

FREEDOM STRUGGLE BACKGROUND: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

“स्वतंत्रता संग्राम की पृष्ठभूमि: एक संक्षिप्त अवलोकन”

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The era of freedom struggle is the era of the rise of a new India. During this period, India woke up after centuries of sleep and challenged the most powerful empire in the world. The victory of the British over India is a great wonder of history. The British came to India as traders, but became rulers here. A large, rich and ancient country like India became under the suzerainty of the British. How this happened is necessary for citizens of independent India to consider this question. Not only is the intellectual and historical significance of this investigation, it also has timely importance. There is no doubt that India was enslaved due to its weaknesses. There are many aspects of Indian independence. An important aspect of this period is the awakening of Indian women.

A widespread belief about the British victory over India is that the British conquered India unintentionally. While establishing and expanding his empire in the country, he did not work according to any predetermined plan. The above perception of the Indians regarding the victory of India is wrong. Considering the current situation in India, it was a matter of many British officials that the British rule should be established in India. For example, at the end of the seventeenth century, the head of the East India Company, Sir Joshua Child, set for himself the goal of establishing a large and strong English state in India forever. Sir Joshua's successors did not agree with this policy and did not establish an empire, followed the policy of expansion of commerce.

In 1746, a man named James Mill formulated a plan for the Bengal conquest. The mill proposed to establish the rule of the company by overthrowing the Nawab of Bengal. He said that the situation of the Mughal court was not good. His military strength is weak. He lacks a naval force to protect his beaches. We can easily control Bengal. Presently, Bengal is under the control of a rebel government of the Mughals. The rest of Hindustan will not help the Nawab of Bengal. Mill thought that from 1500 to 2000 the soldiers would be sufficient for this campaign. He suggested that the Emperor of England may be assisted in this expedition. Mill's plan was not immediately implemented, but only eleven years later, Clive implemented it.

The British had to compete fiercely with the French to strengthen their position in India. The French East India Company was founded in 1664 by the French king of France, Louis Fourteenth. The French Company established trading houses in Surat in 1668, Machilipatam in

1669 and Pondicherry in 1674. The French Company established its authority over the island of Mauritius in 1721. In the early years Martin and Dumas, two executives of French companies, made a special contribution to increasing the company's credibility in South India. In 1742, Duple came to India to become the Governor of the French Company. The first and second battles of Karnataka took place during his time. In these battles, companies of both countries intervened in the affairs of the native states. And had benefited from their mutual schism. The third battle of Karnataka took place in 1756-63 in which the French had to face defeat at the hands of the British.

The creation of the Maratha Empire under Shivaji's leadership was not an accidental event. The saints of Maharashtra had created a moral awakening among the Marathas. The Bhakti and Dharma Sudhar movements of the 15th and 16th centuries sowed the seeds of social unity in Maharashtra. Shivaji organized the scattered Marathas and took possession of many fortifications. In 1659, he killed the Mughal commander Afzal Khan and in 1660 killed the Mughal Subedar Shaista Khan from Poona. The intervention of King Jaisingh of Jaipur led to a treaty between Shivaji and Aurangzeb and Shivaji appeared at the Mughal court in Agra. But Shivaji found the Mughal emperor's behavior towards him humiliating and he escaped from the Mughal detention. On 16 June 1674, Shivaji got his coronation at Raigad. On 13 April 1680, Shivaji passed away.

After Shivaji's death, his elder son Shambhaji became the head of the Maratha Empire. In 1689, the Mughals took him captive and mercilessly killed him. Shambhaji was followed by Rajaram, Tarabai and Shahu who led the Marathas. Shahu appointed Balaji Vishwanath as his Peshwa in 1713. After Balaji Vishwanath, his son Peshwa Bajirao became the first 1720-40 Peshwa. Bajirao I made Maratha power the principal power of India. After the death of Peshwa Bajirao I, his son Bajirao sat on the throne of Peshwa. In his time, the Maratha army was sent to Delhi to stop the Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali. On January 14, 1761, a fierce battle of Marathas and Afghans took place at Panipat near Delhi. The Maratha army was badly defeated in this war and the Maratha dream of taking the place of the Mughals in India was forever dissolved.

