

# Tender Heart High School

Class: X

Chapter 1:- The First War of Independence  
-1857

Date 8.04.2024

Subject:- History and civics

Ms. Rameet

Good Morning students!

This lesson is of class X for the subject of History and civics chapter 1:- The First War of Independence, 1857 given on Page number 09 of your text book titled Total History and civics and is being submitted to you on 17.04.2023

The First War of Independence, 1857 was an outburst of nationalist sentiments. The Indian rulers and the people of India had not accepted the Company's rule. Before 1857 there occurred twelve minor revolts against the East India Company

## Causes of The First War of Independence:-

1. Political Causes:- Many political causes put the Indian rulers against the British rule.

1. Policy of Expansion:-

The British policy of territorial expansion of the Indian states was one of the major problems of the Indian rulers. The British tried to expand their political power in India by four ways:-

(a) By outright wars:-

To increase their power in India and to protect their economic and political interests the Britisher fought many wars. The Battle of Buxar made the British the masters of Bengal



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and Bihar. The Anglo-Mysore Wars, The Anglo-Maratha Wars and the Anglo-Sikh Wars made the Britishers master of Mysore, Maharashtra and Punjab.

(b) Subsidiary Alliance:-

The doctrine of Subsidiary alliance was introduced by Lord Richard Wellesley, British Governor General of India.

Its main principles were:-

- (i) Any Indian ruler accepting the Subsidiary alliance with the East India Company had to keep the British Army in their territory and was supposed to pay for its maintenance.
- (ii) The ruler accepting it was forced to keep a British official called 'Resident'.
- (iii) The states brought under British control by this system included Hyderabad, Gwalior, Indore, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Oudh.

Due to Subsidiary alliance the Indian rulers lost their freedom they became puppet in the hands of Britishers.

(c) Doctrine of Lapse:-

The Doctrine of Lapse introduced by Lord Dalhousie, led to the complete annexation of many Indian states. This doctrine refused to recognise the right of an adopted son to succeed as heir to the kingdom unless the adoption was approved by the British. Based on this doctrine, Dalhousie annexed the states of Satara, Nagpur and Jhansi. Dalhousie also refused pension to Nana Saheb, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II



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(d) On the Pretext of Alleged Misrule:-

Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh on the pretext of poor administration and misrule. In February 1856, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was removed and the Company ordered the annexation of the entire province. The British made enemies not only of the Nawab, who had been loyal to the Company throughout but also of the Zamindars whose lands were confiscated. The Britishers also disbanded the Soldiers of Awadh who became the biggest enemy of the Britishers.

(2) Disrespect Shown to Bahadur Shah:-

Lord Dalhousie declared that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the emperor and his successors would have to leave the royal palace i.e, the Red Fort. Later Lord Canning announced in 1856 A.D. that Bahadur Shah's successors would not be allowed even to use the title of a 'king'. The Regal titles of the Nawabs of Carnatic and Tanjore were abolished.

(3) Treatment Given to Nana Sahib:-

Nana Sahib the adopted son of the Peshwa Baji Rao II was denied his pension on the grounds that he was not a natural born heir. He was also not allowed to ascend the throne. This hurt the sentiments of the Hindu subjects of the Peshwas.

(2) Social and Religious Causes:-

The interference in the social and religious life of the Indians also led to the Great Uprising



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of 1857. The chief among them were the following:-

1. Interference with Social Customs:-

There were many laws passed by the British which interfered with the religious customs of the people. The practice of Sati was abolished. Child marriage, infanticide and polygamy were forbidden. Widow remarriage was legalised. The people thought that the British were unnecessarily interfering in their religious matters and wanted to ruin their social order.

2. Introduction of Railways and Telegraphs:-

The introduction of railways and telegraph had also created suspicion and fear in the minds of the people. They thought that these measures were started to spread Christianity and those who were reluctant to embrace Christianity would be thrown before the railway engines or hanged by the telegraph poles.

3. Policy of Racial Discrimination:-

The Britishers believed that they were superior to Indians and followed a policy of racial discrimination. They were rude and arrogant towards the Indians. They ill-treated and insulted Indians.

4. Corruption in Administration:-

The British administration in India was corrupt and inefficient. The policy of the British and their administration created political unrest, scared the rulers and the people, and so they wanted to get rid of them.



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Before we go little further, children its Question time. Please write the answers in your note-book.

- Q1. Name any two states that were annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse.
- Q2. Under what pretext did the Company annex Awadh?
- Q3. Why was the introduction of railways and telegraph resented by Indians?
- Q4. Who was Mangal Pandey?
- Q5. Why was the "War of 1857" hailed as the First War of Independence?

5. Exploitation of the Poor:-

The British judicial system made the rich to exploit the Poor. The Poor were forced to work for long hours and in return they were given very low salaries. They were insulted, ill-treated and even tortured. This created poverty and misery in India.

6. Activities of Missionaries:-

The Britishers allowed Christian missionaries to settle and preach in India. They established a number of schools where christian doctrines were taught. Bible was introduced in government schools and colleges and even in prisons. Teaching of English was made compulsory. This caused fear that the entire country would be converted to christianity.

7. Fears Regarding Western Education:-

Christian missionaries and Government schools introduced