the removal of the Nawab all the taluks in Awadh were also removed. They disarmed and destroyed their forts. With the new revenue system called Summary Settlement, the taluk lost most of its revenue; Ground. Wherever possible the talukdars were removed and settlements were made directly with the farmers. This expulsion of the talukdar completely shattered the social system.

The company settles the income directly with the farmers and now the farmers are upset as the income is high. There is no guarantee that the state revenue demand will decrease when there is distress or crop loss, or that farmers will receive loans and support from the taluka during the festivals. Earlier, British officers had friendly relations with Indian soldiers, but later Indian soldiers were subjected to racial abuse, low pay scale and differences in service. In the 1840s, a sense of dominance developed over the British officers, physical violence also began and the distance between officers and soldiers increased.

Since most of the Indians serving in the army were from Oudh, the local people of Oudh were also aware of the injustice done to their brothers. Awadh farmers are already in trouble due to high incomes and talukdars are looking for revenge to regain their rights. All these factors together contributed to the intense participation of the people of Awadh in the 1857 uprising.



### DO YOU KNOW?

**1849:** Following the death of Governor-General Lord Dalhousie Bahadur Shah Zafar, it is announced that the royal family will be evicted from the Red Fort and relocated to Delhi.

**1856:**

- (i) Governor General Canning decides that Bahadur Shah Zafar was the last Mughal king and that his successors would be recognized as princes after his death.
- (ii) The Company has passed a new law which requires every new person serving in the Company Army to agree to serve abroad when required.

**March 29, 1857:** A young soldier named Mangal Pandey is hanged for attacking his officer in Barrackpore.

**May 1857:** Soldiers revolt in many places.

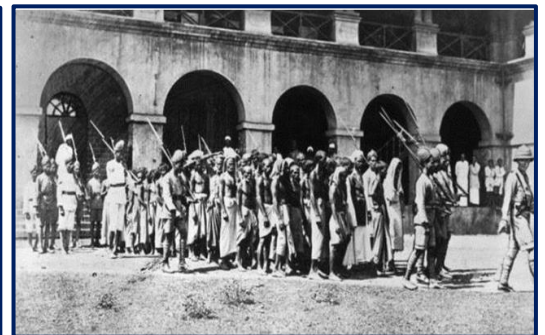
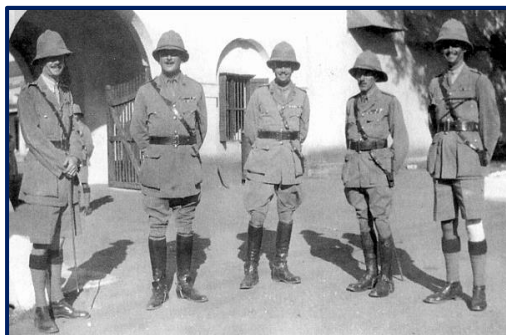
## 7. Rebel demands:

During the uprising, only certain statements and 'Ishihara' (notifications) were issued to propagate his ideas to the rebel leader and to persuade the people to join the uprising. Therefore, it is very difficult to reconstruct what happened in 1857 and the demands of the rebels. The only way to know in detail about the 1857 uprising was to know the details of the British authorities and their point of view. The statement issued by the rebel leader appealed to all sections of the population, irrespective of caste or creed. The uprising was seen by both Hindus and Muslims as a war to be won or won equally.

During the uprising, despite the efforts of the British government, no religious division between Hindus and Muslims was recognized.

## 8. Rebels Against Oppression:

British rule destroyed the status of farmers, artisans and handloom workers. There was fear and suspicion that the British intended to destroy the caste and religion of Hindus and Muslims and convert them to Christianity. A statement was issued urging the people to come together to protect their





livelihood, faith and identity and to reject matters relating to the artillery kingdom altogether. During the uprising, the rebels attacked all the symbols and offices of the British government. The uprising also targeted allies of the British government, plundered the property of moneylenders and set fire to ledgers. All activities reflect the rebellious attempt to manipulate the traditional hierarchy and to rebel against all oppression.

