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## Tribals, Dikus and the Vision of a Golden Age

- Q1. Mention the revolts by different tribal groups in the country against the British?
- Ans. Through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, tribal groups in different parts of the country rebelled against the changes in laws, the restrictions on their practices, the new taxes they had to pay, and the exploitation by traders and moneylenders. The Kols rebelled in 1831-32, Santhals rose in revolt in 1855, the Bastar Rebellion in central India broke out in 1910 and the Warli Revolt in Maharashtra in 1940. The movement that Birsa led was one such movement.
- Q2. Enlist three features of tribal people.
- Ans. Three features of tribal people were:
  - i. Most tribes had customs and rituals that were very different from those laid down by Brahmans.
  - ii. These societies also did not have the sharp social divisions that were characteristic of caste societies.
  - iii. All those who belonged to the same tribe thought of themselves as sharing common ties of kinship.
- Q3. How did Birsa resume his movement after his release in 1897?
- Ans. When Birsa was released in 1897 he began touring the villages to gather support. He used traditional symbols and language to rouse people, urging them to destroy "Ravana" (dikus and the Europeans) and establish a kingdom under his leadership. Birsa's followers began targeting the symbols of diku and European power. They attacked police stations and churches, and raided the property of moneylenders and zamindars. They raised the white flag as a symbol of Birsa Raj.