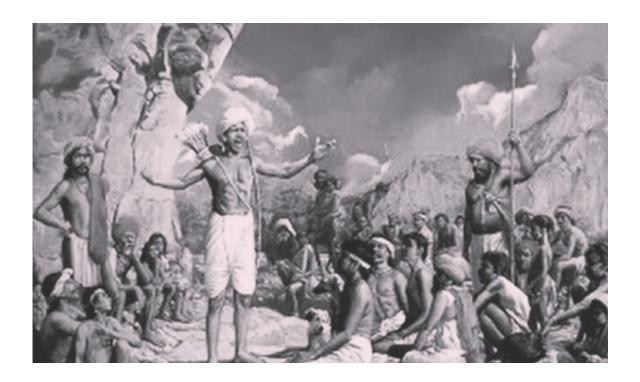


# PEASANT MOVEMENTS DURING BRITISH PERIOD

# PRE 1857 - PEASANT MOVEMENTS



## THE SANYASI REBELLION (1763-1800)

- Mainly in Bengal, also in Bihar.
- Sanyasi and fakirs were originally peasants, some of whom were evicted from land.
- Social base:
  - □ Rural poor
  - Dispossessed small zamindars.
  - Disbanded soldiers.
- Technique of attacks was guerilla.
- Target of attack:
  - Grain stocks of rich

- Government treasuries
- Government officials
- established Independent They Government in Bogra & Mymen Singh.
- Noticeable One feature: equal participation of Hindus and Muslims.
- Some Important Leaders:
  - Manju Shah
  - Musa Shah
  - Bhawani Pathak
  - Debi Chaudharani
- Finally, British suppressed them in 1800.

### **RANGPUR UPRISING 1783**

- Centres: Rangpur and Dinajpur (Bengal).
- Cause: Heavy revenue and harsh attitude of revenue contractors.
- **Debi Singh:** One such revenue contractor who created a reign of terror.
- Peasants' initial method of protest:
  - Appeal to company officials.
  - □ Being deprived of justice from the company, took law in their own hands.
- Elected their leader named Dheeraj Narain.
- Formed their government.
- Levied **DHING-KHARCHA** (insurrection charges) on the peasantry to meet the expenses of rebellion.
- Both Hindus and Muslims fought side by side.
- Ultimately suppressed.

#### MYSORE REBELLION (1820-21)

- **Cause:** increasing burden of revenue.
- Open revolt in the province of Nagar.
- Leader: Sardar Malla son of a ryot of Kremsi.

## MOPLAH REBELLION (1836-54)

#### Malabar:

- ☐ It was ceded to the East India Company in 1792 by Tipu Sultan after his defeat in the third Anglo-Mysore War.
- □ Cannanore, Kozhikode, Palghat and Malappupuram districts of Kerala roughly comprise the former Malabar District.

#### Moplahs:

☐ Are descendents of Arab settlers

- Majority of them tenants, landless labourers. petty traders and fishermen.
- New land revenue system introduced by the British:
  - □ Landlord rights in land were established.
  - Position of Hindu upper caste Namboodari and Nair enhanced at the cost of Muslim leaseholders (Kanamdars) and cultivators (Verumpattandars).
  - Roots of discontent clearly agrarian, but social composition of oppressor and oppressed resulted in communal solidarity.
  - Hindu peasants also suffered, but communal tinge to the movement affected their form of resistance which was confined to social banditry.
- Main centre: Ernad and Walluvanad talukas of South Malabar.
- Period: 1836-54:
  - 22 uprisings between 1836 and 1854.
  - Attack on jenmi property.
  - Desecration of temples by small band of Moplahs.
- Tangals of Mambram near Tirurangadi became prominent as religious cum political heads.
- Prominent heads: Saiyyed Alawi and his son Saiyyed Fadl.
- Large-scale conversion of untouchable Cherumars.
- There occurred three serious outbreaks in 1894, 1896 and 1898.
- The years between 1898 and 1915 were free from Moplah outbreaks.