

I: SOUTH INDIAN REBELLION

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INTRODUCTION

- “It was first war of Independence during the 19th Century” said by K. Rajayyan.
- British annexation policy after the success of Carnatic and Mysore Wars.
- Interference of Palaiyagar System
- Reactions of the Palayakkars (Kattabomman, Maruthu Brothers, Pulidevan etc.,)

CAUSES:

- Annexation policy of British.
- Tamilnadu was divided number of political divisions when EIC was formed.
- Political disharmony of the South Indian Rulers.
- British try to annex, Coimbatore, Salem, Dindigul, Wayanad and Malabar.
- Opposition of the native rulers but some rulers are accepted (Pudukottai, Tanjore and Travancore).
- Company guaranteed their protection but imposed military expenses to them.
- They are puppet states of British.
- Treaty of 1787 signed with Muhammad Ali.
- He accepted the supremacy of British
- He surrendered his forts to the British.
- He accepted to pay 4/5 of his annual revenue to the British.
- Another treaty was signed in 1793- right of collecting tribute directly from the Poligars.
- In 1776, with the support of the British, Tiljaji ascended the throne in Tanjore.
- After his death, the son of Serfoji claimed the throne.
- But British supported Amir Sing for more concessions.
- Took over the revenue administration.
- Wounded the minds of the patriotic Poligars.
- Economic exploitation of the British.
- Socially, Economically and Politically affected natives formed alliance.
- So regional league came into exist.

FORMATION OF REGIONAL LEAGUE

LEADER	NAME OF THE LEAGUE	REGION
Veerapandiya Kattabomman	Thirunelveli League	Poligars of Panchalamkurichi, many poligars of Suthern Tamilnadu
Gopala Nayak	Dindigul League	The Poligars of Manaparai, Kallar Nadu, Salem
Khan-i-Jahan	Coimbatore League	The Poligars of Coimbatore
Kerala Verma	Malabar	Malabar Region

EARLIER ATTEMPTS

- Marudhu brothers taken leading role.
- Early attempts failed due to.
 - # The death of Tipu Sultan
 - # The failure of the Poligar Rebellion
 - # Excavation of Kattabomman.
 - # Strengthened the alliance.
- Regional chief enters into the an agreement with a number of relational leagues.

THE VIRUPAKSHI CONSPIRACY

- On April 29, 1800 the rebel chiefs met at Virupakshi near Palani.
- The launch an offensive against the British from Coimbatore.
- Dindigul league and Khan-i-Jahan's forces would be sent.
- Rise of rebels in other parts.
- Sathyamangalam, Dharapuram, Thalamalla and Coimbatore.
- Steady resistance at Madurai, Tanjore, Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai.
- Defeated many number of battles.
- More natives joined in the battle.

REACTION OF THE BRITISH

- British send Colonal Agnew to Sivagangai
- He condemned the activates of Marudhu Brothers.
- Requested the natives to join the side of the British.
- Marudhu Pandiyan Proclamation: In 1801, Umathdurai, the brother of Kattabomman escaped to Sivaganga after the Second Battle of Panchalamkurichi.
- Together fight against British and Other Pro-British attitude natives.
- Marudhu issued a Proclamation to all the people of India to fight against the British and chase them out from India.

IMPACT OF THE MARUDHU PROCLAMATION

- Pasted in many places.
- It kindled the minds of natives.
- Nearly 20000 men were recruited in Marudhu's Army.
- Battle of Kalayarkovil: British attacked Kalayarkovil on 30th September 1801.
- Native army was severely defeated.
- Marudhupandiya was wounded.
- He was captured at Cholapuram.
- Umathdurai was also arrested and both of them were hanged in different place.

CONCLUSION

- Marudhu rebellion was the last revolt of Poligars.
- British crushed other rebellion also.
- Jungles were cleared.
- Roads were laid on the jungle of Coimbatore, Madurai and Malabar.

The success of the British in the rebellion enabled them to consolidate their position in South India.

II: VELLORE MUTINY

CAUSES

- Broke out on 10th July 1806 against the East India Company.
- Took place in Vellore, lasted full one day and mutineers killed 200 Britishers
- The English disregard to the religious sensitivities of the Hindu and Muslim Indian sepoys.
- Sir John Craddock, the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army had issued orders prohibiting soldiers from wearing religious marks on their foreheads and also to trim their moustaches and shave off their beards. This offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- They were also asked to wear new round hats instead of the traditional headgear that they were used to. This led to suspicion among the sepoys that they were being converted to Christianity.
- Craddock was acting against warning from the military board not to bring about changes in the military uniform without taking into consideration all required precautions of Indian sensibilities.
- A few sepoys who had protested against these new orders were taken to Fort St. George and punished severely. They were given heavy flogging.
- Also present in the Vellore Fort were the wife and children of Tipu Sultan (who was killed in the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799) who were housed in a palace within the fort. Tipu Sultan's sons also instigated the rebellion.