### Discovery of alternative energy:

During the uprising the rebels sought to establish the 18th century British pre-world. He tried to set up a whole administrative machinery on the one hand to carry out day-to-day operations during the war, on the other hand he planned how to fight the British.

### British repression:

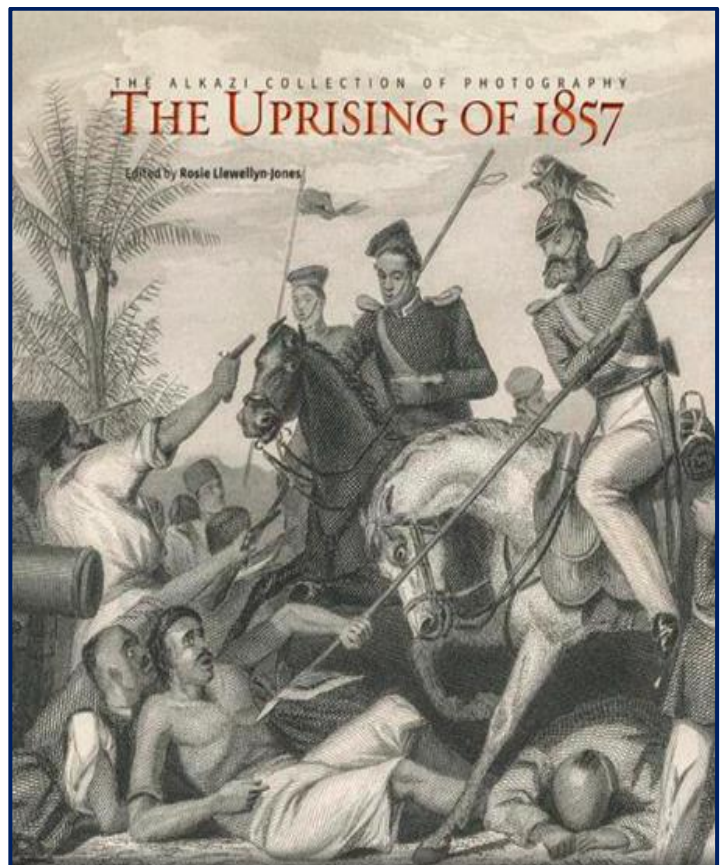
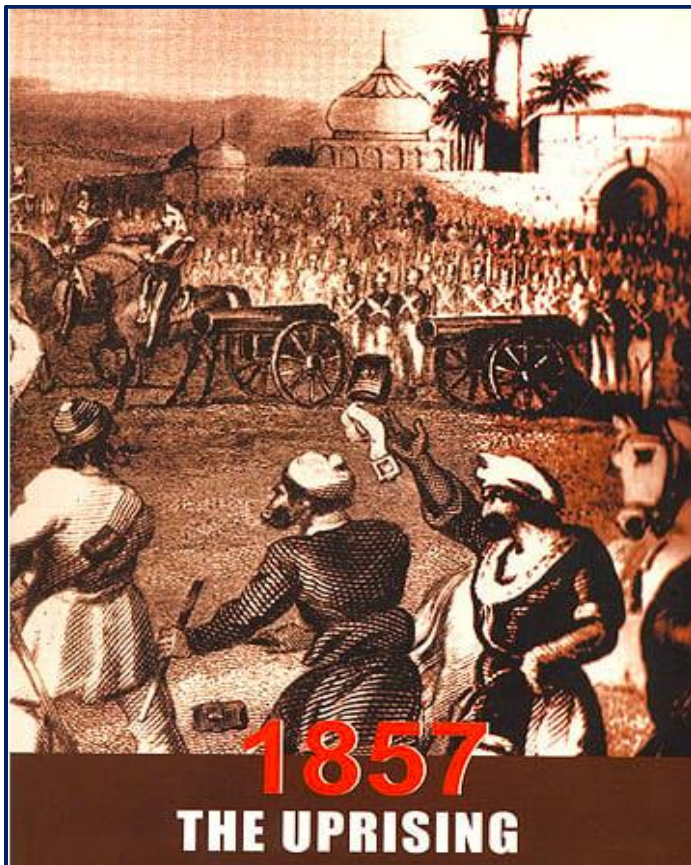


