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Notes of Bipan Chandra's India's Struggle for Freedom

Chapter 2. Civil Rebellions and Tribal Uprisings

Structure of the notes and how to best use them



This is the notes of the second chapter of Bipan Chandra's India's Struggle of Freedom . The Structure of the notes and how to best use them is explained below . We will come up with more such notes . To get it in your email , please register your email on our website (www.notesforias.com) .

Each Chapter of Bipan Chandra's Book is divided into sections which are separated by star marks (*). We refer to these sections as "Plates" in these notes .

Read each section from the Bipan Chandra's Book .

Read the section from main notes

Main notes contain the complete summary of each of the sections .

Later Revisions

Scan the keynotes

Keynotes contain the bare outline of the sections and intended to help you remember the most important keywords that can be used to frame your mains answers . Factsheet is just for data that should be memorised for PT .

When revising later , try to read the keynotes first and try to recall the complete ideas in the notes . Only then refer to main notes .



2. Civil Rebellions and Tribal Uprisings

Plates (1 - 2 A) : Main Notes.

PLATE - 1

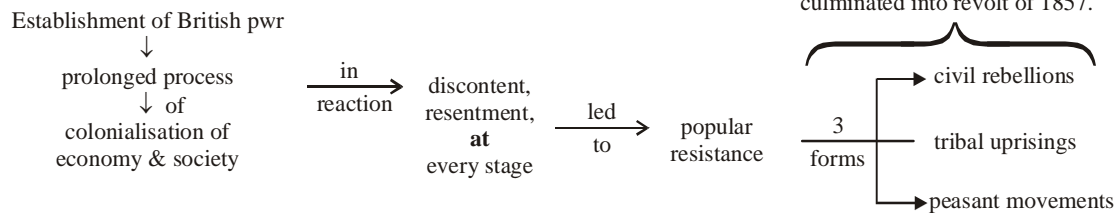


PLATE - 2A

CIVIL REBELLIONS

Causes

- Rapid changes in:

economy	administration	land revenue system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced revenue ↓ not even little spent on agricultural devp/welfare. • free trade in India and tariffs in Britain on Indian goods ↓ ruin of artisans & handicrafts (also suffered due to disappearance of traditional buyers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New courts & legal system ↓ titled in favour of dispossessors of land ↓ rich oppressed poor ↓ Quite common flogging, torture and jailing of peasants in case of arrears • lower levels of police, judiciary and gen. adm ↓ very corrupt ↓ ordinary ppl suffered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy of max. revenue ↓ upheaval in village (Eg. revenue doubled in less than thirty years compared to Mughals) ↓ debt and selling of lands - as rents pushed up by new land lords - if non-payment ⇒ eviction. ↓ reflection of eco. decline - 12 major and many minor famines (1770-1857).

Also:

<p>Foreign character of British rule ↓ ppl felt humiliated under "foreigner's heel" ↓ hurt pride inspired efforts to expel the foreigners.</p>	<p>Traditional rulers ↓ support financially scholars, priests, men of art & literature ↓ lost their financial support once traditional rulers & bureaucratic elite were eliminated ↓ They started inciting rebellion against foreign rule.</p>	<p>1000^s of Zamindars & Poligars ↓ lost control of land due to ↓ extinction of rights by British inability to pay exorbitant land revenue ↓ replaced by outsiders ↓ huge resentment</p>
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↓ (these factors led to)

Series of civil rebellions

(during first 100 years of British rule)

led by

- deposed rajas/nawabs
- uprooted zamindars/poligars
- ex-retainers/officials of conquered states.

mass base

- peasants
- artisans
- demobilised soldiers

mainly because of local grievances

↓
acquired armed bands of 100^s - 1000^s for short periods.

The various civil rebellions

- started occurring in Bihar & Bengal - eventually everywhere where colonial rule - established. - almost every year. (see fact sheet for details)



2. Civil Rebellions and Tribal Uprisings

Plates (1 - 2 A) : Keynotes and factsheet.

