

I: DALHOUSIE (1848-1856)

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1. Lord Dalhousie was born James Andrew Broun-Ramsay to George Ramsay (9th Earl of Dalhousie) and his wife. The family was of Scottish origin.
2. He studied at Harrow School and Christ Church College, Oxford.
3. He entered active politics in 1837 when he was elected to the House of Commons.
4. He was appointed the Governor-General of India and Governor of Bengal on 12th January 1848.
5. Dalhousie regarded his chief aim in India as the consolidation of British power. He was known to be a hard worker but was also authoritarian and tough.
6. His estimate is something of a controversy. He was responsible for introducing a variety of modern reforms such as the railways, telegraph and postal networks, and public works in India. The Ganga Canal was completed during his tenure.
7. But, he is most remembered for the Doctrine of Lapse policy which many hold directly responsible for the Indian Mutiny of 1857.
8. Despite the Doctrine, many regard Lord Dalhousie as the 'Maker of modern India'. Lord Dalhousie also started many Anglo-vernacular schools in India. He also brought about social reforms such as banning the practice of female infanticide. He firmly believed that western administrative reforms were necessary and far superior to Indian systems.
9. He also started engineering colleges to provide resources for the newly-established public works department in each presidency.
10. He also reformed the military. He prohibited the practice of branding criminals. He also expanded the Legislative Council of India. He also reformed the civil services by starting a system of open competition for recruitment.
11. Dalhousie attempted to change the land revenue system. In the process, many landlords had portions of their estates taken away, and many landholders were deprived of their entire landholding. This was significant as many of the sepoys were taken from this socio-economic class.
12. His annexation of states through the Doctrine of Lapse, like Satara, Oudh and Jhansi caused a lot of Indian soldiers to be disgruntled with the company rule.
13. Dalhousie also oversaw the annexation of Punjab and parts of Burma through wars with the local rulers. The Second Anglo-Sikh War was fought during his term.
14. He returned to Britain in March 1856 after almost 8 years in India as the Governor-General. The Indian Mutiny broke out a year later and Dalhousie was criticized for his policies in India.
15. The hill station of Dalhousie in Himachal Pradesh was named after him. It was established in 1854 as a summer retreat for English civil and military officials.
16. Lord Dalhousie died on 19 December 1860 aged 48.

II: REVOLT OF 1857

BACKGROUND

- Popular revolt igniting in North and Central India during the regime of Lord Canning.
- V.D. Savarkar said, "1857 Revolt was considered as first war independence"
- R.C. Majumdar said, "It was neither first, nor national, nor war of independence"

- S.N. Sen, “What began as a fight for religion, ended as a war of independence”
- Trevelyan, “A Mutiny confined to the army which did not commend the support of people at large”
- Disreli, “A national rising”
- Karl Marx, “The struggle of the soldier, peasant, democratic combine against foreign as well as feudal bondage”
- Medley, “A war of races”

CAUSES

- Political Causes: Policy of Doctrine of Lapse (introduced by Dalhousie).
 - Feeling of suspicious arose among the princely rulers.
 - Annexation of Oudh and Carnatic region
 - Absentee of Sovereignty ship.
- Economic Causes: Domination of British trading company & decline of Indian Industries.
 - Confiscation of Jagir lands.
 - All the high post was reserved for the English and Indians are not appointed.
- Social and Religious Causes: Role of Christian Missionaries- conversion
 - Interfere the religious affairs of the Indians.
 - Introduction of Railway and telecommunication.
- Military Causes: Indians expected more pay
 - The “General Service Enlistment Act” passed in 1856 created great bitterness among Indian soldiers as they were reluctant to go overseas.
 - The privilege of free postage enjoyed by the sepoys was withdrawn with the passing of the Post Office Act of 1856.
 - Sepoys declined unfit for foreign service were not allow to retire with pension, but were to be posted for duty at cantonments.
- Immediate Causes: Introduction of new Royal Enfield rifle replace the Brown Bess. The Loading process involved the biting off the top cap with mouth which was allegedly greased with the fat of cow or pig.

MAJOR EVENTS

- 1st February 1857 -Mutiny of the 19th Native Infantry at Berhampur
- 10th May 1857 – Mutiny of Sepoy’s at Meerut.
- 11 to 30th May 1857- Revolts in Delhi, Aligarh, Bareilly, Bombay, Bulandshahar, Ferozpur and Nasirbad.
- The Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah proclaimed as the Emperor of India.
- June 1857- Revolts at Jhansi, Allahabad, Bharatpur, Gwalior, Lucknow, Faizabad, Central India and Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- July 1857- Revolts at Punjab, Indore and Saugar.
- September 1857- Delhi was recaptured by British.
- November 1857 – General Windham was defeated by the Nan Sahib’s army, out of Kanpur.

- December 1857 – The Battle of Kanpur was won by Britishers, Tantia Tope escaped and joined with Jhansi Rani.
- March 1858 – Lucknow was recaptured by British.
- 3rd April 1858 – Jhansi was captured by Sir Hugh Rose- fresh rising in Bihar by Kunwar Singh.
- June 1858 – Gwalior was captured.
- July to December 1858 – British authority was re-established in India.
- April 1859 – Tantia Tope was captured and Hanged.