In order to retake northern India, the British passed a number of laws. The whole of northern India was placed under martial law, giving military officers and ordinary Britons the power to punish an Indian suspected of revolt. The British government withdrew troops from Britain and set up a dual strategy to capture Delhi. It was only at the end of September that Delhi was captured. The British government in Udaipur faced stiff resistance and had to use military force on a large scale. In the meanwhile,

he tried to break the unity between the zamindars and the peasants by giving back their land to the zamindars. The rebellious landlords were expelled and the obedient were rewarded.



### Description of the uprising by art and literature:





There are very few records from the point of view of the rebels. Much of the narrative of the 1857 uprising is taken from official accounts. British officials apparently ignored their version in diaries, letters, biographies and official histories and reports. Rebel articles published in British newspapers and magazines described insurgent violence and provoked public sentiment and provoked demands for revenge and retaliation.

Paintings, carvings, posters, cartoons, and market prints made by British and Indians also served as important records of the uprising. Many paintings were created by British painters to represent different images for different events during the uprising. These images evoked different emotions and reactions. Paintings such as 'Relief of Lucknow' by Thomas Jones Barker in 1859 are reminiscent of British heroes who defended the British and suppressed the rebels.

### DO YOU KNOW?

- May 10, 1857:** Soldiers from Meerut reach Delhi.
- September 1857:** Delhi recaptured from rebel forces.
- October, 1858:** Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar and his wife are imprisoned in Rangoon.
- 1858:** A new law passed by the British Parliament transfers power to the East India Company to the British Crown.
- November, 1862:** Bahadur Shah Zafar dies in Rangoon prison.

### Respect for English Women:

Newspaper reports in particular shape the feelings and attitudes of events triggered by articles of violence against women and children. There are public demands for revenge and retaliation in Britain. The British government demanded that the dignity of innocent women be protected and that the safety of helpless children be ensured. Artists express and create these feelings through visual representations of their trauma and suffering.

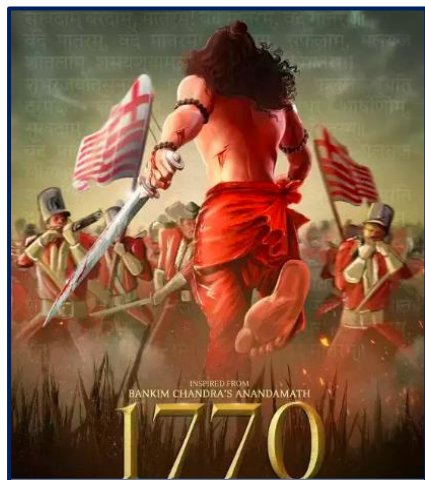
The painting 'In Memorial' by Joseph Noel Patton in 1859 depicts women and children helplessly and innocently, anxious moments of inevitable humiliation, torture and death. Painting stimulates imagination and provokes anger and rage. These paintings depict the rebels as violent and brutal

### Revenge among the rebels:

As news of the insurgency spread, demands for outrage, shock and retaliation, as well as intense repression, grew louder. The British, threatened by the uprising, wanted to show their invincibility. The British press has a myriad of images and cartoons that acknowledge the brutal repression and violent retaliation. The rebels were publicly hanged, shot or hanged. Mass executions took place. These punishments are more likely to provoke panic among the public. Governor-General Canning declared that generosity and kindness would help regain the loyalty of the sepoys. At that point there were calls for revenge and Canning's idea was ridiculed.