After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the Mughal Empire continued to decline in political, economic, military and moral terms. Aurangzeb's successor Bahadurshah I was not as powerful as his predecessors. He had to compromise with the Rajputs. The Sikhs revolted under the leadership of Banda Bahadur in Punjab. The Marathas became independent in the south. During that time the economic condition of the Mughal Empire became very pathetic. After Bahadur Shah, his son Jahandar Shah sat on the throne of Delhi. Jahandar Shah's nephew Farrukhsiyar removed the emperor from the throne with the help of some Muslim subedars and he himself sat on the throne. During the rule of Farrukhsiyar, all the power of the Sultanate was in the hands of two Syed brothers - Syed Hussain Ali and Syed Hasan Ali. In 1719, the Syed brothers removed

Farrukhsiyar from the throne and briefly put two princes on the throne. In late 1719 Muhammad Shah ascended the throne. He is famous in history as Muhammad Shah 'Rangeela'. Autonomous states of Hyderabad, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Awadh emerged during his time and Nadirshah and Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded India.

Lord Dalhousie arrived in India in 1848 as Governor General of the East India Company. He conquered Punjab by fighting and conquering, 1848 AD, Sikkim; 1850 AD and Varma; 1852 AD.

Lord Dalhousie introduced a new policy to annex several indigenous states - a policy of eviction. The meaning of these policy was that the ruler, who had no physician successor, could have the authority of the company over that state. Dalhousie, using this principle, captured Satara; 1848, Jaitpur and Sambalpur; 1850, Udaipur; 1852 Jhansi; 1853 and Nagpur; 1854. Dalhousie captured Berar in 1853. The reason for this was that the Nizam used to have an army at the expense of the Nizam to maintain peace and order in Hyderabad. The Nizam used to pay its amount to the company. In 1853 he could not pay the money to the company. The company snatched Brar in exchange for this amount.

The independence struggle of 1857 has an important place in the British victory of India. India's first national freedom struggle in 1857, or was it just a rebellion of some disgruntled soldiers — is a controversial question in modern Indian history. Most British historians have considered this war to be a military rebellion. British historians such as Kaye, Malsen, Trevelyan, Lawrence, Holmes, etc., have called the revolt of 1857 a rebel of soldiers who did not have the support of the masses. Many of the eyewitnesses of that time - Munshi Jeevanlal, Moinuddin, Durgadas Bandopadhyay, Sir Syed Ali Khan and Mirza Ghalib also considered the war of 1857 as a mass-supported, well-planned and national sentiment, not an armed effort of some disgruntled soldiers, princes and feudal elements. Where is the process. Dr. R. C. Majmudar, after analyzing the nature of the battle of 1857, has concluded that the so-called First National Liberation War of 1857 is neither the first nor the national nor the independence war.

A second class of historians consider the War of 1857 as India's first freedom struggle. The famous Maratha patriot and revolutionary Veer Savarkar in his book Indian War of Independence, 1857 attempted to prove that the 1857 movement was not a Kora rebellion against the British, but a freedom struggle. After Savarkar, almost all nationalist leaders have considered the 1857 movement as nationalist and drew inspiration from it. Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramay, Ashok Mehta, Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose have considered the events of 1857 to be the events of the War of Independence. Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi is revered in the public mind as a heroine who immersed her life while fighting foreign enemies to protect the identity of India. The platoon of women prepared by Subhash Chandra Bose in Azad Hind Fauj was named

Rani Regiment of Jhansi. While inaugurating the training center of this cohort, he praised the indomitable gallantry of the queen of Jhansi. At the time when the queen of Jhansi raised the sword against the British, she was only 23 years old. Rani Jhansi poem of Hindi poetess Subhadra Kumari Chauhan has been on the tongue of millions of people. Vrindavan Lal Varma's novel above the queen of Jhansi is also an eternal treasure of Sathyya. Most of the leaders of the 1857 revolution, Mangal Pandey, Bahadur Shah Zafar, Babu Kunwar Singh, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Nana Sahib, Taty Tope, Amimullah Khan, Maulvi Ahmadullah, etc. are remembered as advance leaders of the Indian freedom struggle.

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