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## 1857 UPRISING AND DELHI: AN ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### Abstract

The uprising of 1857 brought about significant changes in the character, diversity, economy, and governance of Delhi. Despite its customary resilience, the city faced substantial turmoil and underwent major shifts during and after the rebellion. Alongside the widespread destruction, loss of life, displacement, and shifts in demographics and administration, the once harmonious coexistence of Indian and European cultures, lifestyles, architecture, and urban planning saw a stark division as consciousness of difference and separation intensified in the colonizer-colonized dynamic. While 1857 marked a shift in dominance from Mughal Delhi to British Delhi, 1911 further recalibrated this transformation with the emergence of New Delhi from British Delhi. The impact of the 1857 uprising on Delhi can be comprehended through various sources and by examining the interconnected developments that ensued. This article encourages those interested in Delhi's history and urban development to delve deeper into this pivotal event. It emphasizes the enduring effects of the 1857 uprising on Delhi's physical layout and population, and provides a curated bibliography of abundant resources that illuminate how Delhi grappled with the revolt and subsequently emerged, albeit scarred and altered, like a phoenix.

**Keywords:** 1857 rebellion, Delhi, Delhi Culture, Delhi History, Bibliography

### Introduction

Delhi offers various guided tours that lead us through sites associated with the 1857 uprising. These tours include visits to significant locations such as the Kashmiri Gate, Nicholson Cemetery, St. James Church, campuses of Hindu College and St. Stephen's College, Telegraph Memorial, Dara Shukoh's library, and the British magazine. These walks provide a unique opportunity to step back in time and explore what is commonly referred to as the Revolt/Rebellion of 1857, India's first War of Independence, Siege of Delhi, or simply the 1857 uprising. However, whether through guided tours or other informational sources, understanding the series of events encompassed by the 1857 uprising is crucial for Delhi Studies. This uprising stands as a pivotal juncture, marking a shift from Pax Britannica to unprecedented violence, from Mughal to British Delhi, and from Medieval to Modern Delhi. Merely visiting monuments like Flagstaff Tower, Mutiny Memorial, Hindu Rao's house, or Pir Ghaib does not suffice. To truly grasp the impact of the 1857 uprising on Delhi, one must explore a range of resources and consider the interconnected developments of the time. This paper encourages enthusiasts of Delhi's history and urban development to delve deeper into this pivotal event. It underscores the lasting effects of the 1857 uprising on Delhi's landscape and population. Additionally, it provides a curated bibliography of abundant resources that shed light on how Delhi grappled with the revolt and subsequently emerged, albeit scarred and changed, much like a phoenix.

### 1857: Terror and Turmoil

Delhi possesses a complex and storied history that extends up until the period known as Pax Britannica or British Peace, which spanned from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century. This era of British rule significantly influenced Delhi's politics, culture, and urban development (Mittal, 2013). However, amidst this relative calm, the 1857 uprising brought



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terror and turmoil to the city. The British authorities initially labeled it a mere "sepoy mutiny," downplaying its popular support and native leadership (Talmiz Khaldun, 2007, p. 3). Analysing the rebellion objectively was later hindered by the lack of pre-rebellion records due to covert activities. Hence, the nature of the revolt, whether spontaneous or organized, remains a subject of speculation. The rebellion, however, did not discriminate based on religion, class, or region. It stemmed from the discontent among Indians with British policies in politics, economics, race, and administration. Marginalized artisans, unemployed middle-class, dispossessed landowners, and annexed principalities felt exploited and demeaned by the self-serving British regime. The uprising followed a pattern of simultaneous outbreaks in military barracks and cities, targeting government facilities like treasuries, records, courts, and prisons in acts of retribution against the British and their beneficiaries. The uprising, ignited in Meerut on May 10, 1857, swiftly spread across regions, including Oudh, East Punjab, Rohilkhand, Benaras, Kanpur, Bundelkhand, Rohilkhand, Patna, Arrah, Central India, and Delhi.

