

Class:8 (History) Chapter:9

The Great Uprising of 1857 (Question and Answers)

1.State any three main political causes that led to the Great Uprising of 1857.

*The British policy of control and gradual extinction of the native Indian States. (By outright wars, Subsidiary Alliance, Doctrine of Lapse and alleged misrule)

* Successors of Bahadur Shah would not permitted to use the Red Fort as their palace and imperial titles with their names

*British refused to grant Nana Saheb the pension they were paying to Baji Raol and he was forced to live at Kanpur, far away from his family seat at Poona.

*Rani Laxmi Bai's adopted son was not accepted as the heir to the throne by Lord Dalhousie under the policy of Doctrine of Lapse.

*Indians were being ruled from England and India's wealth was being drained to England and not utilised for their welfare.

2.Mention any two economic factors that caused the Uprising of 1857.

*Agricultural India was made an economic colony to serve the interests of industrial England.

*India was made to accept readymade British goods while Indian products were subjected to high import duties in England.

*There was Drain of Wealth from India to England which included their salaries, incomes and savings of Englishmen and unnecessary expenditure of army etc;

*Increase the land revenue forced many peasant in to debt.

*The landed aristocracy which included the taluqdars and the hereditary landlords were deprived of their estates.

*Peasants were forced to cultivate only indigo in the fields chosen by the British planters.

3.What were the grievances of the Indians regarding the modern innovations introduced by the British in India?

The introduction of modern innovations such as railways and telegraphs was misunderstood by the people. They thought the telegraph poles were erected to hand people .

*Indians noted that in the railway compartments the higher castes and the lower castes were made to sit side by side. They believed that the British had introduced such practices to defy their caste and religion.

4.what was the Doctrine of Lapse? Name three states annexed by the British using the Doctrine of Lapse.

Doctrine of Lapse:-If an Indian ruler died without a natural heir, the adopted child would not have any right to inherit the throne.

Jhansi, Satara, Sampalpur, Jaitpur, Udaipur and Nagpur

5. Which announcement of the Mughals hurt the sentiments of the Muslims?

In 1856, Lord Canning announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah, his successors would not be allowed to use imperial titles with their names. This decision of the British hurt the feeling of the Muslims.

6. Give any three ways by which the British exploited the resources.

*India was forced to export, at cheaper rates, raw materials like raw cotton and raw silk that the British industries needed. Export of raw materials and food grains deprived India of her agricultural surplus and raised the prices of raw materials.

*India was made to accept readymade British goods either duty-free or at nominal duty rate, while Indian products were subjected to high import duties in England.

*Indigo trade was highly profitable to the British and peasants were forced to cultivate only indigo in the fields chosen by the British planters.

7. Mention any three grievances of the Indian soldiers, which led to the Uprising of 1857?

*Indian soldiers were poorly, ill-fed and badly housed. British military authorities forbade the sepoys from wearing caste or sectarian marks beads or turbans.

*The British Parliament passed the General Service Enlistment Act in 1856. (As per this Act, Indians soldiers could be sent overseas on duty. The Brahmin soldiers saw in this a danger to their caste)

*All higher positions in employment were reserved for the British, irrespective of their performance.

*The Indian soldiers were required to serve in areas away from their homes without extra payment and additional Bhatta (Foreign service allowance). The post office Act of 1856 withdrew the privilege of free postage enjoyed by sepoys.

8. What was the immediate cause of the Uprising of 1857?

In 1856, British authorities decided to replace the old fashioned musket by the new 'Enfield rifle'. The loading process of the Enfield rifle involved bringing the cartridge to the mouth and biting off the top greased paper with the teeth.

In January 1857, there was a rumour in the Bengal regiments that the greased cartridge had the fat of cow or pig. The sepoys were now convinced that the introduction of greased cartridges was a deliberate move to defile Hindu and Muslim religions as the cow is sacred to Hindus and the pig is a taboo to Muslims. So, both the Hindus and the Muslim soldiers refused to use these cartridges and staged an uprising when they were forced to use them.

9. State any three consequences of the Uprising of 1857?

*The end of the rule of the East India Company and assumption of the Government of India directly by the Crown.

*Non-intervention in social and religious matters of Indians.

*Treat all subjects-Indians and Europeans- as equals (education and ability would be the basis of all appointment)

*Grant general pardon to all those who had taken part in the War except those who were found guilty of murder of British subjects.

*The policy of annexation and Doctrine of Lapse were abandoned.

*The strength of European troops in India was increased.

10. Why do the historians regard the Uprising of 1857 as the First War of Independence?

*It was first mass uprising in which all the sections of Indian society participated against a common enemy, i.e., the British.

*It paved the way for the rise of modern national movement. The sacrifices made by Laxmi Bai, Nana Saheb, and Mangal Pandey served as a source of inspiration to the leaders and people to fight for the independence of India from the British rule.

Class:8 (History)

Chapter:10

Socio-Religious Reforms (Question and Answers)

1. Explain the factors that led to the birth of socio-religious reform movements in India.

*Educated Indians began to look for the defects in their society and for ways and means of removing them.

*They were particularly impressed by modern science and the doctrines of reason and humanism.

*Thus, a spirit of renaissance pervaded the whole country.

