

BRITISH EXPLOITATION AND RESISTANCE**STUDY MATERIAL**

01. When did major part India became under British?
Between the battle of Plassey in 1757 and the First War of Indian Independence in 1857, a major part of India came under the British rule.
02. How did British rule affect Bengal and other regions ?
William Fullerton, a member of the British Parliament, writes about Bengal that it was the granary of the nation, but under the British rule it became a desert. The fields of Bengal and other regions became uncultivated and farmers were plundered .
03. How did British rule affect the farmers ?
British rule destroyed the backbone of the farmers. Main reasons were British land revenue system and commercialisation of agriculture
04. List out the land revenue system implemented by the British in India. What were their features ?

1. Permanent land revenue settlement
2. Ryotwari system
3. Mansabdari system

(1)permanent land revenue settelement (Zamindari system):

- (1) Tax collected by the zamindars
- (2) Zamindars were the owners of entire land
- (3) Actual farmers became tenants
- (4) farmers were to pay up to 60% the production
- (5) Tax was to paid in cash before the cut of date
- (6) Introduced in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa

(2)Ryotwari system:

- (1) Ownership of the land was vested with the farmers called 'Ryots'
- (2) Tax rate are high,frequently increased
- (3) Introduced in South India

(3)Mahalwari system:

- (1) The village head man was assigned to collect tax
- (2) One entire village(mahal)considered a single unit
- (3)high rate of tax
- (4) Introduced in *North west India*

08. What were the circumstances that led to commercialisation of agriculture ? OR

How land revenue system led to the commercialisation of agriculture?

When the farmers were unable to pay tax in the form of money before the deadline, they had to take loan from moneylenders. But They failed to repay the loan and interest. So their land was seized by the money lenders and forced them to cultivate crops according to the market needs.

09. What is called as commercialisation of agriculture ?

During the British rule farmers were compelled to cultivate crops based on the market needs. As a result, commercial crops were largely cultivated instead of food crops. This transformation is termed as commercialization of agriculture.

PROBLEMS OF FARMERS AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES :**THEIR RESISTANCE AGAINST BRITISH EXPLOITATIONS:**

10. What were the problems faced by the indigo farmers during the British rule ?

With the industrial revolution in the 18th century in England, textile industry strengthened and the demand for indigo as a dyeing agent increased.

The British gave the farmers a good amount as advance for the cultivation of indigo and compelled to cultivate indigo at the most fertile part of the land. Due to the interference of the British agents in the harvesting season, the farmers received only a lower price for indigo. when artificial colours were invented, indigo became obsolete. This made the plight of the farmers more miserable.

11. List exploitations faced by tribal groups/ The impact of British policy on tribal life ?
Gathering forest produce, cattle rearing, shifting cultivation, and hunting were the major means of livelihood of the tribal communities. The British Forest Acts made their life miserable. They were prohibited to enter forest when the British declared forests as protected. The British levied tax at higher rates on the forest produce. These situations led the tribes to fight against the British.

12. Name the struggles that conducted by the farmers and tribes against the British exploitation in India ?

(1) Revolt under indigo farmers of Bengal (1859)

(2) Revolt under Peasants of Malabar (19th C)

(3) Revolt under Santhal tribes of Rajmahal hills (1855)

(4) Revolt under Kurichya and Kurumba tribes of Wayanad (1812)

(5) Revolts such as Pahriya eebellion, Bhill rebellion, Kol rebellion, Munda rebellion, Khasi rebellion etc.,.

13. Write short notes on the Indigo revolt, Mappila Rebellions, Santhal revolt and Kurichya Revolt.

a) Indigo Revolt :- With the industrial revolution in the 18 th C in England the demand for indigo increased. The British gave the farmers good amount as advance for the cultivation of indigo. The farmers were compelled to cultivate indigo at the most fertile part of their land. Due to the interference of the British agents in the harvesting season, the farmers received only lower price for indigo. In 1859 they declared that they were giving up indigo cultivation. They attacked indigo factories with bows, arrows swords and spears.

b) Mappila Rebellion :- The British treated the Janmis (Landlords) as owners of the land. Farmers of South Malabar cultivated the land obtained on lease from landlords . Most of these tenants were Mappilas . Mappilas conducted many revolts against the atrocities of the landlords and the British support of Janmis. To suppress the revolt the British raised a special armed Police battalion (MSP). They appointed William Logon Commission. The Commission find out Land revenue policy as the cause of struggle.

c) Santhal Revolt :- The Santhals were a tribe inhabiting the valleys of Rajmahal Hills. They lived closely with nature and earned a living by farming and collecting forest produce, cattle rearing and hunting. The forest Act imposed by the British made their life miserable. They were prohibited to enter forest. At the same time the British widely felled trees from forest to lay railway lines and build ships. The situations led the tribes to fight against the British.

d) Kurichya Revolt :- It was organized by Kurichya & the Kurumba tribes of Wayanad in 1812. Imposition of excessive tax by the British, compulsion for paying tax in cash and seizing of agricultural land for non-payment of tax were the reasons for this revolt. The British Govt. Suppressed the struggle and killed Kurichya leader Rama Nambi.