KEY NOTES

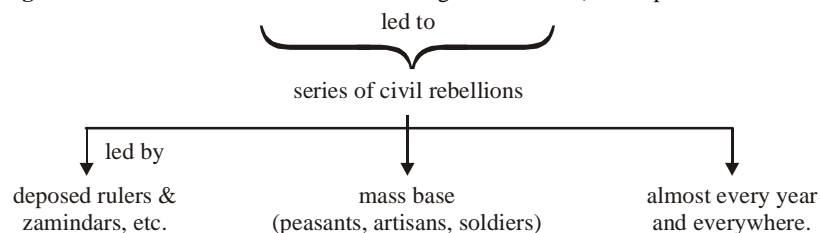
Plate - 1

Process of colonialisation $\xleftrightarrow{\text{Parallel}}$ discontentment \Rightarrow popular resistance (3 forms)

Plate - 2A

Causes of civil rebellion:

- **Economy** : No investment of revenue - free trade - tariffs - ruin of artisans.
- **Administration** : Corrupt police, gen. adm & judiciary (tilted in favour of British rule)
- **Land revenue system** : max. revenue \Rightarrow debt, land selling, evictions, famines.
- **Scholars & priests** : traditional rulers out \Rightarrow financial loss \Rightarrow incite rebellion.
- **Zamindars & poligars** : lost land control - replaced by outsiders \Rightarrow resentment.
- **Foreign character of British rule** : under "foreigner's heel" \Rightarrow hurt pride.



FACT SHEET

Period	Name of rebellion	Area	Remarks
1763 - 1800	Sanyasi Rebellion	Bengal	By displaced peasants & soldiers - led by monks & zamindars. Made famous in Anand Math (Novel) by Bankim C. Chatterjee
1766 - 1772	Chuar Uprising	Bengal & Bihar (5 dist)	} All in Eastern India.
1795 - 1816			
1783		Rangpur & Dinajpur	
1799		Bishnupur & Birbhum	
1804 - 17		Orissa	
1827 - 40	Sambalpur	→ by zamindars	
1794	Vizianagram	→ by Raja	S O U T H I N D I A
1790 ^s	Tamilnadu	→ by Poligars	
1800 ^s	Malabar & Coastal Andhra	→ - Do -	
1813 - 14	Parlekamedi	→ - Do -	
1805	Travancone	→ Dewan Velu Thampi - a heroic revolt (- later hanged 'after death')	
1830 - 31	Mysore	→ by Peasants	
1830 - 34	Vizagapatnam		
1835	Ganjam		
1846 - 47	Kurnool		
1816 - 1832	Saurashtra	→ repeatedly by chiefs	
1824 - 28, 1839, 1849	Gujarat	→ by Kolis	
1818 - 31	Bhil uprisings		
1824	Kittur uprising	→ led by Chinnava	
1841	Satara uprising		
1844	Revolt of Gadkaris		
1824		West U.P. & Haryana	} Northern India.
1805		Bilaspur	
1814 - 17		Aligarh	
1842		Jabalpur	
1852		Khandesh	
1848 - 49	2 nd Punjab war	Punjab	→ by people & army

- **Poligars** : landed military magnates in S.India.
- **1763 - 1856**: 40 major rebellions and 100^s of minor ones
- **1770 - 1857**: 12 major and numerous minor famines.



2. Civil Rebellions and Tribal Uprisings Plates (2B - 3) : Main Notes.

PLATE - 2B

Character of the rebellions

- Due to **local causes** ⇒ spread only locally (but massive)



similar everywhere ⇒ similar character (though separated in time & space).

- **leaders** - semi-feudal ⇒ backward looking & traditional



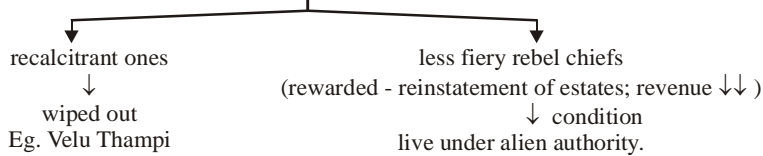
re-establish old set-up ← ^{aim} No societal alternative in resistance

↓ these 2 factors (scattered uprisings & backward leaders)

main reasons for failure.

