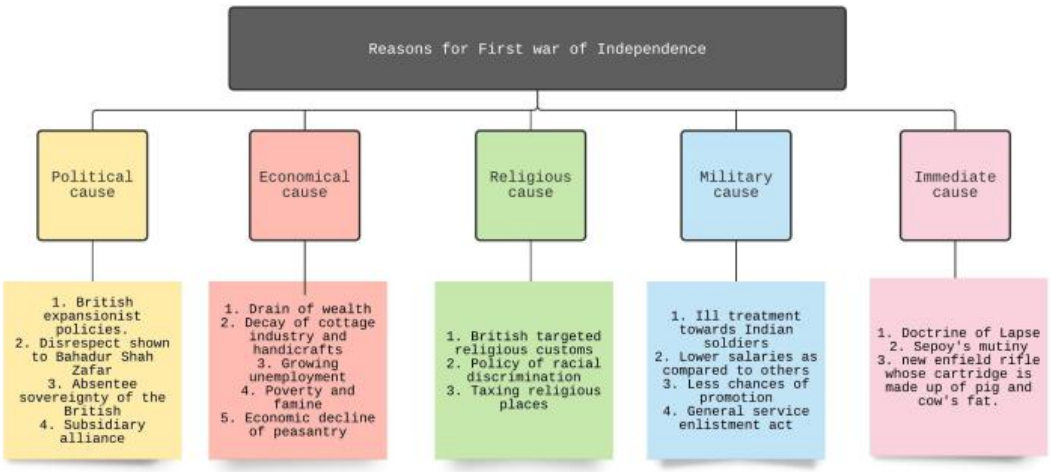
1857: First War of Independence - Revolt of 1857 %

In the previous post, we have read about *Lord Dalhousie* and his policies to transform India. Though his policies contributed to the development of Indian infrastructure. But, his *Doctrine of Lapse* created a difficultly for the Indian Princely States. So, there was flowing a wave of antagonism in Indian masses. So, the outcome of this was **Revolt of 1857** or the ***First War of Independence***.

