

# CLASS VIII CH 5 WHEN PEOPLE REBEL 1857 AND AFTER (NCERT)

## Policies and the People

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- Rulers and landlords lose their power dreadfully.
- Subsidiary alliance was imposed
- Laxmibai was unable to heir her throne back.
- British want to end the Mughal dynasty
- no one can claim a throne after Bahadur Shah Zafar.



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## The peasants and the sepoy

- Zamindars, Peasants were unhappy with Britishers.
- Sepoys were treated badly by not obeying the orders.
- News were spreading like fire.
- Burma incident.

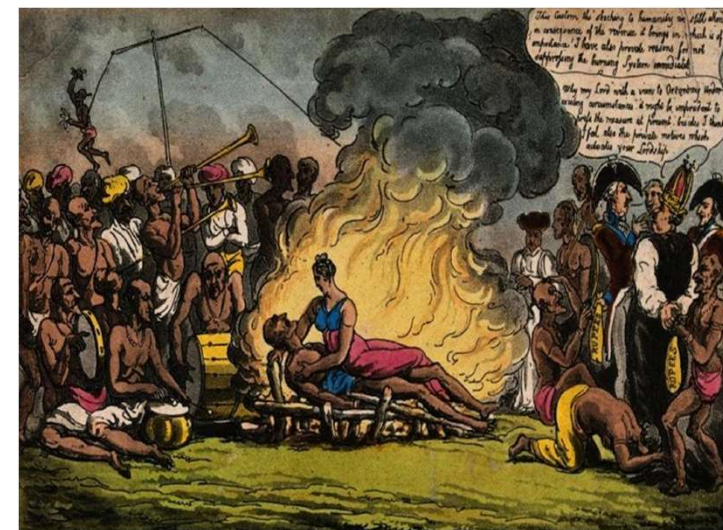


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## Responses to Reforms:

- Britishers allowed widows to remarry and abolished sati pratha.
- European cultures, laws, customs and English was promoted.
- Conversion to Christianity.



## Through the Eyes of the People

- British company announced 84 laws against Indian cultures.
- Council of Rajas and aristocrats were called in a council.
- Controversies were created in cantonments in Meerut and others .

## A Mutiny became a popular rebellion

- First war against Britishers with unity.
- Diverse religion took part and confidence was at apex.
- different categories of Varna and religious took part.



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## From Meerut to Delhi:

- Mangal Pandey was hang till death on 29,march 1857 .
- Sepoy attacked the British officers and steal their weapons.
- Sepoys chooses bahadur shah Zafar as their ideal leader.
- People wanted Mughal rule again.



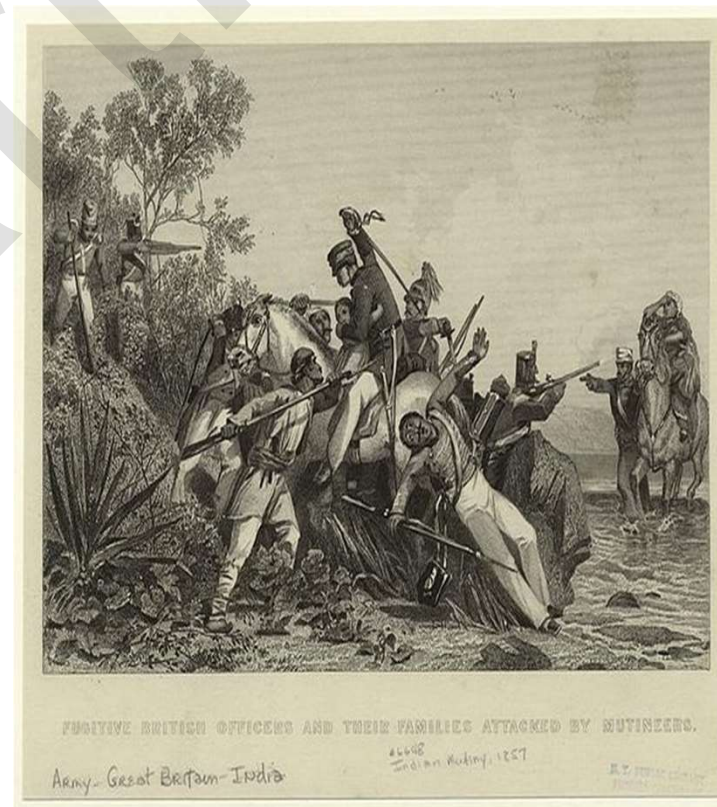
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## The rebellion spreads

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- People were contributing from different parts of India.
- Birjis qadr ( as Nawab).
- Women contribution (avantibai,laxmi bai and zeenat mahal)
- Nana saheb created an army along with stated himself as a peshwa(governor)
- Britishers got outnumbered by Indian in military strength and weapons.



