

Achievements of Indian in their fight Against the British During the War of 1857: A Study

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Abstract:

The conflict of 1857 was a significant event that changed the future direction of the subcontinent's history. Around the globe, historians and social scientists have discussed the conflict in their academic work. Even after more than 150 years, this battle continues to draw academics for their studies. There are several aspects to this conflict, including its origins, the incidents that occurred throughout it, the allies and adversaries of the British, as well as its outcomes and repercussions. Many academics believe that this war was a failure for those who started it in terms of outcomes. It is widely accepted that the segment of India's populace who waged this war against British rule was unable to accomplish their goals. Indians also benefited much from the conflict, although the discussion of the defeat tends to overshadow their successes. This scholarly endeavour emphasises the victories of the war for India and their tremendous worth.

Keywords: War, success, failure, and repercussions East India Company of Great Britain

Introduction:

About the American Revolutionary War, a lot has been said and written. The war's many and well-known reasons are what led to the Sub-Continent into a new age. Many academics hold the opinion that the war was caused by the British East India Company's rude and ignorant behaviour, but other writers maintain that it was fought for local rulers on the Sub-self-interests Continent's rather than the more general objective of freeing all of India from foreign rule. Since Indians had not yet emerged, a comprehensive and communal approach was lacking in India. Regionalism was replaced considerably later, in the final quarter of the 19th century, by Indian nationalism.

The reasons why the battle, fought by many Indians against certain outsiders, was lost are abhorrent and well-explained. More people lived in the Sub-Continent than there were British officers stationed there. A layperson cannot comprehend how a tiny group of foreigners were able to win an independence war against a vast nation like India. The in-depth analysis reveals the primary causes of the loss, which in general highlight Indians' weaknesses rather than foreigners' capabilities. The war's results have also been extensively analysed and are generally seen as terrible by historians. Most people agree that the battle for independence was a fruitless endeavour that only made things worse for the people of the Sub-Continent. "The Great Rebellion of 1857, or what was allegedly a "sepooy mutiny," was unquestionably a significant turning point in colonial South Asian history. In addition to presenting what was unquestionably the greatest significant military threat to British colonialism throughout the nineteenth century, its

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reverberations and memories persisted for a lot longer than those in charge of colonial counter-insurgency efforts had anticipated.

Review of Literature:

No specific event occurred at a certain time that started the conflict. It had long-term effects that affected the minds of regular people from all walks of life. Even during the actual fighting, the preceding events continued to influence how the fighters behaved (Jones, 2007).

The war of 1857 was a very significant occasion. After the incident, Indian's standing had shifted. Prior to Lord Ripon's tenure as Viceroy of India (1880–1844), Indians were not permitted to participate in local governance. However, local self-government was established, and Indians began to do so (Nanda, 2003).

In addition to administrative reforms, the British Raj enacted several constitutional and legislative changes, including the "Act for better Government of India 1858." In reality, this was the first significant move towards legal changes, and it satisfied the colonial administrators' long-standing urge to assume responsibility (Nanda, 2003).

Because of the conflict, certain demonstrations were presented. While some of them were acquired to serve English necessities, they did as such while remembering the Indian perspective rather than the pre-war time frame. A portion of the Demonstrations were ordered in light of solicitations made by Indian ideological groups; they might not have embraced every one of the requests, yet they incorporated some of them (Qureshi, 1985).

Indian nationalism was not present among Indians before to the conflict. More so than national identities, they were preoccupied with regional, ethnic, and religious ones. Indians began to comprehend politics and develop a feeling of patriotism after the war, which contrasted with their divided identities. Additionally, they began to form political parties and organise regional and national movements (Darraj: 2011).

Research methodology:

The research is done using qualitative research techniques. For a better grasp of the facts, original historical records were studied. The secondary literature on the subject span a relatively broad time period of more than 150 years. To accommodate various viewpoints, text from various decades has been used. Because the subject under discussion involves three distinct groups—Muslims, Hindus, and Britons—it is essential to incorporate all of the authors' points of view in order to retain objectivity. The inductive technique has been used to demonstrate the hypothesis.

Rationale:

We might state that the 1857 war was a failure since it failed to accomplish the objectives for which it was fought. For instance, to unify Indians and oust the British from India, or to reinstate Mughal sovereignty. But it wasn't a total flop either. The people were able to bring about improvements thanks to the battle.

