

The Indian Rebellion of 1857, also known as the Indian Mutiny or the First War of Indian Independence, was a significant uprising against British rule in India. It began in May 1857 and lasted until June 1858, although sporadic rebellions continued for several years after that.

The rebellion was triggered by various factors, including political, economic, social, and religious causes. Indian soldiers in the British Indian Army, known as sepoy, were unhappy with various changes that were being implemented by the British, including new gunpowder cartridges that were rumored to be greased with animal fat (cow and pig fat) which was offensive to both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. Moreover, they were being paid less than their British counterparts and were often treated unfairly.

The rebellion started in Meerut, near Delhi, on May 10, 1857, when Indian soldiers refused to use the new cartridges and were subsequently arrested. This led to a mutiny and violence, and the soldiers marched to Delhi, where they were joined by other sepoy and civilians. The rebels captured Delhi on May 11, 1857, and declared the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, as their leader. The rebellion soon spread to other parts of India, including Awadh, Kanpur, and Lucknow.

The British forces faced many challenges in quelling the rebellion, including fierce resistance from the rebels, extreme weather conditions, and outbreaks of disease. It took several months of intense fighting, including many brutal battles and massacres on both sides, for the British to regain control of India.

The rebellion was a significant turning point in Indian history and marked the beginning of the end of British colonial rule in India. It led to many changes in British policies towards India, including an increased emphasis on religious tolerance, a more consultative approach towards governance, and the eventual transfer of power from the British Crown to Indian hands.