

- The 1857 uprising was the culmination the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding 100 years of British rule. Elucidate. [250 words]

The rebellions before 1857 revolt were called as 'restorative rebellions' by Kathleen Gough as they were started by disaffected local rulers, Mughal officials or dispossessed zamindars.

The major uprisings and their causes are:

1. Peasant uprisings and agrarian riots -
 - due to enhanced revenue demands
 - reduction of field size
 - movements against local moneylenders turned into rebellion against the company.eg:- Paika rebellion, Poligars revolt, Farazi Movement - first ever no-tax campaign

2. Tribal uprisings -

- The land settlement policies of the British disrupted the social fabric of the tribals by going against joint ownership tradition
- interference in native religions or traditional customs.

eg:- Bhil uprisings, Kol uprisings, Santhal uprisings

3. Civil Rebellions

- princely states were against British policies such as Doctrine of lapse, subsidiary alliance and effective control

eg: State of Awadh, Poligars Revolt

4. Religious and Political Reasons

- Many orthodox sections believed that British were interfering in their religious faith.

ex: Sanyasi Revolt

5. Sepoy Mutinies

- Vellore Mutiny - replacement of turban by a leather cockade

- Bengal Mutiny - for being sent to far away Sindh

- Barrackpore Mutiny - when asked to go to Burma, because crossing the sea would mean loss of caste.

Thus, the 1857 revolt was a platform for the culmination of discontent against the economic exploitation, discriminatory policies, religious interference and political subjugation experienced by different sections of society.