



E-ISSN: 2706-9117

P-ISSN: 2706-9109

[www.historyjournal.net](http://www.historyjournal.net)

IJH 2023; 5(2): 98-99

Received: 17-05-2023

Accepted: 21-06-2023

**Dr. SK Mehrotra**

Associate Professor,  
Department of History,  
Bareilly College, Bareilly,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

## Some aspects about the nature of the revolt of 1857 in Rohilkhand

**Dr. SK Mehrotra**

### Abstract

This paper deals about the nature of Revolt of 1857 in Rohilkhand region. A prominent region of the revolt which shows the works done by ruler Khan Bahadur Khan. Rohilkhand had been centre of attraction during the revolt of 1857 like Meerut and Delhi. Moreover a Sanik commander Bhakt Khan assisted Delhi to maintain law and order and fought for the cause of Delhi Government. Nature of the revolt in Rohilkhand, is very important as Khan Bahadur Khan dealt with the Hindus & Muslims-Out of the two, Muslims were in dominating position.

**Keywords:** History, the revolt of 1857, revolt of 1857 in Rohilkhand, nature of the revolt, Khan Bahadur Khan

### Introduction

The revolt of 1857, inspite of its failure was a memorable event in the history of modern India. The feelings and susceptibilities of the people had been offended in diverse ways by the political, economic, social and cultural policies of East India Company and went against the traditions, customs, usages of the people. Indeed the Leaders and followers of the great revolt displayed in their action, in many occasion a high degree of idealism, cohesion and dedication to higher and noble ends and in laying down their lives, presented examples of selfless sacrifices. Oppressive revenue policies and corrupt administration of the British government in India and the activities of the Christian Missionaries made the British rule all the more galling over the years, the discontent was deepening and it overflowed and reached the hearts of a wider section of Indians. Even the armed forces who formed the backbone of the British Empire in India responded to the call. The sepays were fighting for fear of castes, the chiefs for the Kingdoms, the Landlords for their estates, the mass for fear of conversion and agrarian grievances, and the Muslims especially for restoring their old sway, yet all in their own way against the common enemy.

In 1857 Rohilkhand was a division consisting of six districts-Bareilly, Bijnor, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit and Moradabad. There was also a small enclave of independent territory held by the Nawab of Rampur, a descendant of the old reigning family of Rohillas<sup>[1]</sup>. In Rohilkhand region, which was transferred to the domain of East India Company by the Nawab of Oudh in 1801, two principal communities Muslims and the Hindus inhabited. According to the census of 1961 in Moradabad the strength of Hindus was 61.89% and that of Muslims was 37.7% of the total population other important communities of the region are Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Buddhist<sup>[2]</sup>.

In order to analyse the nature of the revolt in Rohilkhand, it is necessary to examine the various opinions that have been expressed about the great uprising in general. These views may be broadly divided into two classes.

H.S. Cunningham, Charles Ball, Alexander Duff, Spears, G.F. Harvey etc. hold that it was primarily and essentially a mutiny of sepoy, though in certain areas it was the revolt of the people. Others, such as Kaye. Malleon etc. believes that the outbreak was a rebellion of the people rather than merely a mutiny of the soldiers. But there is no common consent regarding the nature of the revolt.

The Mohamedans of that region entertained the old hatred of the Englishmen, the old desire to extirpate them, root and branch. British revenue system ruined the landowners of the country<sup>[3]</sup>.

In the districts of the Rohilkhand division the hostility of both the civil and military classes towards government during the mutiny was quite manifest.

**Corresponding Author:**

**Dr. SK Mehrotra**

Associate Professor,  
Department of History,  
Bareilly College, Bareilly,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

The Muslims of Rohilkhand seized the opportunity afforded by the mutiny to make a lost desperate attempt at reviving the glory of the Mughal Empire. They defied the British government and rose in arms against them under the leadership of Khan Bahadur Khan<sup>[4]</sup>.

The Mohammedan Population in this area was strong both in number and in influence. The revolt in Rohilkhand was mostly confined to the Muslim Community who were inflamed by fanaticism to an intense hatred of the English. They raised the green flag, shouted for the revival of the Islamic state and despoiled the Hindu bankers and merchants<sup>[5]</sup>.

According to T.R. Metcalf in those areas such as Rohilkhand where there was a cohesive militant Muslim aristocracy, the revolt naturally took on a Muslim character<sup>[6]</sup>.

R.C. Majumdar is of the view that we miss the real communal amity which characterizes a national effort. Not only the Europeans, but even the Muslims themselves, believed that they were the senior partners in the great undertaking<sup>[7]</sup>.

Charles Raikes, writes about the role played by Hindus-The Hindus exerted themselves to protect and save the property of their English persons, preserved our horses and moveable property, and did whatever else they could to show their loyalty and affection<sup>[8]</sup>.

The Mohomedans either decried us or joined the rebels and so it was all over the Northwestern Provinces, A Mohamedan was another word for the rebel<sup>[9]</sup>.

Many instances of communal distempers have been recorded but to the credit of Khan Bahadur, it could have been said that he organized a Hindu rally. The rebel cause was also taken up by many Rajput Thankurs<sup>[10]</sup>.

Chaudhari writes that there is no sufficient evidence to assume that there was an organized conspiracy for the overthrow of the existing government prior to the outbreaks on the 31<sup>st</sup> May of Bareilly. Khan Bahadur Khan's placing himself at the head of the rebel governments as viceroy on behalf of King of Delhi appears to have been carried away by the rising tides of rebellion<sup>[11]</sup>.

## References

1. George KH. British Administration during the revolt of 1857; Intern India Publications, New Delhi; c1985. p. 123.
2. U.P. District Gazetteers, Moradabad by Smt. Esha Basanti Joshi, p. 65-70.
3. Chaudhri SB. Theories of the Indian Mutiny; c1857-59. p. 72-73.
4. Chattopadhyaya. Harprasad The Sepoy Mutiny, 1857-A Social Study and Analysis, Bookland Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta; c1957.
5. Chaudhari SB. Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies-1857-59, The World Press Pvt. Ltd. Calcutta; c1957. p. 108.
6. Metcalf TR. The Aftermath of Revolt India, 1857-1870, Princeton University Press, Princeton, London; c1965. p. 299.
7. Majumdar RC. The Sepoy Mutiny and the Revolt of 1857, Calcutta Oriental Press Pvt. Ltd. Calcutta; c1957. p. 227-228.
8. Charles R, Notes on the Revolt in the North Western Provinces of India, London; c1858. p. 175.
9. Charles R. IBID; c1858. p. 175.

10. Chaudhari SB. Theories of the Indian Mutiny, 1857-1859. The World Press Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta; c1965. p. 52.
11. Chaudhari's. Civil Rebellion. p. 110-111.
12. Chattopadhyaya. Harprasad The Sepoy Mutiny, 1857-A Social Study and Analysis, Bookland Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta; c1957.
13. Chaudhri SB. Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies-1857-59, The World Press Pvt. Ltd. Calcutta; c1957.
14. Keene H. George, British Administration during the revolt of 1857; Intern India Publications, New Delhi; c1985.
15. Chaudhari SB. Theories of the Indian Mutiny, 1857-59, The World Press Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta; c1965.
16. Majumdar RC. The Sepoy Mutiny and the Revolt of 1857, Calcutta Oriental Press Pvt. Ltd. Calcutta; c1957.
17. Raikes, Charles. Notes on the Revolt in the North Western Provinces of India, Longman London; c1858.
18. Metcalf TR. The Aftermath of Revolt India, 1857-1870, Princeton University Press, Princeton, London; c1965.