### Rebellious nationalist films:



The 1857 uprising was celebrated as the first war of independence. The national movement in the 20th century was inspired by the events of 1857. Art, literature, history, stories, paintings and films helped keep the memory of the 1857 uprising alive. The rebel leaders were portrayed as heroic people who would lead the country into war, inciting the people to righteous outrage against the oppressive imperial rule. Rebel nationalist fantasies helped shape nationalist fiction.

### Activity

- Q1. Why revolt of 1857 was happened?
- Q2. Make a short note on the rebellion of Awadh during the revolt of 1857?
- Q3. See the political Indian map and find out the before and after the revolt of 1857?
- Q4. Write a short note on the British Raj and End of the War?
- Q5. What was the Rebel demand?

## Questions For Practice

1. What is the Bell of Arms?  
(a) Stock of weapons  
(b) Clothing store  
(c) Grain shop  
(d) Hour shop
2. Where did the uprising begin?  
(a) Delhi (b) Jhansi  
(c) Lucknow (d) Meerut
3. What do you mean by the word 'artillery'?  
(a) Excluded  
(b) A type of beverage  
(c) Foreign  
(d) Mirror work
4. Who led the uprising in Bihar?  
(a) Birjis Qadri  
(b) Kunwar Singh  
(c) Nana Sahib  
(d) Shaw Mai
5. Who is popularly known as 'Danka Shah'?  
(a) Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah  
(b) Shah Mian Saheb  
(c) Birjis Qadir  
(d) Bahadur Shahi
6. Where did the 1857 uprising begin?  
(a) Ambala (b) Meerut  
(c) Lucknow (d) Gwalior
7. Who should have led the uprising?  
(a) Bahadur Shah Zafer  
(b) Peshwa Baji Rao II  
(c) Nawab Shaukat Ali  
(d) Kunwar Singh
8. Who led the uprising in Kanpur?  
(a) Bahadur Shahi  
(b) Nana Sahib  
(c) Shaw Mian Saheb  
(d) Maulvi Ahmadullah Shahi
9. Wajid Ali Shah Nawab of?  
(a) Awadh (b) Bengal  
(c) Hyderabad (d) Karnataka
10. Birjis Qadir is the youngest son of \_\_\_\_?  
(a) Nawab Shaukat Aleek  
(b) Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah  
(c) Nawab Mir Ali  
(d) Nawab Wajid Ali Shah
11. Which of the following is not one of the rumors and prophecies of the 19th century?  
(a) New cartridges of the Enfield rifle greased with cows and pigs.  
(b) The British mixed dog dust with salt.  
(c) There is an estimate that British rule will end on June 23, 1857, the century of the Battle of Plassey.  
(d) None of these
12. Which of the following does not match the rebel center and their leaders?  
(a) Gonu-kol tribe  
(b) Kanpur-Nana Sahib  
(c) Jhansi-Rani Lakshmi Bai  
(d) Awadh-Shah Mian Saheb
13. Which of the following was the immediate cause of the 1857 uprising?  
(a) Adding cow dust to flour  
(b) Prohibition of the practice of sati  
(c) Cartridges of the Enfield rifle  
(d) Widow remarriage is permitted
14. Why were the soldiers dissatisfied with the British?  
(a) Abuse and physical violence  
(b) Racial discrimination  
(c) Salary less than British counter  
(d) All of the above
15. Which of the following is not a condition for an Indian ruler to enter into an allied alliance?  
(a) The ruler had to relinquish his military power.  
(b) The ruler had to allow the British to deploy his army in his kingdom.  
(c) The ruler must act on the advice of the British.  
(d) The British did not protect the rulers in the event of a foreign invasion.
16. Who among these held the villages of Parganas Baraut in Uttar Pradesh during the uprising of 1857?  
(a) Maulvi Ahmadullah Shahi  
(b) Kunwar Singh  
(c) Shah Mian Saheb  
(d) Manwant Singh
17. Which of the following is not a valid reason for the British conquest of Awadh in 1857?  
(a) Wajid Ali was an anti-popular ruler.  
(b) The allied alliance system was immediately approved by Wajid Ali Shah.  
(c) Mangal Pandey started the uprising from Awadh.  
(d) The British provided physical benefits to the Talukdars.
18. Consider the following events:  
1. Sati annihilation  
2. Approval of Widow Remarriage Act.  
3. The beginning of the uprising  
4. Queen's statement.  
The exact chronology of these events is:  
(a) 1, 2, 3, 4 (b) 2, 3, 4, 1  
(c) 3, 4, 1, 2 (d) 2, 1, 3, 4
19. Consider the following events:  
1. Soldiers revolt in Meerut.  
2. Bahadur Shah Zafar was announced as the leader.  
3. Awadh was captured by the British.  
4. Lucknow Relief was painted by Thomas Jones Barker.  
Write these events in chronological order  
(a) 1, 2, 3, 4 (b) 2, 1, 3, 4  
(c) 3, 1, 2, 4 (d) 4, 3, 2, 1
20. Which of the following was the reason for Nana Saheb's involvement in the 1857 uprising?  
(a) The British denied him the Peshwa Bajirao II pension.  
(b) The British captured the term  
(c) The British captured Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse  
(d) Nana Saheb refused to accept the affiliated alliance
21. Where did the 1857 uprising begin?  
(a) Ambala (b) Meerut  
(c) Lucknow (d) Gwalior
22. Who was to lead the rebellion?  
(a) Bahadur Shah Zafer



