

HISTORY

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Q. The greased cartridges only supplied the occasion for the revolt. Explain.

Ans. The spirits of discovery and renaissance paved the way for the Europeans to establish commercial strongholds which later laid the seeds of colonialism. The lack of foresight of Indian rulers about their inevitable fall to the European invaders gave rise to colonial expansion which included economic exploitation and administrative innovations which adversely affected all aspects like socio-cultural, economic and political.

Nice opening line.

* The economic causes include the heavy taxation, and the life of artisans and handicrafts people became miserable. The British policy discouraged Indian goods and crafts, so there was a loss of livelihood among the artisans. The British priced heavy ~~tax~~ tariff duties on Indian-made goods and low tariffs on the import of British goods into India. The one way free trade destroyed Indian industries. Moreover the land rights of Zamindars forfeited and they lost their status and income.

(2)

* The political causes include the 'Doctrine of Lapse' and the 'Subsidiary Alliance'

With the doctrine of lapse, policy, British annexed the Indian territories to expand their rule. Subsidiary alliance gave Indian rulers security, but they lost their freedom, which also demanded that Indian rulers to consult the governor general before taking any decisions. This policy eventually led to annexation itself.

* Administrative causes include the corruption in companies administration and heavy taxes.

* Socio-religious causes include the elite bias; the superiority complex of the British towards Indians. The abolition of Sati, support to widow remarriage were seen as unwanted interference in the social and religious domains of Indian society. The taxes on mosque and temple lands were too much for the people to handle.

* Discontent among the Sepoys was also taken into consideration. As the treatment of Indian Sepoys were humiliating as they were discriminated. They could not wear caste and

Secretarian marks. For Hindu, crossing the bear meant loss of caste. Besides, the 'General Service Enrolment Act 1856', demanded the services of Indian sepoy wherever the government wanted.

Adding fuel to the fire, the greased cartridges in the 'Enfield rifle' gave the spark which led to the outbreak of the 'Revolt of 1857'. The greased wrapping paper had to be bitten off before loading and it was made of beef and pig fat. The cow was sacred to the Hindus and Pig was a taboo for the Muslims. Thus it was not a new cause, but it added fuel to the simmering ~~dis~~ discontent of fire.

Thus, the Revolt began at Meerut on May 10 which gathered force rapidly and extended from the Punjab in the north to the Narmada in ~~the~~ the south. However, we cannot exclude the bravery of Mangal Pandey who dared to fight by firing ~~upon a sepoy~~ at Barrackpore.

Nice attempt.

U can use headings for different causes.

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