British response

- pacify rebel areas one by one



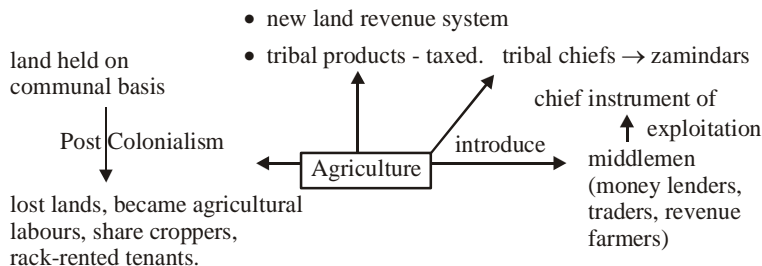
The final note

- Suppression of c. rebellions - major reason for 1857 revolt not spreading to SI, WI, EI.
- Historical significance : establish local tradition of resistance. Inspiration for later INM.

PLATE - 3

TRIBAL UPRISINGS : CAUSES & NATURE

- Relative isolations - ended - colonialism brought in.
- influx of christian missionaries



FORESTS

earlier - forest for food, fuel & cattle feed.
- shifting cultivation (forests ↔ agri. land) (jhum, podu, etc)

Post Colonialism

restrictions - access to forests
shifting cultivation ↓↓.

OTHER FACTORS

- policemen & petty officials
↓
oppression & extortion
- revenue farmers & govt
↓
impose system of begar (unpaid labour)

Their degrees varied - but common factor was disruption of old agrarian order.
↓
led to tribal uprisings (broad - based ; often involving whole population of a region)

Basic features

- **ethnic ties** (i.e. having a tribal identity)
 - solidarity amongst themselves
- **Outsiders (non-tribal poor)** like washerman, barber, etc) - not attacked - seen as allies - often joined the revolt.
- Rebellions **occurred when** no alternative was left (started as attack on outsiders, looting ^{led to} clash with col. authorities → eventually → mobilised to rebellion).
- **religions/charismatic leaders** emerged - claim authority from gods, having magical powers (Eg. bullet - ineffective)
- **Unequal fight**

Brit	Tribals
→ drilled regiments	→ roving bands
→ modern weapons	→ primitive weapons
	→ superstitious belief in magical powers
↓	
tribals died in lakhs.	



2. Civil Rebellions and Tribal Uprisings

Plates (2B - 3) : keynotes and factsheet.

KEY NOTES

Plate - 2B

Character of the rebellions

- local causes \Rightarrow local spread (but similar character everywhere)
- backward looking leaders with no social alternative (main causes of failure)

British response

- pacify areas one by one $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{wipe out recalcitrants leaders} \\ \text{reward less fiery chiefs} \end{array} \right.$

The final note

- civil rebellions suppression - major reason for 1857 revolt not spreading to SI, WI, EI.
- Acted as : inspiration for INM & estd. local traditions of resistance.

Plate - 3

Causes of Tribal Uprisings

- relative isolation $\Downarrow\Downarrow$ (- christian missionaries)
- agriculture
 - new land revenue system, taxes.
 - middleman & zamindars introduced (usurp land; create debt)
 - lost traditional land.
- forests
 - restricted access; shifting cultivation $\Downarrow\Downarrow$.
- oppression by police men and petty officials
- begar by govt & revenue farmers

Nature

- Broad - based
- Ethnic ties
- non-tribal poor (outsiders) - not attacked
- occurred when no alternative left
- emergence of religious / charismatic leaders.
- Unequal fight with British (modern weapon v/s primitive) (magical superstitions), etc.

FACT SHEET

- Rebel hanged after he was dead : Velu Thampi.
- Shifting cultivation practiced by tribals : jhum, podu
- Begar : unpaid labour.



2. Civil Rebellions and Tribal Uprising.

Plates (4 - 5) : Main Notes.

