

29

## Q and Answer

Whom did the rebels of 1857 declare as the 'Emperor of India' and why?

→ The rebels of 1857, declared Bahadur Shah II the then Mughal Emperor as the 'Emperor of India'. The revolting sepoys wanted to end the foreign rule in India and proclaimed Bahadur Shah II as the Emperor of India.

What evidence of Hindu-Muslim unity do we have during the Revolt of 1857?

→ The Hindu and Muslim communities fought together during the Revolt of 1857 foiling the British attempts of creating any rift. The Azamgarh Proclamation clearly stated that both the communities were being ruined under the oppressions of the British rulers. Also it must be noted here that both the Hindus and the Muslims proclaimed Bahadur Shah II as the Emperor of India.

What were the chief centres of the Revolt of 1857? Name a few important leaders of the Revolt.

→ The chief centers of revolts were Barrackpore, Meerut, Awadh, Kanpur, Delhi, Gwalior, Jhansi, Jagdishpur etc. Some of the prominent leaders of the Revolt were Rani of Jhansi, Nana Sahab

Tantia Tope, Kunwar Singh, Baskhal Ali, Hazrat Mahal etc.

What is the Better Government of India Act 1858?

→ The Act of Better Government of India was passed on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1858 by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Its provisions called for the liquidation of the English East India Company and the transference of its functions to the British crown.

What was Queen's Proclamation of 1858?

→ 1<sup>st</sup> November 1858, at a great Durbar in Allahabad Lord Canning announced the royal proclamation that the Queen of England had assumed the reins of government of India. The proclamation declared the future policy of the British rule in India and was called 'Magna Carta of the people of India'. Though the proclamation declared in eloquent words the principles of 'justice and religious toleration as the guiding policy of the queen's rule, in reality it was a 'political bluff'.

(3)  
What was Swami Vivekananda's 'Swadesh Mantra'?

→ The closing passage of the 'Bartaman Bhaxal' was titled by Swami Vivekananda as 'Swadesh Mantra'. Addressed to every Indian, it is an incarnation for the motherland to awake the national ideal of identity with the Indian heritage. It reminds our countrymen of their values and roots and urges to take pride in having born as an Indian irrespective of whether they are poor or not. It aimed to rejuvenate the Indian nation and patriotism with a spiritual belonging to our culture and ancient history.

How did Gaganendranath Tagore criticise the colonial society?

→ Gaganendranath Tagore through his cartoons made a mockery of the colonial society which can be found in the pages of Prabasi, Modern Review as well as in 'Bisrup Bajra', Nabahullo etc. He inspired the future cartoonists of Bengal like Jadirindranath Sen, Chandi Lahiri etc. He criticised the foreign rule, the babu culture, the weakness of the Swadeshis including his uncle Rabindranath Tagore and even the charke of Gandhiji.

Who painted the famous 'Bharat Mata' and when?

OR.

What was the significance of the 'Bharat Mata' painting?

OR.

What does the painting of 'Bharat Mata' by Abanindranath Tagore signify?

→ The famous painting of 'Bharat Mata' by Abanindranath Tagore originally called 'Matri murti' was done in Japanese style in 1905. 'Bharat Mata' portrayed as the Goddess of prosperity was dressed in saffron like the Hindu nun and had four hands holding a book, a bunch of paddy and a piece of cloth and rosary and there were lotuses offered to her feet. The painting 'Bharat Mata' reminds us the first stanza of 'Vande Mataram' and it expressed the concept of eternal mother who was seeking liberation through her sons. Thus the painting was successful in generating feeling of nationalism and patriotism among the Indians.

Why is Gaganendranath Tagore famous?

→ Gaganendranath Tagore, a great painter and cartoonist was the elder brother of Abanindranath Tagore who was greatly influenced by French Cubism in his drawings and we can see his work in the pages of Prabsi, Modern review as well as in 'Bisupa Baira', 'Abbhul Lok' etc.

How did 'Bartaman Bharat' help to generate Indian Nationalism?

→ In his book 'Bartaman Bharat', Swami Vivekananda had predicted that there would be mass uprising in India in future when the people belonging to the lower caste/strata will rise and rule the Indian society and he implored the Indians to overcome the caste barrier and consider every Indian as a 'brother'. He urged his countrymen to give up imitating the Western life-style in dress and manner and take extreme pride and honour in the Indian culture and heritage and gave his 'Swadesh Mantra' to develop this concept. Religion and nationalism received equal importance to him and he asked the Indians to sacrifice their selfish interests and integrate for the cause of

the motherland.