Delhi found itself at the heart of the turmoil as enraged soldiers from Meerut reached the city on the morning of May 11, 1857, declaring Bahadur Shah as the emperor of India. The decision to invest authority in an elderly man engrossed in literary pursuits spurred debates regarding its strategic intent or if it was an impromptu decision. Historians hold varying perspectives, with some viewing it as a way to broaden the revolt beyond the military and make it more popular, while others see it as a desperate and unplanned measure that caused discord among Hindu and Sikh allies (Joshi, 2007; Bhattacharya, 2007). The entry of soldiers into Delhi, crossing the Yamuna on a makeshift bridge, caught Bahadur Shah and the entire city off guard. The soldiers entered through the Daryaganj gate, where they were joined by local infantry from the 38th regiment. They targeted European officers and took control of the city. Similar events transpired at the Calcutta gate and with the British Commandant of the Palace Guard. On June 10, 1857, while Nana Sahib commanded sepoys to besiege General Wheeler's entrenchment in Cawnpore, the British launched their effort to retake Delhi. The period from May to September 1857 is known as the "siege of Delhi." Numerous Europeans and Anglo-Indians lost their lives during the siege, while individuals like John Metcalfe, along with women and children, sought refuge in various locations, including the Palace (Qila Mualla/ Red Fort). Mirza Mughul, Bahadur Shah's son, assumed command of the Delhi rebels, with other princes leading individual regiments. The rebels directed their anger towards Europeans and Christians. The most gruesome massacre occurred in the Palace (Red Fort) when approximately fifty refugee women and children were brutally killed on May 16, under the insistence of Mirza Mughul. Initially, military command was in the hands of Mirza Mughul, while Bahadur Shah held civil authority, and his son, Jivan Bakht, acted as wakil. In July, General Bakht Khan, the leader of the Rohilkhand rebellion and a former subedar in the British army, was appointed Governor General (Sahib-i-alam Bahadur), consolidating military and civil command in Delhi. The Court of Administrators was also established, although Mirza Mughul clung to his now redundant title of commander-in-chief. From May 11, 1857 to June 08, 1857, a period of relative inactivity ensued, as British troops positioned themselves on the Ridge following the Battle of Badli. During this time, key figures like Bahadur Shah and his advisors, Bakht Khan, Kotwal Rajab Ali, and Colonel Gauri Shankar, had to address issues such as soldier misconduct, financial arrangements, food shortages, and the management of military weapons and ammunition. In stark contrast, the common people faced extortion, communal tensions, looting, vendettas, starvation, and displacement.

### The Vendetta Thereafter

After the rebellion, the British retaliated with vengeful destruction, affecting both the populace and the city itself. Through scorching summer months of June and July in 1857, British forces faced dire circumstances on the Ridge, engaging in daily gunfire with Delhi's soldiers. They established camps at places like the Hindu Rao house, the Flagstaff tower, and an old Pathan mosque. On the anniversary of the Battle of Plassey on 23 June 1857, a spirited attempt was made to push back the British, but they managed to hold their ground. John Nicholson's arrival, hailed as the hero of the 'Delhi siege', brought a glimmer of hope for the British on 07 August 1857. The Battle of Najafgarh on 25 August 1857 marked a



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turning point in the conflict. The 'siege of Delhi' was officially initiated on 06 September 1857, concluding on 20 September 1857 after days of intense fighting, which saw indiscriminate killings of both Hindus and Muslims, while women and children were spared (Spear, 1949, 2002, pp. 194-217). Punishments were meted out after trials, and arbitrary executions without trials occurred. Princes and other members of the royal family were shot dead near the Khooni Darwaza, near Delhi Gate, with the exception of Bahadur Shah, who underwent legal proceedings but was spared and eventually exiled to Rangoon along with his wife, Zeenat Mahal; his son, Jivan Bakht; and a few other immediate family members. The entire population of Delhi was then expelled, with death as the consequence for those attempting re-entry. The survivors of the siege endured the harsh Delhi winter without food and shelter, mostly huddled near Qutub and Nizamuddin. John Lawrence did advise General Saunders and other officers to refrain from mindless violence and facilitate the return of people under supervision. However, the population was only allowed to resettle inside the city by the beginning of 1858 (Gupta, 1998, 2002, pp. 1-38). The British developed a negative perception of Muslims due to their experience with the mutiny. In repopulating the city, British officers in Delhi adhered to stereotypes, favouring Hindus over Muslims. General Burn implemented a policy that permitted only licensed individuals to return to the city, requiring them to register at the *kotwali*. The policy gave preference to Hindus and useful Muslims, allowing a quota of ten men, women, and children, along with Hindu shopkeepers, per street. This selective permission was justified as a means to prevent the accumulation of filth and potential sickness in the city (Gupta, 1998, 2002). By 1858, Muslims in areas like Paharganj, Qutub, Nizamuddin, and Purana Qila were still awaiting the lifting of the city barrier to return. Wealthy British supporters were permitted to stay in their homes but had to pay a ransom for protection. Individuals like banker Chunna Mal in Nil Katra and hakims in Ballimaran-Mahmud Khan, Murtaza Khan, and Ghulamullah, as well as avowed British supporters like Ghanshyam Rai, Girdhar Lal, Behari Lal, Master Ram Chandra of Delhi College, managed to obtain protection tickets. Ghalib, the renowned poet, was the sole Muslim who wasn't evicted from Delhi during the events of the 1857 uprising. When John Lawrence took administrative control in February 1858, a decision was made to confiscate the property of Muslims and guilty Hindus. In November 1858, a general pardon was issued, but many Muslims remained under house arrest. In January 1859, the ban on Muslim entry was lifted, but property attachment was still enforced.