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### The Company Fights Back

- Britishers called the battalion from England to rule again.
- Leaders were killed and somewhere sentence to jail.
- \*Zeenat mahal (life imprisonment)
- \*Bahadur shah Zafar ( life imprisonment)
- \*Avanti bai(self killed herself)
- \*Nana saheb (brutally killed)





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- Britishers bribed Indians by giving their property rights for gaining their loyalty.



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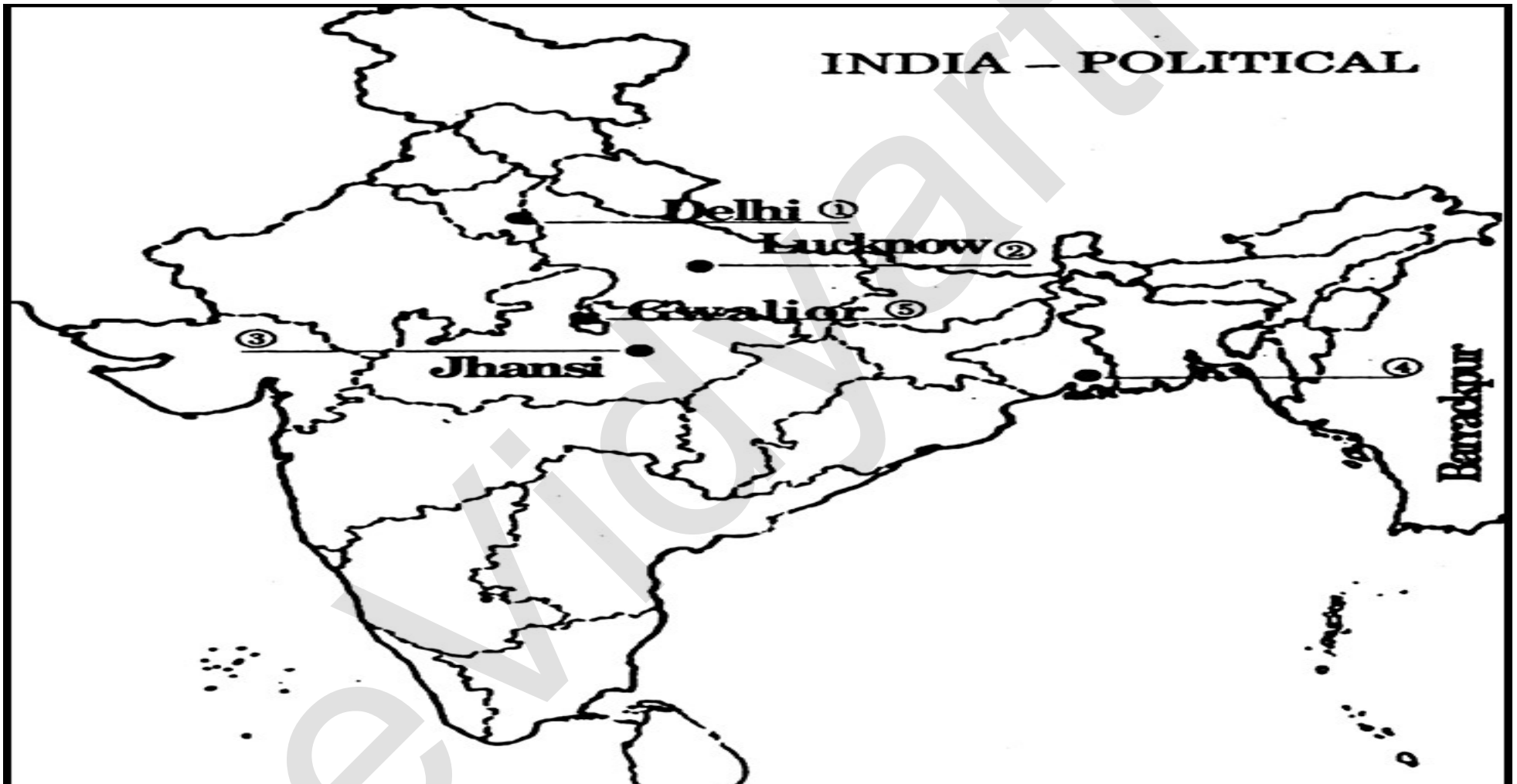
## Aftermath

