

## PREFACE

The revolt of 1857 is considered as one of the important even in Indian history, which gave a way to the freedom fighters to fight a mass movement against the British East Indian Company.

There is a large body of documents from the time, British official's documents, records, diaries and personal narratives who witnessed the mutiny.

Growing socialism in the international sphere, especially in the Western world brought in a significant impact on the urban and rural leaderships who fought in the revolution. Mass uprising in rural and tribal hamlets took place against the then economic and political structure, which was sometimes native in origin or had the exploitation of the East India Company behind it, Bringing in equality in sharing the profits accrued by the Company, providing as much religious freedom and protection to Indian sepoys as enjoyed by the British soldiers, equal work distribution and lessening of inequality remained to be the primary motive behind the sepoys fighting the imperial power. The ideas of revolt or revolution are intrinsically associated with the; ideas of –socialism. However, there was a unique Indianess to such socialistic mentality which revolved around religious, traditional conservative mindsets fighting against exploitation, making attempts to dismantle the unequal administrative and economic structure.

While assessing the existing literature on the Revolt, two major streams of thought are found. One points out how the revolt only revolved around the mutiny that took place amongst the sepoys employed by the East India Company. The other thought tries to narrate the mass appeal and participation that was involved in the revolt, giving it

the fame of being the first struggle against British colonial and imperialistic rule. The study will try to use both these streams to filter out the socialistic mindset that prevailed amongst the mindset of the Indian sepoy, the peasants, the urban middle class, as well as the landlords, zamindars and native rulers.

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