

# **THE REVOLT OF 1857:DEBATE (PART-2)**

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# DEBATE

Some historians have held that the Muslim elite was responsible for inciting the trouble. James Outram regarded the revolt as a "Muslim conspiracy exploiting Hindu grievances". Yet another school of thought believes that during the revolt the people were fighting not only against the British but also against the feudal structure. The backsliding of these feudal chiefs led to the collapse of the revolt.

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Talmiz Khaldun wrote: "It was crushed so easily because of betrayal by the propertied classes"

Later Historiography, though accepting the popular character of the Revolt, laid emphasis on its backward-looking character. Bipin Chandra has stressed this point:

"The entire movement lacked a unified and forward looking programme to be implemented after the capture of power"

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Tara Chand was more explicit when he wrote that the "Revolt of 1857 was the last attempt of an effete order to recover its departed glory"

Percival Spear added, "And it has been asserted to have been a purely military outbreak produced jointly by the grievances and indiscipline of the Indian troops and the folly of the British military authorities."

# DEBATE

It is in fact an anachronism to describe the mutiny as the first essay towards modern independence. It was rather, in its political aspect, the last effort of the old conservative India".

These, however, are only some of the interpretations offered. The debate is still going on.