



# THE REVOLT OF 1857

**SPEAKER:  
DR. DIMPY DAS**



# **Nature of the Revolt**

- **Was it a Sepoy Mutiny?**
- **Was it the First War of Independence?**
- **Was it aimed at liberating India from the British rule?**

# **Causes of the Revolt**

- **Political Causes**
- **Economic Causes**
- **Socio-religious Causes**
- **Military Causes**
- **Immediate Cause**



# Political Causes



**Lord Wellesley**  
**Subsidiary Alliance System**

**Lord Dalhousie**  
**Doctrine of Lapse**



# **Economic Causes**

- **Drain of Wealth**
- **Decline of cottage industries**
- **Introduction of cash crops**
- **British land revenue policy**

# Socio-religious Causes

- **British laws** : i) Abolition of Sati in 1829  
ii) Widow Remarriage Act 1856  
iii) Religious Disabilities Act 1856  
iv) Female Infanticide Act 1829
- The Theory of **White Man's Burden**
- Activities of Christian Missionaries
- Introduction of English Education

# **Military Causes**

- **Ill-treatment towards the soldiers**
- **Deprivation of Indian soldiers( lower pay grade and promotion )**
- **General Service Enlistment Act 1856**
- **Conversion of soldiers**

# Immediate Cause

- Introduction of the Enfield Rifle
- Rumor of mixing bone-dust of cows and pigs in flour





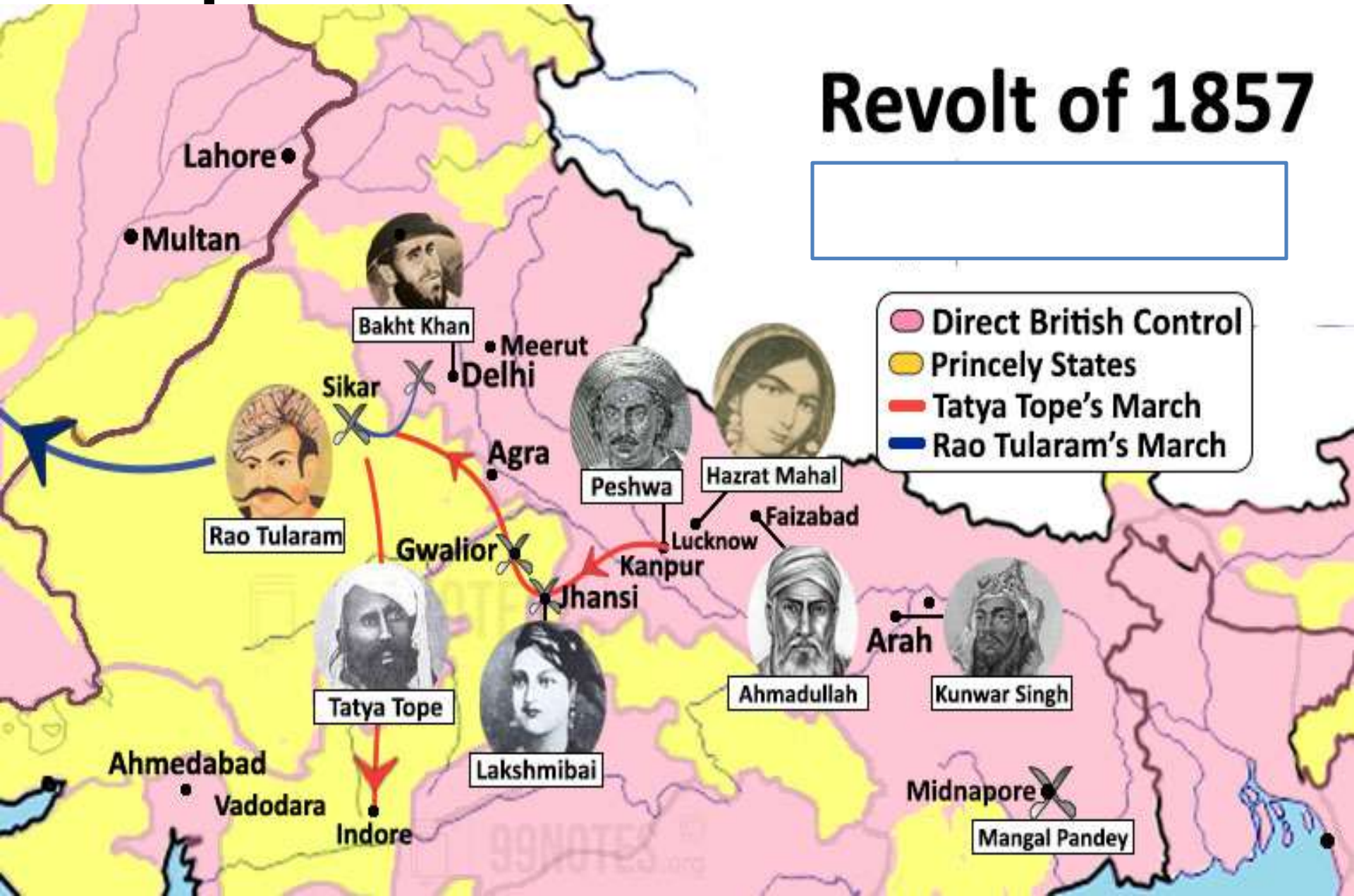
# Course of the Revolt

- **Began on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1857 at Meerut**
- **Bahadur Shah Zafar II was declared as the Emperor of India by the rebel soldiers.**



