

British colonialism faced revolt not only by the civilian population but also by the tribes of various regions throughout colonial India. The strong wave of resistance against British rule was there in present-day Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Bengal and North-Eastern state.

### Tribal Revolts in India During British Period

- The tribal population of the contemporary Orissa region is considered to be first among these groups to revolt against the tyranny of British colonial rule.
- On the basis of the geographical area occupied by different tribal groups, these uprisings are further subdivided into two categories:  
(a) Uprisings by Non-frontier tribes  
(b) Uprisings by Frontier tribes

The major Causes for such tribal uprisings were:

1. Exploitative land Revenue Policies and Expansion of agriculture and plantation activities on forested land by outsider non-tribal population in areas inhabited by the tribal population.
2. Works of numerous Christian missionaries were looked with suspicion and as interference in social-economic customs of tribal population.
3. Due to increased demand for wood for larger construction projects like the expansion of Railways various Forest Acts were passed that established complete Government monopoly over forested lands of tribal areas.
4. The uprisings by the north-eastern tribal groups were usually reactions against outsiders (dikus), zamindars and rulers, the support provided to the latter by the British administration.
5. Due to the induction of notion of the private property now the land could be bought, sold or mortgaged which led to the loss of land by the tribals.

#### 1. Non-Frontier tribal revolts

Years	Uprising	Facts related to the uprising
1778	Pahriyas rebellion	<u>Place:</u> Rajmahal Hills <u>Led by:</u> martial Pahariyas <u>Cause:</u> against the British expansion on their lands
1776	Chuar uprising	<u>Place:</u> Bengal <u>Led by:</u> Chuar aboriginal tribesmen <u>Cause:</u> economic privatization by the British
1831	Kol uprising	<u>Place:</u> Chotanagpur <u>Led by:</u> Buddho Bhagat <u>Cause:</u> British rule expansion and land transfers

1827-1831	Ho and Munda uprising	<p><u>Place:</u> Singhbhum and Chotanagpur</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Raja Parahat and others</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> British expansion and revenue policy</p>
1890s-1900s	Later Munda and Ulugulan uprising	<p><u>Place:</u> Ranchi and Chotanagpur</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Birsa Munda</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against feudal and zamindari system and exploitations by money lenders, denial of their rights over forested areas.</p>
1855-56	Santhal rebellion	<p><u>Place:</u> Bihar</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Sido and Kanhu</p> <p><u>Causes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Against feudal and zamindari system and exploitations by money lenders. It later turned out Anti-British and was suppressed.</li><li>· Among the numerous tribal revolts, the Santhal uprising was the most remarkable one. When the Permanent Settlement was introduced in Bengal in 1793, the Santhals were employed as laborers with the promise of wages or rent-free lands. However, they were forced to become agricultural surfs, exploited at will.</li></ul>
1837-56	Kandh uprising	<p><u>Place:</u> from Tamil Nadu to Bengal</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Chakra Bisoi</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> Interference in tribal customs and imposition of new taxes.</p>
1860s	Naikada Movement	<p><u>Place:</u> M.P. and Gujrat</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against British and caste Hindus.</p>
1870s	Kharwar rebellion	<p><u>Place:</u> Bihar</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against revenue settlement activities.</p>
1817-19 & 1913	Bhil revolts	<p><u>Place:</u> regions of Western Ghats</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against company rule and to form Bhil Raj.</p>

1967-68;1891-93	Bhuyan and Juang rebellion	<p><u>Place:</u> Kheonjhar, Orissa</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Ratna Nayak and Dharni Dhar Nayak</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> Policy of annexation</p>
1880s	Koya revolts	<p><u>Place:</u> Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh</p> <p><u>Leader:</u> Raja Anantayyar</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against feudal and zamindari system and exploitations by money lenders, denial of their rights over forested areas.</p>
1910	Bastar revolt	<p><u>Place:</u> Jagdalpur area</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> New feudal and forest levies.</p>
1914-15	Tana Bhagat movement	<p><u>Place:</u> Chhota Nagpur area</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Jatra Bhagat and Balram Bhagat.</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against interference of outsiders, began as Sanskritization movement.</p>
1916-1924	Rampa revolts	<p><u>Place:</u> Andhra Pradesh region</p> <p><u>Leader:</u> Alluri Sitarama Raju</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> Interference in tribal customs and imposition of new taxes.</p>
1920 onwards	Jharkhand uprising	<p><u>Places:</u> Chhotanagpur region; parts of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal.</p> <p>Adivasi Mahasabha was formed in 1937.</p>
1920s-1930s	Forest Satyagrahas	<p><u>Led by:</u> By Chenchu tribals &amp; by Karwars</p> <p><u>Cause:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· British interference in internal affairs of tribal areas</li> <li>· British administrative innovations</li> <li>· Excessive land assessments</li> </ul>
1940s	Gond uprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· To bring together the believers of Gond dharma.</li> </ul>

## 2. North-East Frontier Tribal Uprisings

Years	Uprising	Facts
1823-33	Ahom's' revolt	<p><u>Place:</u> Assam</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against non-fulfilment of the pledges of the British after the Burmese War.</p> <p><u>Result:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· The British had pledged to withdraw after the first Burmese War(1824-26) from Assam but in contrast, the British attempted to incorporate the Ahoms territories in the company's dominion after the war.</li><li>· This initiated a rebellion in 1828 under the leadership of Gomdhar Konwar.</li><li>· Finally, the company decided to follow a conciliatory policy and handed over upper Assam to Maharaja Purandar Singh Narendra and parts of the kingdom was restored to the Assamese king.</li></ul>
1830s	Khasi's revolt	<p><u>Place:</u> Hilly regions of Meghalaya</p> <p><u>Leader:</u> Nunklow ruler Tirath Singh</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> against the occupation of hilly regions.</p> <p><u>Result:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Due to the compulsory enlistment of labourers for road construction led the Khasis to revolt under the leadership of Tirath Singh, a Khasi chief. The Garos joined them.</li><li>· The long and harassing warfare with Khasis continued for four years and was finally suppressed in early 1833</li></ul>
1930s	Singpho's rebellion	<p><u>Place:</u> Assam</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> British interference in internal affairs of tribal areas and administrative innovations along with Excessive land assessments.</p>
1917-19	Kuki's revolt	<p><u>Place:</u> Manipur</p>

		<p><u>Cause:</u> against British labour recruitment policies during WW1.</p>
1920s	Zeliangsong Movement	<p><u>Place:</u> Manipur</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Zemi and Liangmei tribes</p> <p><u>Cause:</u> British failed to protect these tribes during Kuki's violence.</p>
1905-31	Naga Movement	<p><u>Place:</u> Manipur</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Jadonang</p> <p>It was against British rule and about setting up of a Naga Raj.</p>
1930s	Hereka Cult	<p><u>Place:</u> Manipur</p> <p><u>Led by:</u> Rani Gaidinliu</p> <p>As a result of this movement, Kabui Naga Association was formed in 1946</p>

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