PLATE - 4

[Terms: *Hool*—uprising; *dikus*—outsiders; *gwala*—milkman; *lohar*—blachsmith]

SANTHAL HOOL

(Most massive tribal revolt)

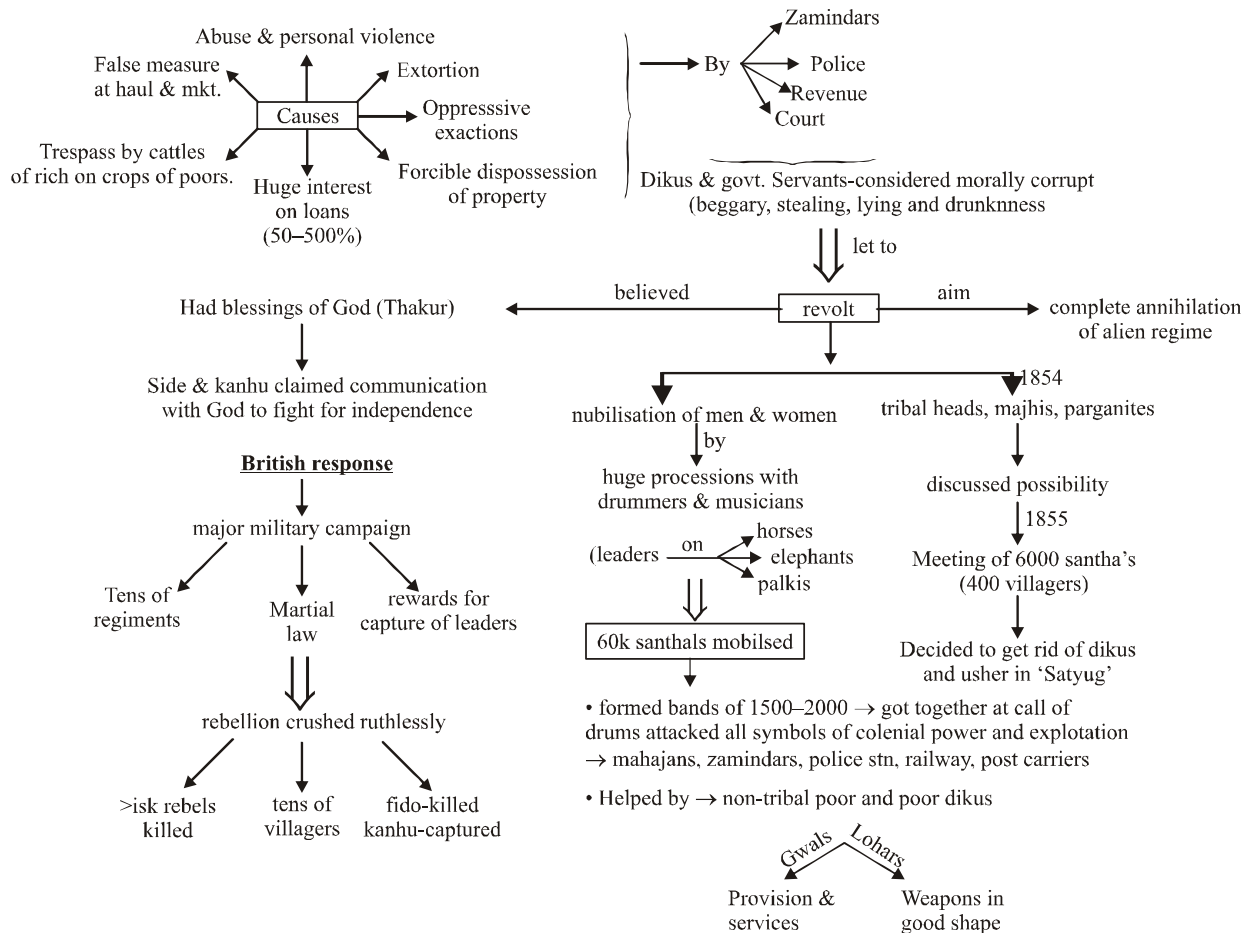
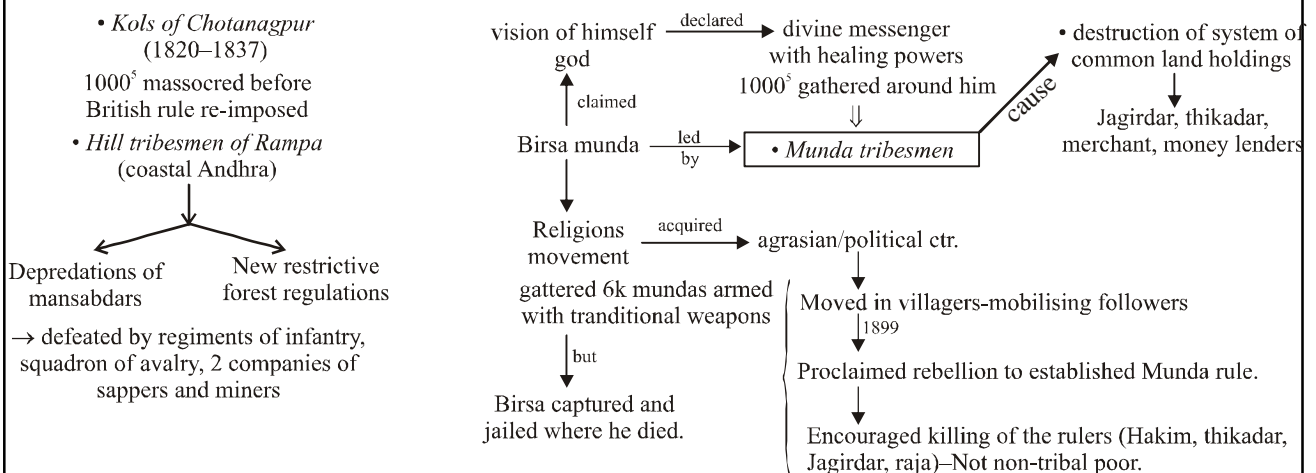