- (b) Peshwa Baji Rao II  
(c) Nawab Shaukat Ali  
(d) Kunwar Singh
23. Who led the uprising in Kanpur?  
(a) Bahadur Shahi (b) Nana Sahib  
(c) Shah Mian Saheb (d) Maulvi Ahmadullah Shahi
24. Wajid Ali Shah \_\_\_\_\_ Nawab?  
(a) Awadh (b) Bengal  
(c) Hyderabad (d) Karnataka
25. Birjis Qadir is the youngest son of \_\_\_\_\_?  
(a) Nawab Shaukat Aleek  
(b) Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah  
(c) Nawab Mir Ali  
(d) Nawab Wajid Ali Shah
26. . Awadh was incorporated into the British Empire in \_\_\_\_\_?  
(a) 1855 (b) 1854  
(c) 1856 (d) 1853
27. . Awadh and Satara are included under \_\_\_\_\_?  
(a) The theory of neglect  
(b) Affiliate Alliance  
(c) The problem of mismanagement  
(d) Mahalwari system
28. . Consider the following events:  
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Write these events in chronological order  
(a) 1, 2, 3, 4 (b) 2, 1, 3, 4  
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30. . Indicate which of the following is incorrect:  
(a) Adopted son of Nana Saheb Tantya Tope.  
(b) Tantya Tope Nana Saheb General.  
(c) Wajid Ali Shah was deported to Calcutta.  
(d) Lord Dalhousie incorporated the 7 states into the Laps theory.
31. What is the Bell of Arms?  
(a) Stock of weapons  
(b) Clothing store  
(c) Grain shop  
(d) Hour shop
32. Where did the uprising begin?  
(a) Delhi (b) Jhansi  
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33. What do you mean by the word 'artillery'?
- (a) Excluded  
(b) A type of beverage  
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34. Who led the uprising in Bihar?  
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## Solutions

- |        |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 5. (a) | 9. (a)  | 13. (c) | 17. (c) | 21. (b) | 25. (d) | 29. (c) | 33. (c) | 37. (a) |
| 2. (d) | 6. (b) | 10. (d) | 14. (d) | 18. (a) | 22. (a) | 26. (c) | 30. (a) | 34. (b) | 38. (b) |
| 3. (c) | 7. (a) | 11. (b) | 15. (d) | 19. (c) | 23. (b) | 27. (a) | 31. (a) | 35. (a) | 39. (a) |
| 4. (b) | 8. (b) | 12. (d) | 16. (c) | 20. (a) | 24. (a) | 28. (a) | 32. (d) | 36. (b) | 40. (d) |