The sacrifices made by soldiers who gave their life in defence of their nation and fellow citizens have not

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received much credit. For the first time in the Sub-history, Continent's Indians fought alongside one another without taking into account their ethnic or religious distinctions, while some individuals choose not to engage in combat. Regarding who was opposed to the nation and who was loyal to it, there is still another argument. People who opposed or supported the British, for instance, were both groups. Looking at the reasons offers insight into the motivations of those taking part and abstaining from the battle. Whatever the immediate reason for Mangal Pande's actions, it is certain that two elements were at play in his head as well as in the heads of his fellow soldiers. Colonel Wheler, their commandant, had purposely deceived to his troopers when he said that the talk concerning changing over the sepoys to Christianity was false. Wheler recognized that he was effectively evangelizing his religion and that he felt it was his occupation as a Christian to do as such. Second, the sepoys' trepidation that one more procession ground slaughter was going to happen, similar to the one out of 1824, could have been powered by the appearance of fifty European warriors from HM's 53rd Regiment at Barrackpore fully expecting the disbandment of the nineteenth Bengal Local Infantry the next day. Mangal Pande was no youthful enlist in Walk 1857, yet prepared warrior matured 26, who had enlisted in the military seven years sooner and whose past broad.

It was important to turn away struggle once EIC had unlimited authority of North West India till the banks of the Indus Waterway by 1849. They had a collected such a tremendous area that it was presently hard to oversee safely. At that point, Bengal had the best portrayal of Indian troopers in the English Armed force.

Accomplishment:

Abolishing the British East India Company

The British East India Company's repressive reign was ended in 1858 as one of the primary effects of the war. If we simply look at this one consequence of the war, it was a fantastic accomplishment. Sayyid Ahmad enthusiastically embraced the restoration of peace. The Crown's takeover of the company dominions created a direct connection between the destiny of Britain and India. He saw this as the most fortunate occurrence in the histories of the two nations.

The organization, which showed up in Calicut in 1608, extended its impact over most of India until 1857, developing like a live animal. The Organization laid out its clout in Bengal after the Clash of Plassey in 1757. Starting there on, the organization never thought back, and different regions, such as Owadh, Sind, Punjab, Delhi, Madras, and others, faced a similar outcome as Bengal. In 1858, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan quickly wrote Reasons for the Indian Revolt, in which he criticized the organization and ascribed the contention to it. "With a strong humanistic establishment, it forcefully censured Organization authority and showed that the unrest was a consequence of dissatisfactions and gathered wrongs over many years".

The BEIC's operations were harshly criticised by John Bright, a member of parliament. He also spoke out a lot about it. He made four accusations against the company in his speech on June 24, 1858: "the industry of the people of India had been grievously neglected," "there was great reason for complaint with respect to the administration of justice," "there was much with regard to the wars entered into by the Indian government that the people of England had reason to be ashamed of," and "that there was also a general impression that the company was corrupt."

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An intensive assessment of the organization's 100-year rule reveals the barbarities that the occupants of the Sub-Landmass endured. Other than friendly and strict separation, monetary difficulty was the most concerning issue for the Indian public. The firm, which exclusively thought about bringing in cash on the subcontinent, financially smothered local people in all parts of life for their own benefit. Indeed, even while the monetary shackles were not completely broken after the conflict, there was no doubt that help was on the way. A significant number of the grounds that the business had taken through different regulations and settlements were rewarded to the individuals who had initially guaranteed them. Furthermore, Indians were allowed extra opportunities in the help area, which decreased the level of disappointment among the general population and, furthermore, gave monetary alleviation. "The Precept of Slip was removed under the Viceroyalty of Canning (1858–1862), and three colleges—Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras—were laid out."

Legal Status for the people of India:

The occupants of India had no status before to the contention and during the Organization's control. In 1858, England formally recognized India as a settlement. Indian residents had no lawful remaining since the English East India Organization ran the country for its own finishes instead of the government assistance or advancement of the local people. As far as drafting regulation for India, they gave no portrayal to Indians. Individuals in India who had no status under the Organization's reign were conceded citizenship in a declaration gave in 1858 after the conflict. "The interior organization went through a significant rebuilding. In reality, this noteworthy occasion greaterly affected the English than the Indians. Nanda (2003), page 203

According to history, the firm saw Indians as nothing more than a roadblock to financial success that they attempted to get over by passing various legislation. The laws enacted during the corporate era disregarded the needs of the populace as well as their social structure and religious beliefs.

The Revolt against the Better Administration of India (1858) was the main result of the Revolt. This action successfully completed a cycle that had been begun by the Pitts India Act in 1784. Following the clash of 1857, India saw various changes, during which time Indians gained a rising number of freedoms. The 1858 statement was the first of a series that almost predicted future shifts and laid out their direction.

"The Sovereign, who had dismissed the principal decree introduced to her and mentioned that the modified draft, ought to inhale sensations of liberality, generous, and strict lenience, disavowed, as the organization had so habitually finished, all longing for an augmentation of region, vowed to regard the freedoms, pride, and distinction of local Ruler and to maintain strict lenience, and pronounced it to be her will that such a long ways as numerous and unprejudiced people will have the option to comprehend, that such a long ways as they will "(Roberts, 1952, pp 383-384).

