

The Freedom Struggle of 1857

Chapter 4: The Freedom Struggle of 1857 · Topic 1

Key Concept

The rebellion began with sepoys (Indian soldiers) revolting against the British East India Company, sparked partly by cultural and religious grievances.

The uprising spread across northern and central India, involving both soldiers and civilians, including rulers like Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.

Despite widespread participation, the British eventually suppressed the rebellion due to better resources, organisation, and lack of unified leadership among rebels.

After 1857, the British Crown took direct control of India from the East India Company, marking a significant shift in colonial administration.

Quick Revision Notes

- 1857 uprising: sepoy revolt against East India Company.
- Sparked by cultural, religious grievances.
- Spread across northern, central India.
- Involved soldiers, civilians, rulers.
- Example: Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.
- British suppressed it: better resources, organisation.
- Rebels lacked unified leadership.
- After 1857: British Crown took direct control.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Rani Lakshmbai's role in 1857.
- 2 Discuss the causes of the 1857 uprising.
- 3 Research why the British suppressed the rebellion.
- 4 Discuss the change in administration after 1857.
- 5 Draw a timeline of the 1857 uprising.
- 6 Explain the significance of 1857 in your own words.