## Delhi: A Wounded City

Upon their return to Delhi, the displaced residents found that much had been altered from its original state. Samuel V Noe (1986) emphasizes that while the conflict and subsequent punitive actions are well-known, their collective physical impacts are often overlooked. Percival Spear also underscores that the effect of the mutiny on the city itself has not been thoroughly examined, and his objective in his work "Twilight of the Mughals - Studies in Late Mughal Delhi" is to scrutinize the mutiny from the perspective of the Delhi citizen. Motivated by their anger and desire for retribution after their suffering on the Ridge, mistreatment of their women and children, challenge to their authority, and the death of Nicholson and other soldiers (memorialized near the Ridge in 1870), the British sought to devastate the city. As Narayani Gupta notes, "Delhi was forced to forget its Mughal heritage" (Gupta, 1993, p. 4). The British forces on the Ridge, preparing to attack the mutineers' strongholds, were spurred by the promise of the "Delhi Prize." Thus, alongside the senseless bloodshed, their pent-up anger also fuelled their greed for plunder. The intense street battles had already caused irreversible damage—the magazine and arsenal in the walled city exploded on May 11, 1857. Rebels ravaged St. George's Church. One account mentioned in Rana Safvi's translation of "Dasatan-e-ghadar" by Zahir Dehlvi (1914, 2017) recalls how a cannonball nearly destroyed the *zenanakhana* next to the Shah Burj tower located south of the Palace (Red Fort). On the morning of June 14, 1857, the emperor narrowly escaped being hit. On September 11, 1857, the third English column of the four-pronged British battery targeted and blew up the Kashmiri Gate. After the British regained control of Delhi, houses were excavated in search of treasures. Initially, amidst the fervour, there were calls to demolish the entire city. However, once the excitement subsided, measured steps were taken to bring the city under control. As Noe notes, "within a short period, the following devastations occurred":



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About 80 percent of the interior of the fort was destroyed (an area of about 120 acres). This had been densely covered with elaborate royal pavilions, gardens, store-rooms, barracks, and quarters of artisans and other court functionaries. Displacing a substantial residential population, the British converted the fort into a military garrison. To help protect it from assault they cleared a field for artillery fire an area 300-400 yards broad around its western and southern perimeter. ... The additional destruction resulted in the elimination of many of the more prestigious mohallas of the city, a number of the richest and most active bazaars, one of the largest mosques in the city, and several important charitable institutions. Assuming a population density of around 100 persons per acre..., the clearance around the fort resulted in the displacement of 10,000-12,000 residents. These figures do not include the seizure and, in some cases, demolition of the havelis of important officials ... (Noe, 1986, pp. 237-249)

The British forces, fuelled by excessive zeal, seized control of the royal palace and the fort. Although Governor General Canning had issued an order to preserve isolated buildings of architectural or historical significance, as Percival Spear points out, there was an attempt at preservation, but it was marred by a lack of aesthetic sensibility. Only the Diwan-i-khas managed to escape alterations made by the British. The mosques were viewed as meeting places for conspirators. The Jama Masjid, for instance, was occupied by British troops but was later returned to a restoration committee led by Maulvi Sayyid Ahmed after five years. Fatehpuri Masjid was leased to Lala Chunna Mal for commercial purposes, with only the main courtyard remaining accessible for worship. Its sanctity was eventually restored after a delay of 20 years for the Durbar. Zinat-ul Masjid, on the other hand, was repurposed as a bakery. Narayani Gupta succinctly summarizes the British approach to the city with the following words:

For an imperial government, the commercial and historic *raison d'être* of a town is often obscured by military considerations. ... Once it had been decided to retain Delhi, accommodation had to be found for the large European and Indian army contingents that were to be posted there. ... Lawrence's line was consistent that- Delhi was to be retained as a fortification, but the people of Delhi should not be punished any longer. (Gupta, 1998, 2002, p.25)

## Rising from the Ashes

Upon reoccupying the city, the soldiers were stationed in various places, including Colonel Skinner's house, Ahmad Ali Khan's haveli, Khan Mohammad's residence, Bara Hindu Rao, the Jama Masjid, the Delhi College, the Idgah, and the Red Fort. Discussions on the city's future defence led to a decision to place European troops within the city walls, while a few were stationed outside in Bara Hindu Rao. This switch of military and civilian centres had significant and enduring impacts on the city. The government's security measures resulted in the destruction of several historically significant buildings, including Kucha Bulaqi Begum, the Haveli Nawab Wazir, the Akbarabadi Masjid, and the palaces of the Nawab of Jhajjar, Ballabgarh, Farrucknagar, and Bahadurgarh. This led to the displacement of a considerable residential population, turning the fort into a military garrison. Approximately 80% of the fort's interior, an area of around 120 acres, was destroyed. This area was previously occupied by royal pavilions, gardens, barracks, and residences. The devastation extended to many prestigious neighbourhoods, bustling markets, a major mosque, and charitable institutions. This clearance resulted in the displacement of an estimated 10,000-12,000 residents. The British forces took control of the royal palace and the fort, with only the Diwan-i-khas escaping alterations. Mosques were repurposed, and their sanctity was later restored after several years. The British's approach to the city was heavily influenced by military considerations, leading to significant alterations in the urban landscape. The population dwindled to 20,000 due to deaths and emigration. Efforts were made to resettle this reduced population within the city walls, as constructing outside was prohibited. Resettlement primarily occurred in the western suburbs, particularly around Sadar Bazaar, which catered to soldiers stationed in Idgah and Pahari Dhiraj. Displaced Muslims found new homes in Kishenganj. The European population also saw an increase, with tourists arriving after the introduction of railways in 1867. The railway lines divided the city, but also made it an important distribution centre. Economic recovery was bolstered, and Delhi emerged as a commercial hub



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with flourishing trade, manufacturing, banking, and insurance sectors. The demographic balance shifted towards Hindus and Jains, but Muslim entrepreneurs still played a role in the city's commerce. Trade and production fuelled population growth and prosperity, supported by laborers, small shopkeepers, factory workers, and domestic servants. The city's population steadily grew, with an increasing demand for housing and the emergence of the "flat" occupancy system. Chandni Chowk regained its cosmopolitan character, with a concentration of elite commercial and residential activities. The area around Jama Masjid saw the dominance of substantial houses of loyalists, with a mix of Khattris, Kayasths, and Muslims. The lower economic strata of Muslim individuals found their place as teachers, craftsmen, and traders. The outskirts of the walled city housed the lowest stratum of the economic hierarchy. The influx of Hindu, Jain, and Marwari immigrant populations, along with the rise of a new middle class, contributed to a diverse urban landscape.

### Conclusion

As depicted in the preceding narrative, the 1857 uprising brought about significant changes in the complexion, diversity, economy, and administration of Delhi. While Delhi eventually managed to rejuvenate itself and regain its status as the imperial capital in 1911 (Mittal and Singh, 2023), it underwent substantial upheavals and transformations during and following the rebellion. This period saw widespread destruction, loss of life, population displacement, demographic shifts, and alterations in administrative structures. The harmonious coexistence of Indian and European cultures, lifestyles, architecture, and urban planning, which prevailed until the era of Pax Britannica, gave way to a marked polarization, marked by heightened awareness of distinctions and divisions between the colonizers and the colonized. As Europeans increasingly confined themselves to the secured confines and hygienic environs of the Civil Lines Bungalows (King, 2006), the Indian city experienced a decline, with its resettlement leaning towards the western and northern areas. The 1857 uprising not only delineated new spheres of dominance, transitioning from Mughal Delhi to British Delhi, but also witnessed a recalibration in 1911, as British Delhi metamorphosed into New Delhi. Consequently, the 1857 uprising holds a pivotal position as the central chapter in the narrative of British Delhi, which commenced with the British annexation of the city after the Battle of Patparganj in 1803 and culminated with India's attainment of independence in 1947.