# Importance Centers of the Revolt

## Revolt of 1857



# Outcome of the Revolt

- The Revolt failed
- Bahadur Shah Zafar II was exiled to Rangoon
- Most of the leaders were either killed or captured
- Lord Canning announced the end of the Revolt on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1858

# Causes of failure

- **Lack of unity**
- **Lack of planning and organization**
- **Lack of resources**
- **No unanimous aims**
- **Superior military strength of the British**
- **Non involvement of many Indians**

# Consequences of the Revolt

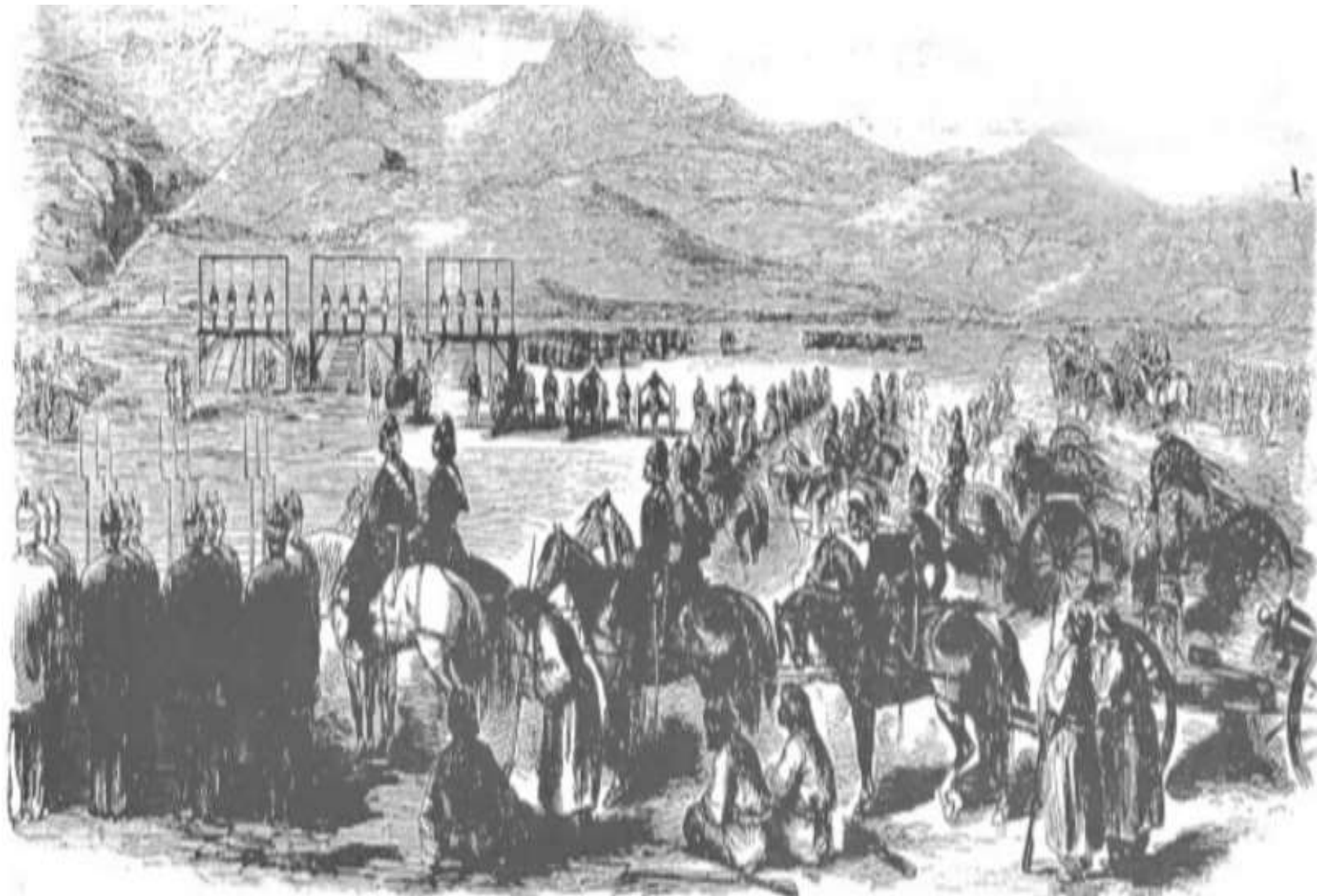
- **Transfer of power (Government of India Act, 1858)**
- **Reformation & reorganization of the Army**
- **Administrative changes**
- **Policy of divide and rule**
- **New era of economic exploitation**
- **Instilling the feeling of national consciousness among the Indians**



**The Revolt was so impactful that it  
inspired several artworks in  
contemporary British media**



THE BRITISH LION'S VENGEANCE ON THE BENGAL TIGER.



**Mass Execution of sepoy in Peshawar  
In London News**



**Lord Canning was mocked for granting pardon to the rebels  
in the *Punch (Magazine)***



*Relief of Lucknow*  
A Painting by Thomas Jones Baker n 1859



***Thank You!***