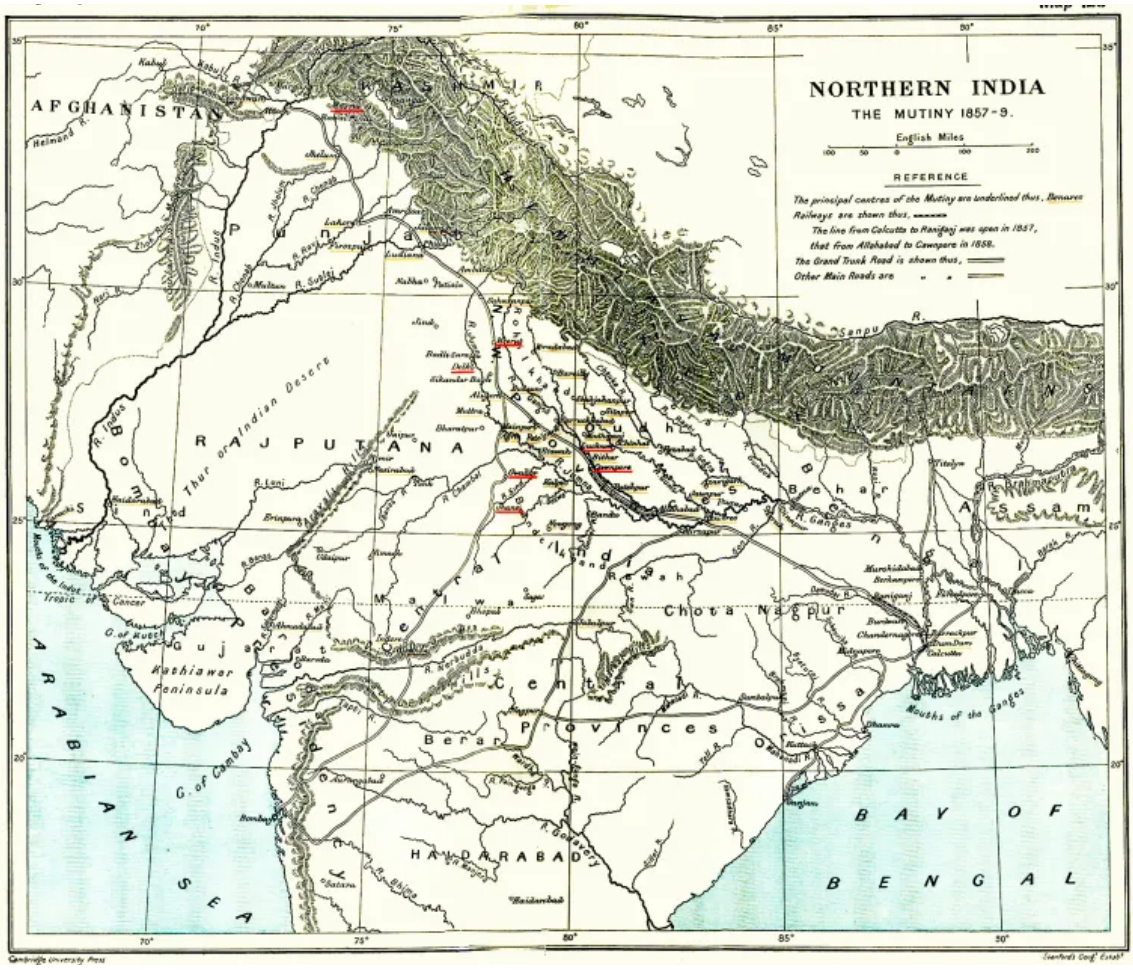


Reasons for First War of Independence

The **revolt of 1857** was basically the outcome of the policy of exploitation and suppression adopted by the Britishers. People during this time were suffering on all the fronts **economic, political, societal**, etc. So, in this, the issue of greased

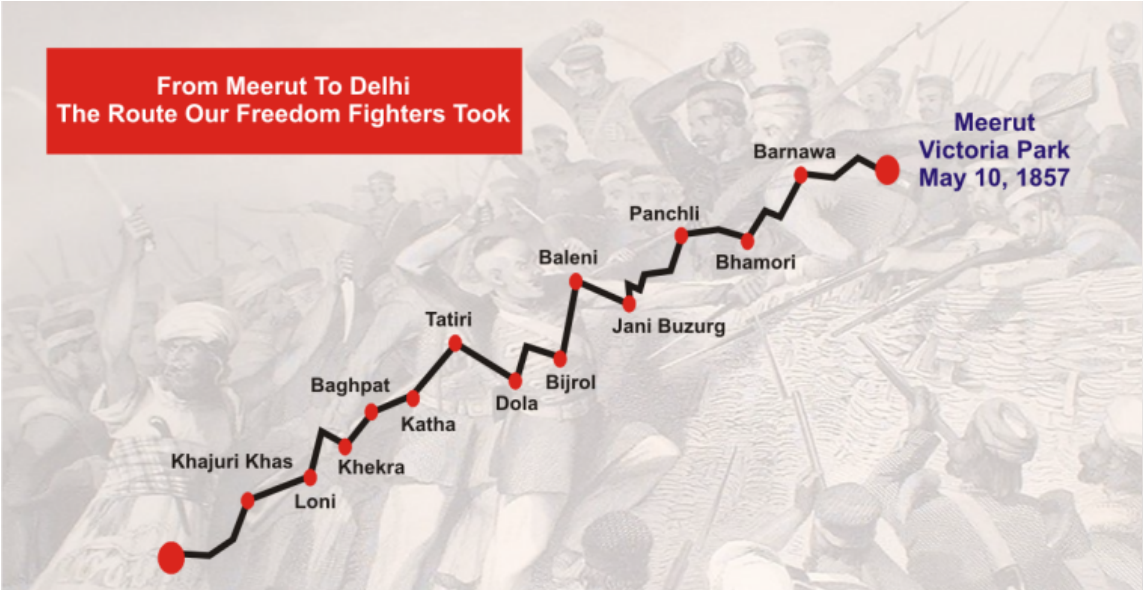
cartridges became the spark to the fire.

