

Chapter 17: India's Freedom : Initial Struggle

Assessment Zone :

I. Tick the correct option:

1. c
2. c
3. d
4. b
5. c

II. Fill in the blanks.

1. first
2. cotton and indigo
3. A.O. Hume in 1885
4. arms and supplies
5. sea route

III. Mark the statements as True (T) or False (F).

1. F

2. F

3. T

4. T

5. T

IV. Answer in brief.

1. The Europeans sent people to discover the sea route to India because they wanted to trade with the country and share its wealth.

2. W.C. Banerjee was the first President of the Indian National Congress.

3. The Indian farmers were unhappy with the British rulers because they were forced to grow cash crops like cotton and indigo and had to pay heavy taxes.

4. The two oppressive instruments employed by the British were Subsidiary Alliance and the Doctrine of Lapse to increase their territory in India.

5. The Indian kings were unhappy as they were afraid of losing their kingdoms under the British rule.

V. Answer the following questions.

1. Indian artisans and weavers were affected by the flow of mill-made products from England as these machine-made products were cheaper than the Indian products. Indian industries started suffering heavy losses and many had to close down. Lakhs of people became unemployed.

2 There were many reasons for the failure of the revolt. It was not planned, and did not spread to all parts of India. There was little unity amongst the rebels and many sepoys as well as many Indian rulers actually sided with the British.

3. The people who headed the revolt were Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi, Nana Sahib, Tatya Tope (at Kanpur), Kunwar Singh (Bihar), Begum Hazrat Mahal (Lucknow) and Rao Tula Ram (Haryana).

4. After the Revolt of 1857, the rule of the English East India Company came to an end and India was placed under the direct control of the British Crown.

5. The Revolt of 1857 proved to be a turning point in India's history as the country was placed under the direct control of the British Crown. Indians realized that they needed to get united. As the feeling of nationalism grew stronger, it led to the formation of Indian National Congress.