



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
- They established **Independent Government** in **Bogra & Mymen Singh**.
- **One Noticeable 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 Malappapuram 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 Jenmis** 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.**