

WHEN PEOPLE REVOLT

1857 AND AFTER

HISTORY | CHAPTER – 5

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PhysicsWallah



Topics covered today.

- ① Nawabs loose power → Tried Negotiation but failed
- ② Sepoys & Peasants → high tax & bad conditions
- ③ Mutiny breaks → Hanging of Mangal Pandey
- ④ Mutiny → Rebellion → Meerut → Delhi
- ⑤ British Reacts → Govt. of India Act I





Policies and the People



Nawabs lose their power

- From the mid-1700s, nawabs and rajas began losing power and respect.
- British Residents took control of their courts and limited their freedom.
- Armies were disbanded, and territories with revenues were taken away gradually.

- ③ • Rulers tried to negotiate, but the British rejected them, believing in their superiority.





Policies and the People



- 1801: Awadh forced into a Subsidiary Alliance.

- ① • 1856: Awadh was annexed on the excuse of "proper administration."
- ② • 1856: Governor-General Canning declared Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal emperor.





Policies and the People



The peasants and the sepoy

- Peasants and zamindars were angry because of high taxes and strict revenue collection.
- Many peasants could not repay loans and lost their ancestral land to moneylenders.
- Indian sepoy were upset with their low pay, poor allowances, and service conditions





Policies and the People

The peasants and the sepoy

- New rules hurt their religious beliefs (e.g., crossing the sea meant losing caste/religion).
- Sepoys were also affected by the peasants' problems, so their anger spread to the army.





Policies and the People



Responses to reforms

- British made laws to ban sati and support widow remarriage.
- They promoted English education.
- Christian missionaries were allowed to work freely and own land/property.
- In 1850, a law made it easier to convert to Christianity and let converts inherit family property.





Through the Eyes of the People

A Mutiny Becomes a Popular Rebellion

- A massive rebellion that started in May 1857 and threatened the Company's presence in India.

→ Sepoys mutinied in several places beginning from Meerut

→ A large number of people from different sections of society rose up in rebellion.



