

**1. DISCUSS VARIOUS CAUSES OF THE REVOLT OF 1857.**

**Ans:** The Revolt of 1857 was a turning point in the history of India. It's a product of character and policies of the British Rule. The various causes are as follows.

Economic causes like heavy taxation under new revenue settlement, discriminatory tariff policy against Indian products, destruction of traditional handicrafts industry, and absence of concomitant industrialisation on modern lines that severely hit local peasants, artisans and small zamindars etc.

Political causes were like greedy policy of aggrandisement, absence of responsible political system, character of British rule, unwanted British interference in socio-cultural-religious affairs of Indian people

Military causes like discontent among sepoys for economic, psychological and religious reasons with a long history of revolts etc.

Rampant corruption in the Company's administration added fuel to the simmering discontentment among Indians. The loss of British in certain outside events like Crimean Wars (1854-56) for instance had their repercussion on Indian minds.

The General Service Enlistment Act, 1856 providing for overseas appointment of Indian soldiers and lower emolument also fanned the flame of discontentment. Finally, the spark point came in when the Enfield rifle was introduced in the British India Army.