LEADERS OF THE REVOLT

Place	Name of the Leader
Delhi	Bahadur Shah and Bankt Khan
Jhansi	Rani Laxmi Bai
Bihar	Kunwar Singh
Mathura	Devi Singh
Meerut	Kadam Singh
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal, Maulvi Ahmadullah
Kanpur	Nana Sahib, Azimullah
Allahabad	Liakat Ali
Gwalior	Tantia Tope
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan

CHIEF EVENTS OF GREAT UPRISING

- Barackpore: Mangal Pandey attacked the Adjutant.
- Meerut: 3rd Cavalry Regiment- General Hewitt.
- Delhi- Bahadur Shah- Sir Jhon Nicolson
- Kanpur- Hugh Wheeler and General Havelock- Nana Sahib was escaped to Nepal
- Lucknow- Henry Lawrence.
- Central India- Hugh Rose.

CAUSES FOR THE FAILURE

- The revolt was not inspired by any positive and creative idea. It lacked plan, programme and funds.
- The revolt was localized and poorly organized.
- The Sikhs, Rajputs, Marathas and the ruling chief of the Eastern India did not take part in the revolt.
- Supremacy of the British power.
- The revolt of 1857 was mainly feudal in character.
- The revolutionaries no idea.

- Powerful Generals like, Ottram, Hugh Rose, Lawrence, Havelock and Colin Cambell.
- Lack of interest shown by the intellectuals.
- Lack of united leadership and co-ordination.

RESULTS

- Passing of the Queen's Proclamation- promised non-interference of the religious affairs.
- Special Act was passes on 2nd August 1858, Board of Control and the Board of Directors were abolished and the office of the Secretary of State was created.
- GG of India became Viceroy of India.
- Began to follow "Divide and Rule".
- Zamindars, merchants etc., were patronized to promote the interest of the British.
- The revolt left heavy financial crisis.
- The Revolt sowed the seeds of that tree which bore fruits in 1947 when India became Independence.

III: QUEEN'S PROCLAMATION, 1858

On November 1, 1858, a grand Darbar was held at **Allahabad**. Here **Lord Canning** sent forth the royal proclamation which announced that the queen had assumed the government of India. This proclamation declared the future policy of the British Rule in India.

- The Company's territories in India were to be vested in the Queen, the Company ceasing to exercise its power and control over these territories. India was to be governed in the Queen's name.
- The Queen's Principal Secretary of State received the powers and duties of the Company's Court of Directors. A council of fifteen members was appointed to assist the Secretary of State for India. The council became an advisory body in Indian affairs. For all the communications between Britain and India, the Secretary of State became the real channel.
- The Secretary of State for India was empowered to send some secret despatches to India directly without consulting the Council. He was also authorised to constitute special committees of his Council.
- The Crown was empowered to appoint a Governor-General and the Governors of the Presidencies.
- An Indian Civil Service was to be created under the control of the Secretary of State.
- Hereto all the property and other assets of the East India Company were transferred to the Crown. The Crown also assumed the responsibilities of the Company as they related to treaties, contracts, and so forth.

The Act ushered in a new period of Indian history, bringing about the end of Company rule in India. The era of the new British Raj would last until the Partition of India in August 1947, when the territory of the British Raj was granted dominion status as the Dominion of Pakistan and the Dominion of India.

IV: CANNING (1856-1862)

Taking charge of his administrative duties in India, one of his first acts was to pass the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856 (passed on July 16, 1856) which was drafted by his predecessor Lord Dalhousie and the General Service Enlistment Act Of 1856. But before these acts could come into a proper force, a monumental event in Indian history took place.

That event was the Revolt of 1857, which happened as a result of the long-simmering tensions regarding British presence and policies in India. Despite believing himself insufficient for the task ahead, Canning rose to the occasion in weathering the storm and preserving the colonial holding of British India through calm judgement and a swift hand. When the rebellion was suppressed he adopted a policy of clemency which did not punish the sepoys who had disbanded when ordered to and dispersed to their villages during the rebellion. His opponents called him 'Clemency Canning' unflatteringly because British popular opinion at the time called for collective and indiscriminate reprisals on the local population.

While a rebellion was raging in Oudh he issued a proclamation declaring the lands of the province forfeited, and this step gave rise to much angry controversy. A secret despatch, couched in arrogant and offensive terms, was addressed to Canning by Lord Ellenborough, then a member of the Derby administration, which would have justified the Governor-General in immediately resigning. But from a strong sense of duty, he continued at his post. Lord Canning replied to the despatch, calmly and in a statesman-like manner explaining and vindicating his censured policy, and in 1858 he was rewarded by being made the first Viceroy of India.

Before the rebellion, Canning wished to produce a photographic survey of the Indian people, primarily for their own private collection. But the project transformed into an official government study as a consequence of the rebellion after which it was seen as useful documentation in the effort to learn more about native communities and thereby better understand them. The result was an eight-volume work published under the titled The People of India, between 1868 and 1875

Later Life and career

In April 1859 he received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament for his great services during the rebellion. He was also made an extra civil grand cross of the Order of the Bath, and in May of the same year, he was raised to the dignity of an Earl, as Earl Canning. By the strain of anxiety and hard work his health and strength were seriously impaired, while the death of his wife was also a great shock to him; in the hope that rest in his native land might restore him, he left India, reaching England in April 1862. But it was too late. He died in London on 17 June. About a month before his death he has created a Knight of the Garter.

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