A huge step forward was made with the enactment of the Indian Councils Act in 1861. Indians were represented in the Legislature for the first time in it. The size of the main legislative was increased. "This was another another outstanding accomplishment of the Canning era in India" (Chhabra, 1985, p 273).

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A lot more changes were executed in India, which eased individuals considerably more. "Master Ripon's making of neighborhood self-government is a notable accomplishment. The primary inspiration for the advancement of neighborhood self government was to appropriately teach Indians in the specialty of administration so they could ultimately take care of India's organization. Indians were not allowed to take part in administration until Ruler Ripon (Nanda, 2003, p 220). The 1880s saw an ascent in Indian certainty because of these changes. Moreover, it provided the general population with a superior handle on governmental issues. Individuals like Ameer Ali moved forward to act to act as an illustration for other people who, because of his ability, turned into a significant gear-tooth in the English hardware. Afterward, an enormous number of individuals emulated his example and served their country.

End of armed struggle and advent of Politics:

In 1608, the British first arrived in India in Calicut, but Emperor Jehangir forbade them from conducting business there. When Prince Khurram became governor of Gujarat Province, they were later given permission to trade there.

Since that time, they have served as merchants in India. In the battle of Plassey, in which the British defeated the Bengali nawab Siraj Udaula, in 1757, they fulfilled this function during the Conquest of Bengal. Up to 1857, BEIC was involved in Indian politics and administration for the next 100 years. Numerous Indians across India took up weapons against the British during this century-long period of repressive rule. For instance, in 1757 Bengal, in the Battle of Buxar in 1763, Shuja ud Daula of Awadh, Mir Qasim of Bengal, and Shah Alam II, the Mughal ruler, engaged British; in 1770 Hyder Ali in Mysore; in 1780 Tipu in Mysore; in 1830 Ranjeet Singh in Punjab; and in 1843 Sindh; etc. Because Indians made up the majority of BEIC's foot troops throughout this time, hundreds of Indians killed on both sides.

It was 1857 that put an end to the continuous butchering and commotion. As was recently referenced, direct English control superseded the BEIC after the conflict. No conflict of the size of the former examples was battled somewhere in the range of 1857 and 1947, the year when India achieved autonomy and Pakistan was established. All things considered, a few political developments briefly dropped into brutality. After the conflict, English instructive changes prompted the development of another age of Indians, including Jinnah, Iqbal, Nehru, Tilak, Mohammad Ali Jauhar, Hasrat Mohani, Gnadhi, Abul Kalam Azad, Shaukat Ali, and other people who could face the English in political and established fights.

The Congress's creation in 1885 was a significant turn of events. It added a layer to the historical backdrop of the subcontinent. We saw that a similar Congress had the option to drive the English out of their lines through a political development, regardless of whether at first it was meant to further develop ties between the ruler and the dominated. Following this political activity, Muslims were headed to make the Muslim Association in 1906. The Association, as history has shown, empowered Muslims to secure their region in light of reason, something no other nation has at any point had the option to do (Israel is one more model, yet it was upheld by the Western powers). The Congress and League introduced constitutional approaches to address the issues that Indians were experiencing. Indians who had just received western education altered the nature of the resistance to foreign domination in India. Now, the Indian people sought to resolve their

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issues via discourse and ideas rather than by lance or bullet.

Sequence of Reforms:

The "Government of India: An Act for Better Government of India" was delivered on August 2, 1858, and was the year's first significant result. Indians now have the legal status of colonial subjects thanks to this statute. Despite how that may seem, it was still preferable than having no status at all. "From that point on, the administration of India was often reviewed, and between 1858 and 1947, the UK Parliament approved 196 Local, Private, and Public Acts relating to India and Indian concerns" (Parliament UK). Most of them allowed Indian citizens a little bit more freedom and autonomy than the preceding rule, ultimately paving the way for independence.

The Queen's proclamation, which was proclaimed on November 1st, 1858, at Allahabad by the Governor General, was consoling in its wording and meaning. She promised to treat Indians equally and apologised for the EIC rule. "We greatly deplore the calamities and anguish that have befallen India as a result of the deeds of ambitious Men who have misled their countrymen and incited open rebellion".

She vowed unequivocally to Indians that she would refrain from waging internal warfare for territory. "We don't want to expand our current geographical holdings, and although we won't tolerate attempts at encroachment on our dominions or our rights being made with impunity, we also won't support it." We will uphold the rights, dignity, and honour of native princes as if they were our own, and we hope that they will share in the wealth and social growth that only internal stability and sound governance can bring about.

The possibility of working for the corporation was one of the main forms of discrimination during the time of EIC. Locals were not given equal chance and only the British were afforded high positions. "It is our further will that, so far as may be, our subjects, of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified, by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge," said Queen Elizabeth II in her proclamation announcing equal opportunity.