There were various places where this revolt took place. Though it was not spread all over the Indian subcontinent, still the burst of this revolt shook the ***EICs*** officials.



Epicenter and other regions of Revolt of 1857

Features of First War of Independence

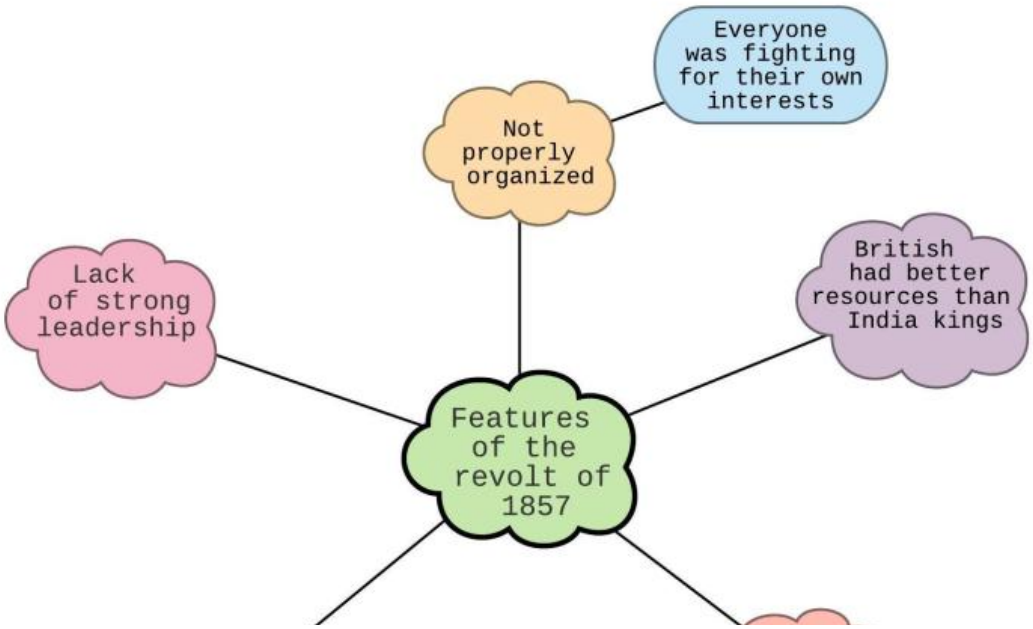


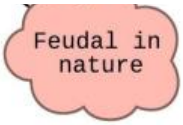
First war of Independence from Meerut to Delhi

The 1857 revolt was neither the first war of independence nor a war of independence. You all must be shocked after reading this sentence. Let me explain why I am saying this. Before 1857 also, there were some uprisings. In **1760, there was Sanyasi Revolt**. In the **1820s, Vellore Mutiny** happened. So, as in the **1840s, the 47th regiment also became rebellion**.

So, ultimately it was not the ***first war of independence***. But also the **V.D. Savarkar**, the prominent leader called it the ***first war of independence***. This is because **1904 saw the birth of Abhinav Bharat**, a secret organization with the basic motive of freedom of India from Britishers. This organization came into existence by the active role of V.D. Savarkar.

So, it seems that he wanted to instigate the people by saying **revolt of 1857 as the *first war of Independence***. He was actually trying to develop some nationalistic feelings in the masses. Because until 1857, people were even unaware of the cause of their sufferings. **V.D. Savarkar** was building a platform for the second phase of the freedom struggle.





Features of Revolt

National Revolt: Disraeli

In the **1870s John Strachey**, the British Bureaucrat in India gave the report saying,

> ***Indians were never nationalists. India was never a nation and will never be a nation.***

Benjamin Disraeli as a Prime Minister of Britain was aware of this fact that in 1857 India was not a nation. But still, he said that 1857 was a National Revolt. The reason behind it was the British Parliament wanted a constitutional ground to snatch away India from East India Company.

So, Disraeli was trying to convince the British Parliament that the people of India did not want to live with *EIC*. So, this became the ground for a change of power from the company to the crown after 1857.

There were *some other factors related to this revolt*. We shall discuss them in the upcoming post.

Thank you so much. Stay Connected.