

Questions: When People Rebel

1. What were the main economic grievances of Indian sepoys against the British in 1857?

2. Match the following leaders of the 1857 rebellion with their regions:

a) Rani Lakshmibai - ____

b) Bahadur Shah Zafar - ____

c) Tantia Tope - ____

d) Kunwar Singh - ____

3. The Doctrine of Lapse was a controversial policy. How did this policy fuel the discontent leading to the 1857 revolt?

4. Why did Indian rulers, such as Nana Saheb and Rani Lakshmibai, actively participate in the 1857 rebellion? Analyze their motivations.

5. Identify the cause of the immediate outbreak of the 1857 revolt from the following options:

a) Introduction of the Enfield rifle

b) Introduction of the Permanent Settlement

c) Formation of the British East India Company

d) Annexation of Awadh

6. How did the social and religious policies of the British challenge traditional Indian beliefs and contribute to unrest in 1857?

7. Why was Bahadur Shah Zafar chosen as the symbolic leader of the 1857 rebellion despite his weak political position?

8. Which one of the following statements about the 1857 revolt is true?

a) It was confined to a small region of northern India.

b) It had no impact on the policies of the British government.

c) It marked the end of the Mughal Empire in India.

d) It began as a political movement and later gained mass support.

9. The 1857 revolt ultimately failed. List and explain two reasons for its failure.

10. Compare and contrast the military strategies of the British and Indian rebels during the revolt of 1857. How did these impact the outcome of the uprising?

Answers

1. Economic grievances: Low salaries, unequal treatment compared to British soldiers, and the General Service Enlistment Act which forced sepoys to serve overseas, against their beliefs.

2. Match the following:

a) Rani Lakshmibai – Jhansi

b) Bahadur Shah Zafar – Delhi

c) Tantia Tope – Kanpur

d) Kunwar Singh – Bihar

3. Doctrine of Lapse: It deprived rulers of their kingdoms if they didn't have a male heir, creating widespread resentment among Indian rulers.

4. Motivations: Loss of sovereignty, the imposition of unfair policies like the Doctrine of Lapse, and cultural-religious insensitivity by the British.

5. Correct Answer: a) Introduction of the Enfield rifle

6. Social and religious policies: Abolition of sati, Widow Remarriage Act, and rumors about the use of animal fat in cartridges offended traditional practices and beliefs.

7. Bahadur Shah Zafar: He was chosen because of his symbolic position as the Mughal Emperor, uniting diverse groups under a common leader.

8. True Statement: c) It marked the end of the Mughal Empire in India.

9. Reasons for failure:

Lack of unity among rebels (divided by region, caste, and religion).

Superior military resources and organization of the British.

10. Comparison:

British: Better-trained army, use of railways and telegraphs for communication.

Rebels: Relied on local support and guerrilla tactics but lacked a unified strategy.