PLATE - 5

Other major tribal rebellions





2. Civil Rebellions and Tribal Uprising. Plates (4 - 5) : Keynotes and fact sheet

KEY NOTES

Plate - 4

Santhal Uprising

Causes → extortion, huge exaction, huge interest, violence } By dikus & their agents
property dispossession, trespass
↓ considered
morally corrupt

Revolt

- aim → completely remove aliens - establish satyug.
- nature → huge procession with drummers; leaders on horses, palkis.
 - 60k ^{bands} _{of} → (1500 - 2000) - got together at call of drums - attack all symbols of colonial power.
 - believed to have blessings of God in their fight.
 - help by non-tribal poor (Gwalas, Lohars)

British response

- major military campaign - martial law, huge regiments rewards.
- effect : >15K rebels killed, villages destroyed, leaders killed/jailed.

Plate - 5

Kols

- of chhotanagpur - revolted between (1820 - 1837) - ruthlessly suppressed.

Rampa (coastal Andhra)

- against $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{mansabdars depredations} \\ \text{restrictive forest regulations} \end{array} \right.$
- Suppression by - infantry, cavalry, sappers, miners.

Munda:

- against - destruction of system of common land holdings.
- Birsa Munda - claimed to be divine messenger - huge following - religious movement → agrarian/ political ⇒ rebellion for Munda rule.
- 6K Mundas armed traditionally - rebel and kill rulers - but Birsa captured and jailed - died there.

FACT SHEET

- Santhals - lived in - Daman-i-Koh (area between Bhagalpur and Rajmahal)
- Meeting of 6K santhals at - Bhaganidihi (30/6/1855)
- Principal santhal rebel leaders $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Sides} \\ \text{Kanhu} \end{array} \right.$
- Rebellion of Mundas - called Ulgulan
- Birsa - born in - 1874
- Rebellion proclaimed by Birsa - on Christmas eve, 1899
- Birsa captured in - Feb' 1900 . Died in - June' 1900 in jail