EVENTS

- On 10th July 1806, the sepoys who had gathered killed 14 British officers and 115 Englishmen of the 69th Regiment.
- The mutiny started during midnight and by dawn, the fort had been captured by them.
- They raised the flag of the Mysore Sultanate over the fort. They also declared Tipu Sultan's son Fateh Hyder as the king.
- But a British officer who had escaped the fort alerted the British force present at Arcot.
- From Arcot, British troops arrived led by Sir Rollo Gillespie. He was able to quell the rebellion.
- About 100 Indian soldiers were brought out of the palace where they had sought refuge. They were then ordered to stand against a wall and shot dead.
- In all, 350 Indian soldiers were killed and 350 wounded.

RESULTS

- All three Madras regiments involved in the Vellore Mutiny were disbanded.
- After a trial, sepoys involved in the mutiny were punished by death (blown away from canons, hanging and firing squads) and by penal transportation.
- John Craddock and other senior British officers responsible for the new dress regulations were recalled to Britain.
- The new dress regulations were abolished.
- Flogging for Indian soldiers was abolished.

- Tipu Sultan's family were moved to Calcutta
- It is believed that the brutal and swift suppressing of the Vellore Mutiny is partly responsible for the Southern sepoys not taking part in the Indian Revolt of 1857.

III: SEPPOY MUTINY 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"
- Disraeli, "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.

IV: PEASANT AND TRIBAL REVOLT 1857-1885

Santhal Rebellion (1855):

- It was a native rebellion in present-day Jharkhand against both the British colonial authority and zamindari system by the Santhal people
- It was planned by four Murmu brothers -Sidhu, Kahnu, Chand and Bhairav
- The rebellion was suppressed thoroughly and largely shadowed by that of the other rebellions.

Indigo Revolt (1859-60):

- In Bengal, the indigo planters, nearly all Europeans, exploited the local peasants by forcing them to grow indigo on their lands instead of the more paying crops like rice. The planters forced the peasants to take advance sums and enter into fraudulent contracts which were then used against the peasants.
- The planters intimidated the peasants through kidnappings, illegal confinements, flogging, attacks on women and children, seizure of cattle, burning and demolition of houses and destruction of crops.
- The anger of the peasants exploded in 1859 when, led by Digambar Biswas and Bishnu Biswas of Nadia district, they decided not to grow indigo under duress and resisted the physical pressure of the planters and their lathiyals (retainers) backed by police and the courts.

- They also organised a counter force against the planters' attacks. The planters also tried methods like evictions and enhanced rents. The ryots replied by going on a rent strike by refusing to pay the enhanced rents and by physically resisting the attempts to evict them. Gradually, they learned to use the legal machinery and initiated legal action supported by fund collection.
- The Bengali intelligentsia played a significant role by supporting the peasants' cause through newspaper campaigns, organisation of mass meetings, preparing memoranda on peasants' grievances and supporting them in legal battles.
- The Government appointed an indigo commission to inquire into the problem of indigo cultivation. Based on its recommendations, the Government issued a notification in November 1860 that the ryots could not be compelled to grow indigo and that it would ensure that all disputes were settled by legal means. But, the planters were already closing down factories and indigo cultivation was virtually wiped out from Bengal by the end of 1860.

Deccan Uprising (1875):

- Along with the Permanent Settlement, the British extended their presence beyond Bengal.
- Ryotwari Settlement was the revenue system that was introduced in the Bombay Deccan region
- The revolt started in Poona and henceforth it spread to Ahmednagar.
- This uprising also involved a social boycott of the moneylender.

Munda Ulgulan (1899- 1900):

- Birsa Munda-led this movement in the region south of Ranchi
- The Mundas conventionally enjoyed a special rent rate as the original clearer (Khuntkatti) of the forest. But this was eroded by the jagirdars and thikadars arrived as traders and moneylenders.
- As a result of this rebellion, the government enacted the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act 1908, recognized Khuntkatti rights, banned Beth Begari (forced labour)

Mappila Revolt:

- The Mappilas were the Muslim tenants inhabiting the Malabar region where most of the landlords were Hindus. The Mappilas had expressed their resentment against the oppression of the landlords during the nineteenth century also. Their grievances centred around lack of security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees and other oppressive exactions.
- The Mappila tenants were particularly encouraged by the demand of the local Congress body for a government legislation regulating tenant-landlord relations. Soon, the Mappila movement merged with the ongoing Khilafat agitation.
- The leaders of the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement like Gandhi, Shaukat Ali and Maulana Azad addressed Mappila meetings. After the arrest of national leaders, the leadership passed into the hands of local Mappila leaders.
- Things took a turn for the worse in August 1921 when the arrest of a respected priest leader, Ali Musaliar, sparked off large-scale riots. Initially, the symbols of British authority—courts, police stations, treasuries and offices—and unpopular landlords (jenmies who were mostly Hindus) were the targets. But once the British declared martial law and repression

began in earnest, the character of the rebellion underwent a definite change. Many Hindus were seen by the Mappilas to be helping the authorities. What began as an anti-government and anti- landlord affair acquired communal overtones. The communalisation of the rebellion completed the isolation of the Mappilas from the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement. By December 1921, all resistance had come to a stop.