What is the Ilbert Bill Controversy?

→ The Ilbert Bill introduced by Lord Ripon in 1883 allowed the Indian judges and magistrates to try British offenders in criminal cases at the District level. This was opposed greatly in Britain and by British settlers in India and the government had to withdraw the bill. This enraged the Indians and the British and thus paved the path to the formation of the Indian National Congress.

What was the purpose of the Hindu Mela?  
OR.

What was the objective behind the Hindu Mela?

→ According to Dr. R.C. Majumdar, the main purpose of the Hindu Mela was to spread nationalism, create patriotism and develop an attitude of self dependency among the Hindus. It championed the glory of ancient Hindu religion, encouraged study of native language, respected the national emblems and spread the growth of economic nationalism in India. According to Rabindranath Tagore it was the Hindu Mela that helped us to realise that 'India is our

## Swadesh'

Mention any two aims of the Indian Association.

OR.

What were the aims of the Bharat Sabha?

→ The Indian Association or Bharat Sabha founded by Surendranath Banerjee wanted to develop unity among different communities of India. It strongly advocated communal harmony among Hindus and Muslims. It also stroived to achieve political consciousness of the Indians and build up a strong body of public opinion.

What was the Vernacular Press Act?

→ The Vernacular Press Act was introduced by Lord Lytton in 1878. By implementing this Act he wanted to prevent the Vernacular Press from expressing criticism of the British policies and especially the opposition that had taken place with the outset of the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-80)

Who established the Indian League and why?

→ The Indian League was established in 1875 by Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Sambhu Chandra Mukhopadhyay. It was established to inculcate

the feeling of nationalism and create political consciousness among the Indians.

Note two reasons behind the failure of the Great Rebellion.

→ Lack of definite political ideal and coordination of plan to establish an independent government by ousting the British was one of the major causes of the failure of the great Revolt. The sepoys and their leaders both failed to display their proper objectives before the common people. The revolt remained limited to the regions of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Lucknow, Gwalior, Meerut etc.

Why did not the educated Bengali elite support the Revolt of 1857?

→ The educated Bengali elite did not support the Revolt of 1857 for they thought the leaders of the Revolt wanted to re-establish the medieval feudal society and state system replacing the modern system of education and reforms brought about by the British. Many



27  
of them were associated with the British administration and were fearful of losing their economic and other personal gains. They considered the British rule as blessings and underestimated the rebelling sepoy.

Radhakanta Deb, Ishwan Chandra Gupta, Kaliprasana Singha were some of the Bengali elites who were against the Great Revolt. Vidyasagar closed the classes of Sanskrit College to provide shelter to the European soldiers coming from the North.

Can the Great Revolt of 1857 be termed as a feudal revolt?

→ The revolt of 1857 was started by the Indian sepoy against the English East India Company but the economic policies of the British affected the peasants, zamindars as well as the common people of the rural areas of North and Central India who eventually joined the Revolt. In 1765, the company was granted the Diwani Rights and in the later years new land revenue policies like the Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari Settlement, Mahalwari Settlement were introduced which caused disaster to the peasants, rural people and to

agriculture. A great unrest took place among the aristocratic population of Bengal when resumption of rent free estates in Bengal took place under Lord Bentinck. The annexationist policies of Lord Dalhousie brought untold misery to the jagirdars of Bombay and landlords now ~~gave leadership~~ of Awadh. So these discontented landlords now gave leadership to the Great Revolt. P.C Joshi is his book, '1857 in our History' called it a National Struggle directed by feudal lords and historian Hiren Dranath Mukherjee supported his views. R.P Dutt also called the Great Revolt of 1857 as a feudal uprising. However historians like Sasobhan Sarkar refused to accept this view.

Analyse the characteristics of the Great Revolt of 1857.