*Indians scholars discovered that many beliefs and practices were no longer of any use and needed to be discarded.

*They also found that some aspects of the cultural heritage were of intrinsic value and needed to be revived.

2. Why did religious and social reform movements go hand in hand?

This was because every social custom in India had its roots in religious injunctions and sanctions.

3. With regard to Brahmo Samaj, answer the following questions.

a. Who founded the Brahmo Samaj? Why?

Raja Rammohan Roy established the Brahma Samaj .

To save Hinduism from the evils of caste system and superstition.

b. What were the ideals of Brahmo Samaj?

*Monotheism or worship of one God

*Emphasis on human dignity

*Opposition to meaningless rituals

***Equality of women**

***Philosophy of Vedanta**

***Education.**

4.Explain the work done by the following with regard to socio-religious reforms:

a.TheAryaSamaj

***It regarded the Vedas as divine revelation to mankind.**

***It preached against idol-worship and taught people to have faith in one God**

***The AryaSamaj disregarded the caste system, opened its membership to the lower castes and other depressed class.**

***It tried to check the conversion of his people to other religions and started and started Shudhi Movement to bring back to Hindu converts who had embraced other religions**

***The AryaSamaj opposed child marriage and the purdah system. It encouraged widow remarriage and set up orphanages. It advocated equal status for women and encouraged female education. It started schools and colleges of girls.**

b.The Theosophical Society.

***The Society opened schools for boys, for women, for the depressed classes and encouraged participation in the Boy Scout movement.**

***The Society opposed child marriage advocated abolition of caste the uplift of outcastes and improving the condition of widows.**

***It played a significant role in arousing self-confidence and nationalism among the Indians.**

5.The most important reformer among the Muslims in the 19th century was Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. In this context, state briefly:

a.His views on religion

***He declared that the Quran alone was the authoritative work for Islam and all other Islamic writings were secondary.**

***All his life he struggled against blind obedience to tradition, dependence on customs, ignorance and irrationalism.**

***He was against fanaticism and narrow-mindedness, and encouraged tolerance and broad-mindedness.**

b.His contribution to modern education

***He believed that the religious and social life of the Muslims could be improved only by imbibing modern western scientific knowledge and culture. He founded schools in many towns and had many western books translated into Urdu. He founded at Aligarh, the Muhammedan Anglo-Oriental (M.A.O) college as a centre for spreading western sciences and culture. Later, the College grew into the Aligarh Muslim University.**

6.Write short notes on the contribution made by the following to the socio-religious reforms:

a.JyothibaPhule:-

He led the movement against the prevailing caste-restrictions in India. He revolted against the domination of the Brahmins and struggled for the rights of peasants and other low caste people.

He also a pioneer for women education in India and fought for education of girls throughout his life. Jyothiba established a girls' school and asked his wife to teach the girls in the school. Later he opened two more schools for the girls and an indigenous school for the lower castes.

Jyothiba realised the pathetic conditions of widows and established an ashram for young widows and eventually became advocate of the idea of widow remarriage,

He opened his home to people from all castes and backgrounds.

He wrote two books- SarvajanicSatyadharmaPustak and Ghulamgiri.

b.SreeNarayana Guru :-ShriNarayana Guru of Kerala has brought in social transformation through education and spirituality. He established SNDP(SreeNarayana Dharma ParipalanaYogam)

To oppose caste discrimination, Guru consecrated a number of temples which were open to all castes. He trained the lower caste men in rituals of worship to officiate as priest in these temples and satisfied the needs of the people.

He simplified rituals of worship, marriage and funerals. His philosophy of "One caste, one religion and one God for man" has brought in intercaste and interreligious harmony.

c.VeeresalingaKandukuri:-He was a renowned scholar and social reformer, He stood strongly for social causes, like widow remarriage and abolition of child marriage. He strongly opposed the existence of caste system in the society, condemned religious misbeliefs, and opposed bribery amongst Government employees. He advocated for the education of women and remarriage of widows. He established a girls' school . He started a Telugu journal and began writing for women.He started Remarriage Association . He also established a Widow Home.

7.Name of the Organisation established by Shree Vivekanda?

Ramakrishna Mission.

8.What were the aims of the organisation formed by Shree Vivekanda.

*To manifest divinity inherent in man.

*To strive for a synthesis and harmony among various faiths and cults.

*To take up the service of mankind

9.State any three ideals of Shree Vivekanda.

He proclaimed the essential oneness of all religions and condemned narrowness in religious matters.

*He was convinced of the superior approach of the Indian philosophical tradition and he said that the Vedanta was destined to be the religion of mankind.

*He condemned the caste system and the emphasis on rituals and superstitions and urged the people to imbibe the spirit of liberty, equality and free thinking.

***He believed that service to mankind was service to God.**

10.How did Shree Vivekanda spread his mission abroad.

Swami Vivekanda attended the Parliament off World Religions held Chicago in the United States of America, in 1893. His fervour and eloquence made a deep impression on the delegates.

Swami Vivekanda himself established many branches of the Ramakrishna Mission in the United States of America. Later on, this network spread to other western countries and thousands of Americans and Europeans accepted the spiritual superiority of Indian culture and civilisation.
