LESSON-11

REBELS AND THE RAJ

( THE REVOLT OF 1857 AND ITS REPRESENTATIONS)

**HAND OUT**

TIMELINE

1801 Subsidiary ALLIANCE introduced by Wellesely in Awadh

1856 Nawab Wajid Ali Shah deposed; Annexed

1856-57 Summary revenue settlements introduced in Awadh by the British.

1857

10 MAY - Mutiny starts in Meerut

11-12 May Delhi garrisons revolt; Bahadur Shah accepts nominal leadership.

20-27 May – Sepoys mutiny in Aligarh, Etawah, Mainpuri, Etah.

30 May - Rising in Lucknow

MAY-JUNE – Mutiny turns into a general revolt of the people

30 June - British suffer defeat in the battle of Chinhat.

25 Sept. – British forces under Havelock and Outram enter the Residency in Lucknow.

1858

June – Rani Jjansi killed in battle

LESSON-11 REBELS AND THE RAJ XII HISTORY

\*Since the mid-18th century, Nawabs and Rajas had gradually lost their power and authority.

\* Many ruling families such as Rani Lakshmibai of Jgansi tried to negotiate with the company to protect their interest but they did not get success.

\* Now the company began to bring an end to the Mughal Dynasty.

\* The name of the Mughal king was removed from the coins minted by the Company.

\* In 1849, it was announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the family of the king would be shifted out of the Red Fort and given another place in Delhi to reside in.

\* In 1856, the Company decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal king,and after his death his decendants would be called princes.

\* In the countryside peasants and zamindars resented the high taxes and the rigid methods of revenue collection.

\* The Indian sepoys were unhappy about their pay, allowances and condition of service. Some of the Company’s rules even violated their religious sentiments. Thus, everywhere there spread discontentment.

\* The responses to the reforms brought in the Indian society by the British were also not positive, although some reforms were essential.

\* In May, 1857 a massive rebellion started that threatened the company’s very existence in India.

\* Sepoy mutinied in several places beginning from Meerut and a large number of people from different sections of society rose up in rebellion.

\* On 29 March 1857, Mangal Pandey, a young soldier, was hanged to deaths for attackings his Officers in Barrackpore.

\* The sepoys were determined to bring an end to the Company’s rule. From Meerut they rushed to Delhi.

\* They met the Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar and proclaimed him as their leader.

\* The Company had no way out except suppressing the revolt with all its might.

\* The British had regained control of the country by the end of 1859 but they could not carry on ruling the land with the same policies any more.

\* The British Parliament passed a new Act in 1858 and transferred the powers of the East India Company to the British Crown in order to ensure a more responsible management of Indian affirs.

\* The Governor-General of India was given the title of Viceroy,that is a personal representative of the Crown. In this way the British government took direct responsibility for ruling India.

\* All ruling chiefs of vthe country were allowed to pass on their kingdoms to their heirs, including adopted sons.