→ Historians differ greatly in analysing the characteristics of the Revolt of 1857. While some call it the people's response of feudalism others call it a National Movement and yet another group term it as the Sepoy Mutiny. Earl Roberts, Mabson; John Key etc and also the contemporary Indians like Durgadas Banerjee, Harish Chandra

59  
Mukherjee, Dadabhai Naoroji and others felt  
it was the soldiers who ~~too~~ took an  
active role in the revolt from the beginning  
till the end and hence it was apt to call it  
Sepoy Mutiny.

English thinkers like J.B Norton, Alexander  
Duff, Outram, Holmes etc. accepted it as a  
national revolt. It started as a revolt of the  
soldiers which eventually developed a national  
character demanding Bahadur Shah II as the  
'Emperor of India'.

The revolutionary, nationalist leader  
Vinayak Damodar Savarkar named the Revolt  
of 1857 as India's first War of Independence  
which was totally rejected by Dr. R.C  
Majumdar. (He said, "the so called First National  
War of Independence in 1857 is neither first  
nor national nor war of Independence") Dr.  
S.N. Sen however regarded the revolt of 1857  
as a national movement. P.C. Joshi called it  
a national struggle directed by feudal lords  
and Jawaharlal Nehru called the revolt reactionary.  
Again Dr. Susobhan Sarkar neither considers  
it as a revolt against feudalism nor reactionary.

Why is the Revolt of 1857 called a mass revolt?

→ The revolt of 1857 was initiated by the sepoys no doubt but eventually it was not limited to the sepoys and a large number of peasants, artisans, labourers, discontented policemen, landlords joined the revolt. In Delhi, Lucknow, Awadh, the common people joined hands with the sepoys and fought against the British with their indigenous weapons. In north and central India communication through roads was disrupted in order to snare the supply lines of the company's army. At the villages, the peasants and the common people crossed out loot and plunder on the houses of the moneylenders and the 'new zamindars'. The servants and ayahs also refused to work in British households in India. Even the tribal men and women worked as secret agents of the rebellions. Thus we can find evidences of common people taking part in the Revolt of 1857.

What was the Queen's Proclamation?

OR.  
State the importance of the Queen's Proclamation.

The immediate impact of the Revolt of 1857 was the end of the English East India Company's rule in India and transfer of power to the British crown. At a grand durbar at Allahabad on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1858, Lord Canning announced the Queen's Proclamation and thus commenced the rule in India. The Queen's proclamation announced the policy and principles that the Government of England intended to follow on assumption to power. Henceforth the administrative responsibilities of India was given to a member of the British cabinet, namely the 'Secretary of State for India'. The proclamation confirmed the treaties and engagements of the native states and the English East India Company and made it clear that the British Government had no further intention of territorial expansion in India. It gave complete religious freedom to the Indians and promised to provide equal opportunities in administrative services to all Indians irrespective of their race and creed. It granted general amnesty to all offenders of the Revolt of 1857 ~~and~~ excepting those who had been convicted for being a part in the killing of the British subjects. The Government

promised to work for the material and moral progress of the Indians but in no way would interfere with the established customs and religions of the Indian people.

But in reality all these promises were hardly implemented and no changes took place in the exploitative nature of the British rule.

How did the novel 'Anandamath' by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay help in the development of nationalist sentiment?

→ The novel 'Anandamath' written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay published in 1882 played a significant role in the development of patriotism and nationalist feeling among the Indians. It was written on the background of the great famine of Bengal in 1770 and the Sannyasi Revolt. The song Vande Mataram written in 1875 which became the national hymn for the revolutionaries was incorporated in the novel and 'Vande Mataram' also gave birth to the concept of 'Bharat Mata' or mother India. The novel provided the concept of an armed uprising or militant nationalism among the Indians and the idea of Swadeshi.

Bankim Chandra explained that our country is our mother, patriotism is our religion and serving the country meant worshipping our 'mother'. The author also tried to draw a parallel between Hinduism and Nationalism. He urged his countrymen to be united against British despotism. As the novel had played an active role in awakening patriotism among the Indians it was banned by the British government.

## HCC

- Sepoy Mutiny was started in the year
- 1857
- Mangal Pandey was the Sepoy leader of
- Bengal Regiment.
- First Martyr of Sepoy Mutiny was -
- Mangal Pandey
- Tantia Topi was the leader of -
- Ramchandra Panduranga
- Hazrat Mahal was the leader of
- Awadh
- Laxmibai was the leader of
- Jhansi
- First outcome of Sepoy Mutiny was in
- 
- During Sepoy Mutiny Governor General of India was
- John Canning
- Nana Sahib was the adopted son of
- Baji Rao II
- During 1859 the emperor of India was.
- Charles Canning
- The post of Peshwa was abolished during the
- period of
- 1818
- The rule of East India Company in India was
- abolished in the year -
- 1858.