PROBLEMS OF WORKERS AND THEIR RESISTANCE AGAINST EXPLOITATIONS:

13. Point out the important problems faced by the workers under British period ?

(1) Decline of traditional industries

(2) Problems faced by workers in modern industries

14. Analyse the reason behind the ruin of Indian textile industry ?

(1) Large scale import of the machine made textile from Britain

2) Expansion of railways

(3) Export of raw materials

(4) Implementation of higher tax on Indian textiles which exported to Britain

(5) Exploitation and torture of the British officers

15. What are reasons behind the decline of cottage industries ?
- Pottery**:-import of aluminium vessels
Tanning:-export of raw leather to Europe
Carpentry:- use of machines made materials
16. List the results of the decline of traditional cottage industries ?
- (1) The textile centers like Murshidabad and Dhaka that were thickly populated once, became least inhabited.
 - (2) Workers were migrated to villages and engaged in agriculture. It fragmented the agricultural fields and the production was decreased.
 - (3) The ruins of agriculture sector and handicraft industry led India to famine and deaths due to starvation.
17. What were the problems faced by workers in modern industries ?
- (1) Prolonged working hours (2) Little wages (3) Unhealthy accommodation
18. Name the struggles that conducted by the workers against British exploitations ?
- (1) Great Bombay textile strike (2) Calcutta jute mill strike

FIRST WAR OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE, 1857:

19. What is the importance of the revolt of 1857 ? Where did it start ?
- Historians termed the revolt as India's First War of Independence. It was started by the Sepoy's of Meerut
20. Explain the causes of the revolt of 1857?
- a) Miseries of the Farmers – The Permanent land revenue settlement, Ryotwari and mahalwari systems were implemented by the British destroyed the backbone of the farmers. They had to pay high rate of taxes in cash. The farmers were compelled to cultivate commercial crops instead of food crops.
 - b) Poverty of Craftsman – Large scale import of machine made British textiles ruined the Indian textile industry. The Import of aluminium vessels, destroyed pottery making sector. Tanning and carpentry industries were also destroyed.
 - c) Dissatisfaction of Kings – In addition to Doctrine of Lapse, the princely states were accused of inefficient rule and were annexed by the British
 - d) Miseries of the Sepoys – Poor salary and abuse by the British the rumour that the cartridges in the newly supplied Enfield rifles were greased with the fat of cows and pigs provoked them. They were unwilling to use the new cartridges and were punished by the officers.
 - e) Immediate cause – In Barrackpore in Bengal, Mangal Pandey, an Indian soldier, shot at a British officer, who forced him to use the new cartridge.
21. Name the leaders of the revolt ?
- | | | |
|----------|---|---------------------------|
| Delhi | - | Bahadur Shah Second |
| Jhansi | - | Rani Lakshmi Bai |
| Lucknow | - | Beegum Hazret Mahal |
| Kanpur | - | Nana Saheb, Thantia Thopi |
| Faizabad | - | Maulavi Ahammedullah |
22. Analyse features / Characteristics of the Revolt of 1857 ?
- The real strength of the rebellion was the Hindu- Muslim unity.
 - A spirit of co-operation existed among the soldiers, common people and the leaders.
 - The rioters captured Delhi and declared Bahadur Sha II as the emperor of India.
 - Though the revolt could not succeed completely, it was marked as the foremost massive resistance of the Indians against the British.

22. What were the results of the first war of independence?
 a) It brought about several changes in the British policies and administration
 b) The British Parliament took over India from the British East India Company
 c) Around two crores of people died and spread over twenty four great famines.
23. What were the changes in the policies and administration of the British after 1857?
 (1) The British parliament took over India from British East India company
 (2) The economic exploitation reached it's extreme level

GROWTH OF NATIONALISM AND RESISTANCE:

23. What is called as nationalism ?
 Nationalism is the sense of unity among the people of a country irrespective of caste, creed, religion and region.
24. What is the major factor behind the emergence of Indian nationalism ?
 The economic exploitation of the British created an anti-British feeling among different sections of people. This attitude was a major factor that led to the emergence of Indian nationalism in the nineteenth century.
25. How did the economic exploitation led to the emergence of nationalism?
 (1) Various revenue system introduced by the Britishers
 (2) Decline of the village industries ,cotton industries and handicrafts
 (3) Collapse of agriculture, and the spread of poverty and famine
 (4) Influence of eminent leaders, Swadeshi movement and the formation of Indian National Congress
26. How was the formation of Indian National Congress ?
 Indian National Congress was formed in December, 1885 in Bombay.
27. What is 'drain theory' ? Who formulated ? Background of the drain theory ?
 Dadabai Naoroji recognized the economic exploitation of the British and resultant deterioration of Indian economy. He proved that the drain of wealth was the root cause of poverty and starvation in India. His findings known as Drain theory. It included in his work "Poverty and UnBritish rule in India"
28. How did the Indian wealth flow to Britain?
 (1) Export of Indian raw materials to Britain
 (2) Salary and pension to the British officers in India
 (3) Profit gained through the sale of British product in India
 (4) Tax from India to Britain
29. What is called 'economic nationalism' ?
 The common people realized that the poverty and exploitation they faced had been the creation of the British. It reinforced their anti- British attitude. The nationalism, grown out of such awareness, is termed by some historians, as 'Economic Nationalism'
30. What are the features of 'Swadeshi movement' ?
 (1) Started in 1905 in relation with partition of Bengal
 (2) New method of resistance
 (3) Boycott the foreign goods and strengthen Indian industry
 (4) Consumption of indigenous goods
 (5) Various industries started by the Indians
 (6) Students quit the school
 (7) Women boycotted foreign bangles and utensils
 (8) Bala gangathara thilak, Lala lajpath ray, Bipin chandra pal(Lal-Pal-Bal)were the important leaders supported the boycott movement
 (9) It strengthened nationalism

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

01. How did the British policies affected the farmers? OR 'Farmers were one of the immediate victims of the British rule'-Can you agree the statement? OR Analyse the way by which the British land revenue system impoverished Indian farmers ? OR How did the British land revenue policy make the peasantry fall easy prey to the exploitation of money lenders. Explain?
 - The British land revenue system destroyed the backbone of the Indian farmers.
 - The aim of their tax policy was to maximise the income.
 - Farmers forced to pay high tax and even at the time of poor yield.
 - When they are unable to pay tax, they obtained loan from money lenders at a high rate of interest.
 - Those who failed to pay loan and interest , were seized by the money lenders
02. List the region in India where different cash crops produced ?
 - Indigo; Bengal, Bihar - Cotton; Maharashtra, Punjab - Sugar cane; Uttar pradesh
 - Tea; Assam, Kerala - Jute; Bengal - Wheat; Punjab
03. List out the far reaching impact of British policies ? OR How did the British policies adversely affect various segments of Indian society ?
 - The British land revenue policy destroyed the back bone of Indian farmers.
 - It led to commercialisation of agriculture and the ruin of food crops
 - It paved way for peasants revolts such as indigo revolt
 - The Mappilas of Malabar revolted against the illegal allegation of the British and the landlords
 - Various tribes such as Santhals , Kurichya, etc struggled against the British
 - Indian textile industry, handicrafts, traditional industries declined
 - Indian agricultural sector ruined
 - The British policy made life of Indian labours of modern industries miserable.
04. Name the Indian entrepreneurship established during the period of Swadeshi Movement?
 - Bengal chemical store in Bengal - Tata steel plant in Maharashtra.
 - The swadeshi steam navigation company in Tamilnadu.
05. Name the earlier leaders who made awareness against British economic policy? Dadabai Naoroji, Romesh Chandra Dutt and Gopal Krishna Gokhale
06. Do you think that the Swadeshi Movement was a mass movement. Why?

Yes, it was a massive movement. This movement witnessed the massive participation of women, labourers, students etc.. Washer man took a vow that they would not wash foreign clothes. The priests swore that they would not perform rituals and prayers using foreign items, Women boycotted foreign bangles and utensils. Students quit schools. The Olema declared English as Satanic language.
07. Who were known as LALBAL PAL? What did they emphasize?
 - Lala Lajpat Ray, Bala Gangadara Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal.
 - They emphasized the necessity of overthrowing the foreign rule.
08. Who known as the 'Helmsman of Tamilnadu' and father of indian unrest?
 - V.O.Chidambaran Pillai and Bala Gangadara Tilak
09. Who raised the slogan 'swaraj is my birth right I shall have it'?
 - Bal Gangadara Tilak
10. What is called as nursery of Indian national movement? Bengal
11. Who divided Bengal? When? In 1905 by Lord Curson