

Name: _____ Date: _____

When People Rebel

Q1. What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?

Ans. _____

Q2. What reforms did the British introduced in the Indian society? How did people of India respond to them?

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Q1. What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?

Ans. The reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857 were:

- i. Nawabs and rajas had lost their authority and honour. Residents had been stationed in many courts, the freedom of the rulers reduced, their armed forces disbanded, and their revenues and territories taken away by stages.
- ii. Awadh was one of the last territories to be annexed. In 1801, a subsidiary alliance was imposed on Awadh, and in 1856 it was taken over.
- iii. In 1856, Governor-General Canning decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal king and after his death none of his descendants would be recognized as kings – they would just be called princes.

Q2. What reforms did the British introduced in the Indian society? How did people of India respond to them?

Ans. British introduced the following reforms in the Indian society.

- i. Laws were passed to stop the practice of sati and to encourage the remarriage of widows.
- ii. English-language education was actively promoted.
- iii. After 1830, the Company allowed Christian missionaries to function freely in its domain and even own land and property.
- iv. In 1850, a new law was passed to make conversion to Christianity easier.

Many Indians began to feel that the British were destroying their religion, their social customs and their traditional way of life.