1st The first viceroy of India was

→ ~~Warren Hastings~~ Lord Canning

1st The Proclamation of the Queen was read out in the year

→ 1 Nov 1858

1st Sepoy Mutiny was the first freedom struggle of India' - It was first remarked by

→ Vinayak Damodar Sarakar

1st First political association of India was

→ Zamindari Association

1st Banga Bhasha Prakashika Sabha was established in the year -

→ 1836

1st Indian League was established by

→ V. K. Krishna Menon.

1st Jamin dar Sabha was established in the year

→ 1837

2nd The first president of Jamin dar Sabha was

→

2nd The first secretary of Jamin dar Sabha was

→

2nd The Bengal British India Society was established in

→ 1843

2nd The first President of the Bengal British India Society was

→ Raja Radhakanta Deb.

24) Pune Sarbajanic Sabha was established by

→ 2 April Mahadev Govind Ranade,

25) Pune Sarbajanic Sabha was established in the year

→ 1870

26) Jatiya Mela or renamed Hindu Mela was established in the year.

→ 1867

27) Bharat Sabha was established in the year

→ 1876

28) Bharat Sabha was established by

→

29) The first secretary of Bharat Sabha was

→

30) The book 'The Sepoy Mutiny and the Revolt of 1857' was written by

→ Ramesh Chandra Majumdar

31) Jatiya Bhandar was formed by

→

32) The novel 'Gora' was written by

→ Rabindranath Tagore.

33) The song 'Bandemataram' is taken from

→ Anandamath.

34) The book 'Anandamath' was written by

→ Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

35) 'Bartman Bharat' was written by

→ Swami Vivekanand.

36)

2) The picture 'Bharat Mata' was drawn by

→ Abanindranath Tagore.

3) The father of modern nationalism

Cartoon is called

→

## MCQ

12. The rule of East India Company in India was abolished in the year.

→ 1857

The first viceroy of India was -

→ ~~Warren Hastings~~ Lord Canning

The proclamation of the Queen was read out in the year -

→ 1 Nov 1858

'Sepoy Mutiny was the first freedom struggle of India'. It was first remarked by -

→ V. D. Savarkar.

First political association of India was -

→ Banga Bhasa Prakashika Sabha

Banga Bhasa Prakashika Sabha was established in the year

→ 1836.

Indian League was established by

→ V. K. Krishna Menon.

Jamindar Sabha was established in the year

→ 12 Nov 1837

The first President of Jamindar Sabha was

→

The first secretary of Jamindar Sabha was

→

The Bengal British India Society was established in the year

→ 1839

The first president of the Bengal British India Society was.

→ Raja Radhakanta Deb.

Puna Sarbajanik Sabha was established by

→

Jatiya Mela or renamed Hindu Mela was established in the year -

→ ~~1867~~ 1867

Bharat Sabha was established in the year -

→ 26 July 1876

Bharat Sabha was established by

→ Surendranath Banerjee.

The first Secretary of Bharat Sabha was

→ Ananda Mohan Basu

The book 'The Sepoy Mutiny and the Revolt of 1857' was written by

→ Ramesh Chandra Majumdar

What was the nature of the revolt of 1857?

→ Introduction - Sepoy Mutiny is a landmark in the history of anti-British movement. It is an important feature of freedom struggle. So from the then time to present time historians are different in their opinions about the nature and character of Sepoy Mutiny.

Sepoy Mutiny - The historians who called the 1857 revolt as Sepoy Mutiny Charles, Rees, Earl Roberts, John Sully, John Key, John Lawrence are



Sahab, Tantia Topo, Kuwar Singh, Rani Laxmi Bai and other some conservative feudal lord laid the mutiny for their own interest and that was to protect dying feudalism for their own interest.

First freedom movement - Damodar Vinayak

Savarkar has called it first freedom movement of India in his book 'Indian War of ~~independence~~ Independence'. Historian Ashok Mehta also called it the same as Damodar Savarkar. Surendranath Sen has also called it a national movement in his book 'Eighteen

fifty Seven'.