In 1861, the first step toward giving Indians legal counsel was made. 'Non-official' members were also allowed to join the provincial council, which was similarly established alongside the central legislative council. Subsequently, the Indian Chambers Demonstration of 1861 endeavored to make more tight ties between the public authority and the administered. The Demonstration commanded that in some measure half of the new or "extra" individuals ought to be looked over external the positions of the common help for each situation, extended the Lead representative Chief General's Gathering to make a Regulative Committee, reconstituted and broadened the Administrative Boards in Madras and Bombay, and accommodated the production of comparable Chambers in Bengal, the North-Western Territories, and the Punjab. Since Indians made up most of the "non-official" individuals chosen along these lines, the Demonstration of 1861 might be credited with bringing the authentic idea into Indian regulation. However, it was in no way a compromise to the representative government that Macaulay had so vehemently opposed a decade before. The Governors nominated the small groups of non-official members rather than electing them to the Councils, where the bulk of the members were still officials. Furthermore, they only had legislative authority. They were unable to discuss executive business, much less ask questions about it. The

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totally official Executive Councils continued to have exclusive authority over all administrative concerns, including all financial ones.

The Indian Committees Act of 1892 was one of the progressions that revived subcontinental legislative issues. As per this resolution, Indians who had recently been designated by the Emissary were to now be picked by the Indian public. In another manner, Indians were introduced to a majority rule system. The demonstration somewhat conformed to the Congress' solicitation by considering a chosen part of the country. Although the demonstration specified that a few individuals from the board should be delegated by delegates of different associations and gatherings with fluctuating interests, including companies, regions, locales, landowners, colleges, and offices of trade, the individuals were by and by picked by the top of the public authorities. The system wasn't technically speaking an election system since elective bodies could only suggest their delegates to the Head of Government for nominations. In reality, however, nomination was never turned down. Sir Syed immediately stated his worries about the defence of Muslim liberties. Through this constrained version of democracy, he anticipated the supremacy of Hindus. After Bengal was divided in 1905, his worries came true. Muslim League was founded in 1906 as a result of Hindu unrest.

The Indian Councils Act of 1909 was enacted by the British. The demand for Separate Electorates was legally adopted, making these changes the most significant for Muslims, and secondly, the British did not undo the Partition of Bengal. Along with the rise in elected members, the central and provincial councils were also enlarged. "The award of separate electorates to the Muslims established legally and constitutionally the position of the Muslim community in the Sub-Continent as a distinct entity and that of the Muslim League as the sole significant Muslim organization".

The Government of India Act of 1919 further decreased the official member count, and for the first time, there were more elected members than official members. The provinces also adopted the diarchy system, which granted the elected provincial government with less powers. More Indians were allowed to participate in the selection of their representatives by lowering the requirements for voters.

The series of regulative changes didn't end here. The ideological groups in India were turning out to be an ever increasing number of dynamic, as well as additional unequivocal about their objectives and techniques. On January 24, 1929, the Congress mentioned total autonomy. The Three Round Table meetings feature how essential nearby ideological groups are to Indian lawmaking.

At long last, the Demonstration of India of 1935 met a significant number of the solicitations of Indians overall. Albeit not all ideological groups concurred with it absolutely, the greater part did as such for certain doubts, and gatherings took part in the 1937 decisions. Territories were where political organizations were laid out, and they were conceded practically complete sway over their own issues. For the Indian public, this was their last accomplishment prior to showing up at their definitive objective, autonomy.

Conclusion:

The steps taken after the war, such as the repeal of the doctrine of lapse, the granting of citizenship to the Indian people, the inclusion of Indians in the legislative process, etc., suggest that the combatants who gave

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their lives in an effort to accomplish goals that may not have been clear to them as well did not entirely fail. We might argue that the battle of 1857 marked the beginning of a series of accomplishments for the Sub-Continent, which culminated in 1947 with the creation of Pakistan and India.

The conflict of 1857 is one of history's most illusive events. This important occasion demands careful examination of every component. Even the event's name is difficult to pronounce; for instance, if it were named the War of Independence, then all Indians who served in the EIC army and supported the British would be considered traitors. However, if this incident is referred to as the "Indian insurrection of 1857," then everyone who fought against the British is a traitor.

The outcomes of this conflict were mainly characterised as failure or defeat. By adopting this explanation, the sacrifices and efforts of every person who battled the British are overshadowed. Contrarily, the discussion in the paper clearly demonstrates that numerous good effects were noticeable both soon after the conflict and in some cases even afterwards. Before the war, the British ruled India for 250 years, from 1608 to 1857, simply using its resources and populace for their own gain. After the war, however, they were only driven away by Indians who upheld the 1857 revolutionaries' belief that they would not submit to foreigners' dictate for 90 years (from 1858 till 1947).

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