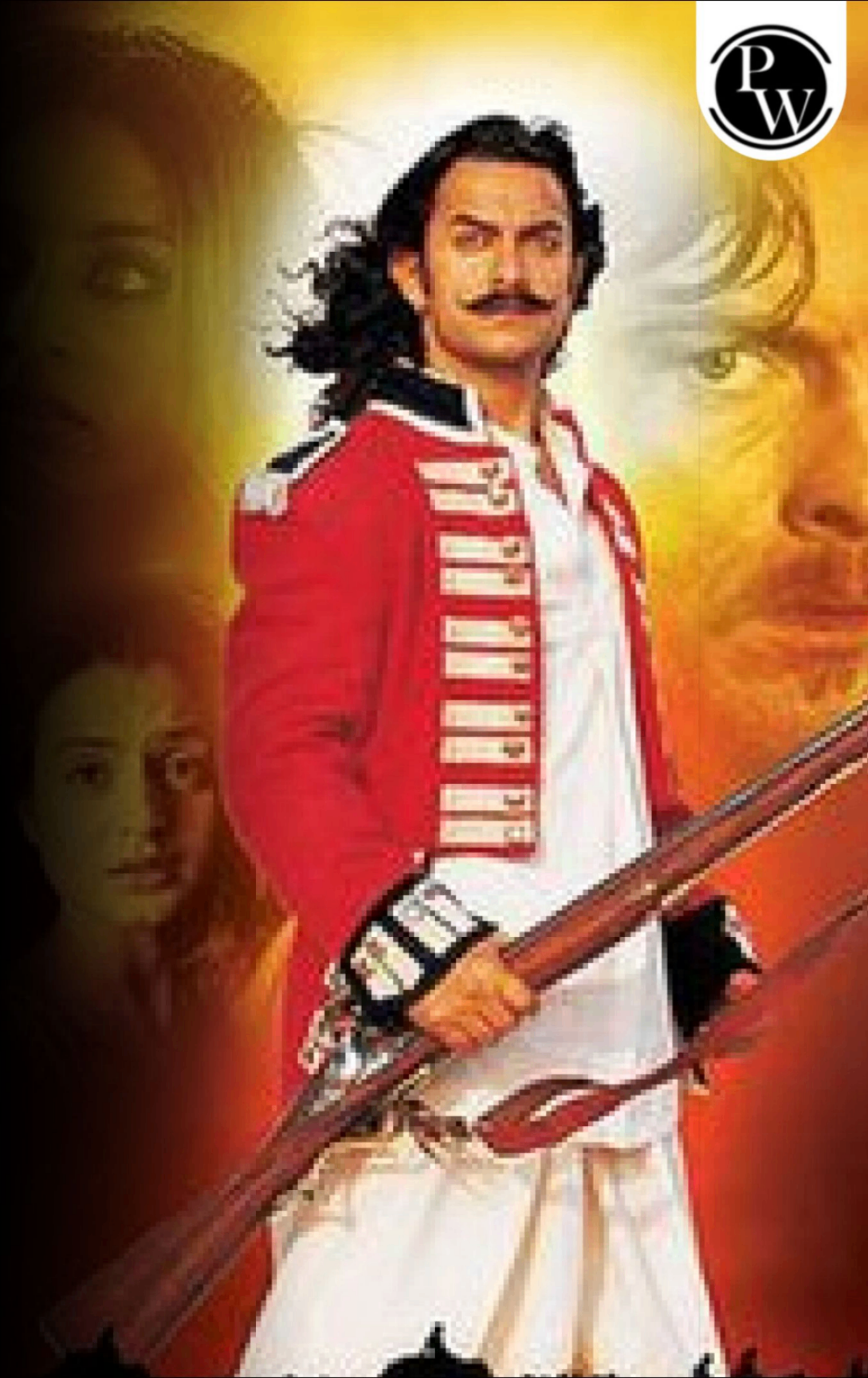


Through the Eyes of the People



From Meerut to Delhi

- 29 March 1857: Mangal Pandey was hanged for attacking British officers at Barrackpore.
- At Meerut, sepoy refused to use the new cartridges (suspected to be coated with cow and pig fat).
- 9 May 1857: 85 sepoy were dismissed and jailed for 10 years.





Through the Eyes of the People



From Meerut to Delhi

- **10 May 1857:** Soldiers freed them, attacked British officers, captured weapons, burnt British property, and declared war.
- **11 May 1857:** Sepoys reached Delhi, joined by regiments there.
- They entered the **Red Fort** and declared **Bahadur Shah Zafar** as their leader.
- The old emperor agreed and sent letters to rulers to form a united front against the British.





Through the Eyes of the People



The rebellion spreads

- Soon, many regiments mutinied and moved to join forces at Delhi, Kanpur, and Lucknow.
- People from towns and villages also joined the rebellion, supporting local leaders, zamindars, and chiefs.





Through the Eyes of the People



Key leaders of the revolt:

Places of Revolt	Indian Leaders	British Officials who suppressed the revolt
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II	John Nicholson
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Henry Lawrence
Kanpur	Nana Saheb	Sir Colin Campbell
Jhansi & Gwalior	Lakshmi Bai & Tantia Tope	General Hugh Rose
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan	Sir Colin Campbell
Allahabad and Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali	Colonel Ocell
Bihar	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor

The rebels were larger in number and defeated the British in many battles.





The Company Fights Back



- British brought reinforcements from England and passed new laws to punish rebels easily.

May

- Sept 1857: Delhi recaptured by the British.

- Oct 1858: Bahadur Shah Zafar and wife Begum Zinat Mahal were sent to Rangoon jail after trial.

→ He died in Nov 1862 in Rangoon.

- March 1858: Lucknow was recaptured.





The Company Fights Back

- **June 1858** Rani Lakshmibai was killed in battle.
- **April 1859** Tantia Tope was captured, tried, and executed.
- British tried to win back loyalty by rewarding loyal landholders with rights over their lands.
- Hundreds of sepoy, rebels, nawabs, and rajas were tried and hanged.
- By the end of **1859**, British had regained full control of India.



RANI LAKSHMIBAI



Important changes after 1858:

- **Act of 1858:** Power of East India Company transferred to the British Crown.
- → A Secretary of State for India (from the British Cabinet) was appointed for governance.

~~Indian~~ **Indian rulers assured:**

- → Their territories would not be annexed in future.
- → They could pass kingdoms to heirs, including adopted sons.
- → But they had to remain subordinates of the British Crown.