Conclusion - There is no end of different opinions regarding the character of Sepoy Mutiny. But it is clear that different stream with different ideas and different opinions joined in the Sepoy Mutiny and it was a most remarkable landmark of Indian history.



What was the idea rebellion of Bantaman Bharat of Vivekananda?

→ Bantaman Bharat is a monograph by Swami Vivekananda. It contains different deep feeling of national, cultural and political issues.

(a) The Bantaman Bharat amplifies and elaborates the ideals of society. It is stated that human society inturn is governed by the four caste - The priest, soldiers, traders and labourers.

(b) The Priestly role is exclusive on hereditary grounds; the military role is ~~terrible~~ <sup>tyrannical</sup> and cruel. The commercial is cursting and blood sucking. But the traders go everywhere and they are good deciminator of ideas. The role of the labourers has the advantage of distributing physical comforts. But it has the disadvantage of lowering culture.

(c) In the Bantaman Bharat, Vivekananda predicts forming a school state in which the knowledge of the priest<sup>period</sup>, the culture of the military, the distributary spirit of the traders, the commercial and the ideal of equality of the two last (labourers) are brought into harmony. To Vivekananda that would be an ideal state.

(d) Bantaman Bharat ends with the calling for giving up imitating the western language lifestyle in dress and manners. There should

be cherished feeling of self respect, and sense of pride in being Indian.

(c) The closing para of Basmata Bharat is titled by Vivekananda as Swadesh Mantra, an incantation for the homeland. It is addressed to every Indian. It is call to ~~arise~~ arise and awake to the national ideal of identify with the Indian heritage. The Indian people, even if they are the poorest and the lowest should take pride in having being born as an Indian.

(f) Patriotism and nationalism for Vivekananda was never a matter of political strategy, rather it had to do an spiritual belonging to ones culture and history. Religion and nationalism became interchangeable for Vivekananda.

How did the novel Anandamath by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee helped in the development of nationalism?

→ The novel 'Anandamath' written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee published in 1882 played a significant role in the development of patriotism and nationalist feelings among the Indians. It was written on the background of the great famine of Bengal 1770 and the Sanyasi revolt. The song Vande Mataram written in 1875 which became the maulandi for the revolutionary was incorporated in the novel and Vande Mataram also gave birth to the concept of Mataram or mother India. The novel provided the concept of armed uprising or militant nationalism among the Indians and the idea of Swadesi. Bankim Chandra explained that our country is our mother, patriotism is our religion and serving the country meant worshipping our mother. The author also tried to draw a parallel between Hinduism and nationalism. He urged his countrymen to be united against British despotism. As the novel had played an active role in awakening patriotism among the Indians it was banned by the British gov.

What was the idea rebellion of Bartaman Bharat of Vivekananda?

→ Bartaman Bharat is a monograph by Swami Vivekananda. It contains deep feeling of national, cultural and political issues.

(a) The Bartaman Bharat ~~policy~~ amplifies and elaborates the ideas of society. It is stated that human society in turn is governed by the four caste - The priest, soldiers, traders and labourers.

(b) The priestly role is exclusive on hereditary grounds; the military was cruel. The commercial is curching and blood sucking. But the traders go everywhere and they are good disseminator of ideas. The role of the labourers has the advantage of distributing physical comforts. But is has the disadvantage of lowering culture.

(c) In the Bartaman Bharat Vivekananda predicts forming a state in which the knowledge of the priest period, the culture of the military, the distributary spirit of the commercial and ideal of equality of the last (labourers) are brought into harmony.

(d) Bartaman Bharat ends with the calling for giving up imitating the western lifestyle in dress and manners. There should be cherished feeling of self respect and sense of pride in being Indian.

(e) The closing para of Bartaman Bharat is titled by Vivekananda as Swadesh Mantra, an incantation for the homeland. It is addressed to every Indian. It is call to arise and awake to the national ideal of identify with the Indian heritage. The Indian people, even if they are the poorest and the lowest should take pride in having being born as an Indian.

(f) Patriotism and nationalism for Vivekananda was never a matter of political strategy, rather it had to do a spiritual belonging to ones culture and history. Religion and nationalism became interchangeable for Vivekananda.