Bardoli Satyagraha:

- The Bardoli taluqa in Surat district had witnessed intense politicisation after the coming of Gandhi on the national political scene. The movement sparked off in January 1926 when the authorities decided to increase the land revenue by 30 per cent.
- The Congress leaders were quick to protest and a Bardoli Inquiry Committee was set up to go into the issue. The committee found the revenue hike to be unjustified. In February 1926, Vallabhbai Patel was called to lead the movement.
- The women of Bardoli gave him the title of “Sardar”. Under Patel, the Bardoli peasants resolved to refuse payments of the revised assessment until the Government appointed an independent tribunal or accepted the current amount as full payment.
- To organise the movement, Patel set up 13 chhavanis or workers’ camps in the taluqa. Bardoli Satyagraha Patrika was brought out to mobilise public opinion. An intelligence wing was set up to make sure all the tenants followed the movement’s resolutions.
- Those who opposed the movement faced a social boycott. Special emphasis was placed on the mobilisation of women. K.M. Munshi and Lalji Naranji resigned from the Bombay Legislative Council in support of the movement.
- By August 1928, massive tension had built up in the area. There were prospects of a railway strike in Bombay. Gandhi reached Bardoli to stand by in case of any emergency. The Government was looking for a graceful withdrawal now.
- It set the condition that first the enhanced rent be paid by all the occupants (not actually done). Then, a committee went into the whole affair and found the revenue hike to be unjustified and recommended a rise of 6.03 per cent only.
- During the 1930s, the peasant awakening was influenced by the Great Depression in the industrialised countries and the Civil Disobedience Movement which took the form of no-rent, no-revenue movement in many areas.
- Also, after the decline of the active phase movement (1932) many new entrants to active politics started looking for suitable outlets for release of their energies and took to organisation of peasants.

The All India Kisan Congress/Sabha:

- This Sabha was founded in Lucknow in April 1936 with Swami Sahjan and Saraswati as the president and N.G. Ranga as the general secretary. A kisan manifesto was issued and a periodical under Indulal Yagnik started.
- The AIKS and the Congress held their sessions in Faizpur in 1936. The Congress manifesto (especially the agrarian policy) for the 1937 provincial elections was strongly influenced by the AIKS agenda.

Under Congress Ministries:

- The period 1937-39 was the high watermark of the peasant movements and activity under the Congress provincial rule. The chief form of mobilisation was through holding kisan conferences and meetings where demands were aired and resolutions were passed. Mobilisation campaigns were carried out in the villages.

Tebhaga Movement:

- In September 1946, the Bengal Provincial Kisan Sabha gave a call to implement, through mass struggle, the Flood Commission recommendations of tebhaga— two-thirds' share—to the bargardars, the share-croppers also known as bagchasi or adhyar, instead of the one-half share.
- The bargardars worked on lands rented from the jotedars. The communist cadres, including many urban student militias went to the countryside to organise the bargardars. The central slogan was “nij khamare dhan tolo”—i.e., sharecroppers taking the paddy to their own threshing floor and not to the jotedar's house, as before, so as to enforce tebhaga.
- The storm centre of the movement was north Bengal, principally among Rajbanshis—a low caste of tribal origin. Muslims also participated in large numbers. The movement dissipated soon, because of the League ministry's sop of the Bargadari Bill, an intensified repression, the popularisation of the Hindu Mahasabha's agitation for a separate Bengal and renewed riots in Calcutta which ended the prospects of sympathetic support from the urban sections.

Telangana Movement:

- This was the biggest peasant guerrilla war of modern Indian history affecting 3000 villages and 3 million populations. The princely state of Hyderabad under Asajahi Nizams was marked by a combination of religious-linguistic domination (by a mall Urdu-speaking Muslim elite ruling over predominantly Hindu-Telugu, Marathi, Kannada-speaking groups), total lack of political and civil liberties, grossest forms of forced exploitation by deshmukhs, jagirdars, doras (landlords) in forms of forced labour (vethi) and illegal exactions.
- During the war, the communist-led guerrillas had built a strong base in Telangana villages through Andhra Mahasabha and had been leading local struggles on issues such as wartime exactions, abuse of rationing, excessive rent and vethi.
- The uprising began in July 1946 when a deshmukh's thug murdered a village militant in Jangaon taluq of Nalgonda. Soon, the uprising spread to Warrangal and Khammam.
- The peasants organised themselves into village sanghams, and attacked using lathis, stone slings and chilli powder. They had to face brutal repression. The movement was at its greatest intensity between August 1947 and September 1948. The peasants brought about a rout of the Razaqars—the Nizam's stormtroopers. Once the Indian security forces took over Hyderabad, the movement fizzled out.

The Telangana movement had much positive achievement to its credit

- i. In the villages controlled by guerrillas, vethi and forced labour disappeared.
 - ii. Agricultural wages were raised.
 - iii. Illegally seized lands were restored.
 - iv. Steps were taken to fix ceilings and redistribute lands.
 - v. Measures were taken to improve irrigation and fight cholera.
 - vi. An improvement in the condition of women was witnessed.
 - vii. The autocratic-feudal regime of India's biggest princely state was shaken up, clearing the way for the formation of Andhra Pradesh on linguistic lines and realising another aim of the national movement in this region.
-