- New policies were created
- Powers were shifted to the east Indian company.
- Secretary, Indian council and governor(viceroy) was appointed.
- Pathans,sikhs and gurkhas were recruited



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# MAIN CENTERS OF REVOLT



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- Muslim and Hindus were seen as suspicious religions.
- Zamindars and landlord were allotted with special rights as they were revenue collectors.
- British government regain their rule after 1858.



## ***EXERCISE***

### **Question 1.**

**What was the demand of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi that was refused by the British?**

### **Answer:**

Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi wanted the Company to recognize her adopted son as the heir to the kingdom after the death of her husband. But the British refused her plea.

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### Question 2.

**What did the British do to protect the interests of those who converted to Christianity?**

### **Answer:**

Those who converted to Christianity would inherit the property of his ancestors.

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### **Question 3.**

**What objections did the sepoys have to the new cartridges that they were asked to use?**

### **Answer:**

The sepoys objected that the new cartridges that they were asked to use were coated with the fat of cows and pigs.

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### Question 4.

**How did the last Mughal emperor live the last years of his life?**

### **Answer:**

The last Mughal emperor lived a very pathetic life during the last years of his life. He was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. He and his wife were sent to prison in Rangoon. He died there after four years.



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### Question 5.

**What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?**

### **Answer:**

The reasons are given below:

1. Since the mid-18th century Nawabs and Rajas had gradually lost their authority and honor. Residents had been stationed in many courts, the freedom of the rulers reduced,

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their armed forces disbanded and their revenues and territories taken away by stages.

2. The Company decided to end the Mughal dynasty. In 1849, Governor-General Dalhousie announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar the family of the king would be shifted out of the Red Fort. In 1856, Governor-General Canning decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal emperor and after his death his descendants would be recognized as princes.

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### Question 6.

**What impact did Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion have on the people and the ruling families?**

### **Answer:**

Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion boosted the morale of the people and the ruling families. They became united to fight the British authority with double spirit.

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People of the towns and villages rose up in rebellion and rallied around local leaders, zamindars and chiefs. Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the late Peshwa Baji Rao, who lived near Kanpur, gathered armed forces and expelled the British garrison from the city. He proclaimed himself Peshwa. He declared that he was a Governor under emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. In Lucknow, Birjis Qadr, the son of the deposed Nawab Wajid Ali Shah,



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was proclaimed the new Nawab. He too acknowledged the suzerainty of Bahadur Shah Zafar. In Jhansi, Rani Lakshmibai joined the rebel sepoys and fought the British along with Tantia Tope, the general of Nana Saheb.

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### **Question 7.**

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**How did the British succeed in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh?**

### **Answer:**

The British succeeded in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh by providing them inheritance rights, i.e. they would enjoy the traditional rights over their land. The British also exempted them from taxes.

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### **Question 8.**

**In what ways did the British change their policies as a result of the rebellion of 1857?**

### **Answer:**

As a result of the rebellion of 1857, the British changed their policies. Following are the important changes that the British made:

1. The powers of the East India Company, was transferred to the British Crown in order to ensure a more responsible management of Indian affairs.

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2. The Governor-General of India was given the title of Viceroy, that is, a personal representative of the Crown.

3. All ruling chiefs of the country were assured that their territory would never be annexed in future. They were allowed to pass on their kingdoms to their heirs, including adopted son. But they had to acknowledge the British queen as their Sovereign Paramount.



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4. It was decided that the proportion of Indian soldiers in the army would be reduced and the number of European soldiers would be increased. It was also decided that instead of recruiting soldiers from Awadh, Bihar, Central India and South India more soldiers would be recruited from among the Gorkhas, Sikhs and Pathans.

5. The British decided to respect the customary religions and social practices of the people in India.

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### **Question 10.**

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**Find out more about Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi. In what ways would she have been an unusual woman for her times?**

### **Answer:**

Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi played a vital role in the revolt of 1857. She fought bravely with the British force. She challenged the British law which had debarred her adopted son from being the ruler.

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She was one of the great forces behind the revolt against the British. The matchless courage that she showed is rare.