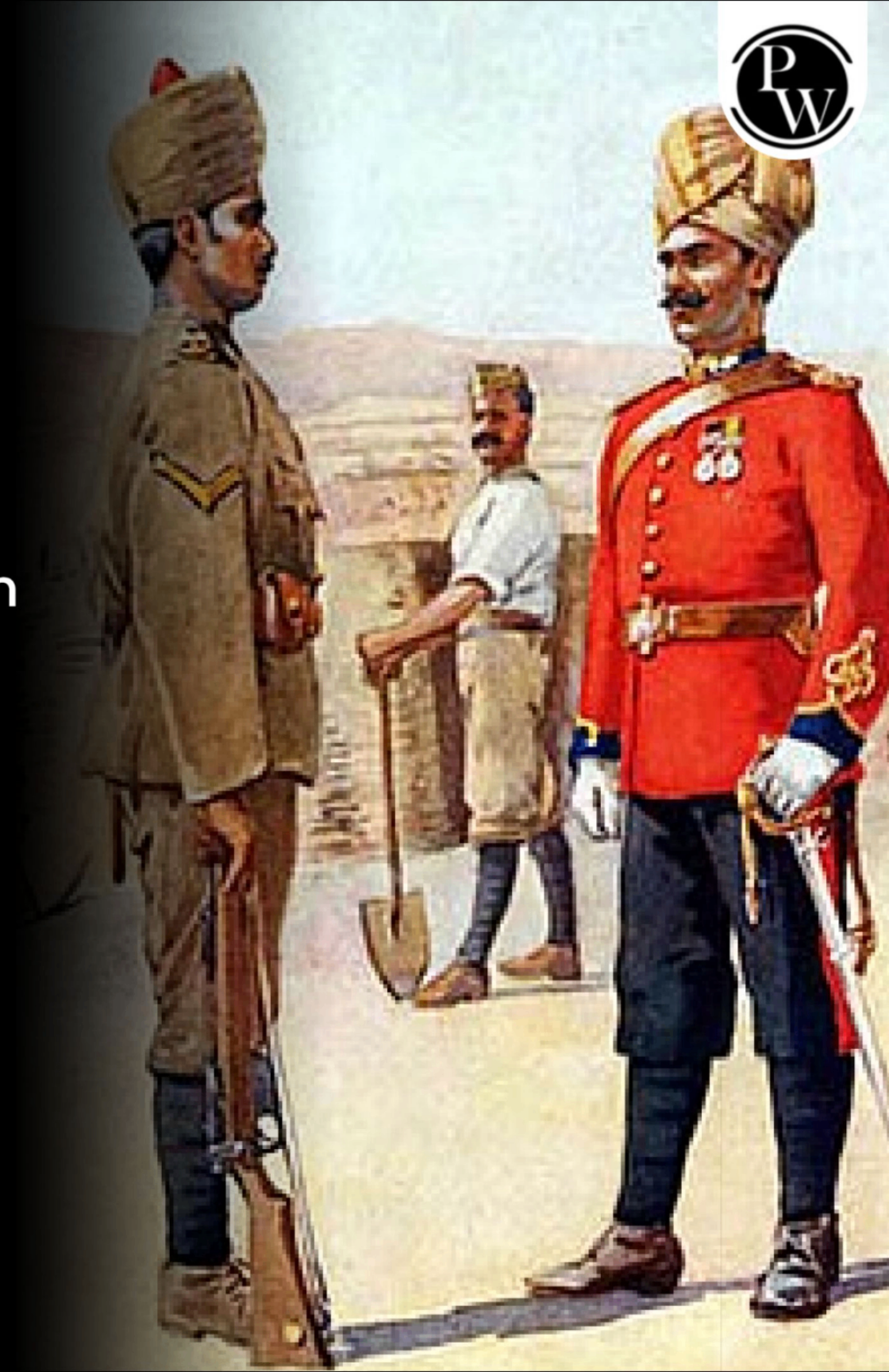




Important changes after 1858:

Army reforms:

- Fewer Indian soldiers, more European soldiers.
- Muslims faced large-scale land/property confiscation and were treated with suspicion/hostility.
- British promised to respect religious and social practices of Indians.
- New policies protected zamindars and landlords, giving them security of land rights.



Thank You!

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