

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapith, LKR.

Class-8, Sub. -Social Science, 04-08-2021

Ch3-Rural Life Under British India

Mopla's revolt & other Peasant Revolts

Exploitative land revenue systems, oppression of zamindars & the atrocities of the money lenders led to a series of revolts by the peasants. The peasants of Kerala called the Moplahs revolted in the 1860s and 1870s due to the burden of taxation. This was a rebellion against the rich landlord. In the middle of August 1921, agrarian riots were started by the muslim peasants called Moplahs against zamindars. The revolt took a violent turn.

Indigo Rebellion and Indigo Commission

In 1859, ryots of Bengal refused to grow Indigo. The European planters forced the peasants to plant Indigo, instead of food crops. But the farmer had to sell their indigo at a very low price as they were completely unprotected from the brutal indigo planters. The ryots refused to pay rent to the planters & attacked indigo factories. The Bengal ryots had the courage to attack indigo factories with swords, spears, bows and arrows. Even the women joined them.

When the indigo production ended in Bengal, after the revolt, the planter shifted to Bihar. The indigo farmers of Champaran in Bihar started protesting against forced indigo production. Mahatama Gandhi led this movement.

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