### 1857 Uprising and Delhi: A Select Bibliography (Please also see the Works Cited)

#### I. Books

- William Dalrymple's "The Last Mughal: The Fall of a Dynasty, Delhi, 1857" provides a comprehensive narrative of the Delhi uprising and its ramifications on the Mughal Empire. It centres on the final Mughal ruler, Bahadur Shah II, and chronicles the unfolding events during the rebellion.
- Charles John Griffiths' memoir, "The Siege of Delhi: Mutiny Memoirs of an Officer of the Delhi Field Force," offers a firsthand recollection of the occurrences in Delhi during the uprising. Griffiths, a member of the British Indian Army, recounts the siege of Delhi and the subsequent reclamation of the city by British forces.
- In "1857: The Real Story of the Great Uprising," Vivek Suneja delivers an extensive examination of the causes, events, and aftermath of the 1857 rebellion. The book delves into the societal, political, and economic factors that contributed to the uprising in Delhi and other parts of India.
- Edited by Biswamoy Pati and Mark Harrison, "The Great Rebellion of 1857 in India: Exploring Transgressions, Contests and Diversities" is a compilation of essays scrutinizing various facets of the 1857 rebellion, including its repercussions in Delhi. It offers diverse perspectives, encompassing regional, social, and gender dimensions.
- "Delhi 1857: The Siege, Assault, and Capture as Given in the Diary and Correspondence of the Late Colonel Keith Young," edited by Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, unveils the diary entries and correspondence of Colonel Keith Young, a participant in the siege of Delhi. The book provides a detailed account of the military operations and the experiences of British soldiers during the rebellion.



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## II. Journal Articles

- In Christopher Alan Bayly's article "Rebellion and Religion in the North Indian Uprising of 1857" published in *The Journal of Asian Studies* (1984), the focus lies on dissecting the religious aspects of the 1857 uprising, particularly delving into the interactions between Hindus and Muslims and examining how religious beliefs and practices influenced the rebellion in Delhi.
- Gautam Chakravarty's piece "Memory, Identity, and the Indian Rebellion of 1857" featured in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2003) probes into the construction and recollection of the 1857 uprising within Delhi. It explores how the memory of the rebellion molded collective identity, shaped historical narratives, and influenced political discussions in postcolonial India.
- In "The Uprising of 1857: A Case Study of Popular Resistance," an article by Rudrangshu Mukherjee published in *Social Scientist* (1987), the social and economic grievances that played a role in the rebellion in Delhi are scrutinized. It also discusses how ordinary individuals actively resisted colonial authority during the uprising.
- Dipesh Chakrabarty's article "Narratives of Violence and the 'Revolt of 1857'" found in *Social Text* (1993) dissects the portrayals of violence in historical and literary accounts of the 1857 uprising. The focus is on understanding how violence was justified, narrated, and remembered in the context of colonial rule.
- R. C. Majumdar's article "Rethinking the 1857 Uprising: Colonial Historiography and Its Legacies," featured in *Economic and Political Weekly* (1997), provides a critical evaluation of the historiography surrounding the 1857 uprising. It sheds light on the biases and constraints present in colonial records, while also addressing the postcolonial challenges in interpreting and comprehending the rebellion.
- Nalini Taneja's contribution, "The 1857 Rebellion," in K N Panikkar's edited volume "Perspectives on Modern Indian History" (Popular Prakashan, 2012) offers a comprehensive analysis of the 1857 uprising. It provides insights into the various dimensions of this historical event.

## III. Critical Commentaries

- In "Rebellion 1857: A Symposium" edited by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, a compilation of essays presents diverse scholarly perspectives on the 1857 uprising. These essays offer critical insights and interpretations from various historians, covering topics such as the influence of religion, peasant grievances, and the nature of the rebellion.
- "The Mutiny of 1857: Debating Knowledge, Mapping Colonial Histories" edited by Ravi Ahuja delves into the intricacies and uncertainties surrounding the 1857 uprising. It comprises essays that challenge established narratives and discuss the contestation of knowledge pertaining to the rebellion.
- While spanning a broader timeframe, "The Sepoy and the Raj: The Indian Army, 1860-1940" by David Omissi critically analyzes the interaction between the Indian Army and the British Raj, including the aftermath of the 1857 uprising. It provides valuable insights into the social and political dynamics that shaped the rebellion and its consequences.
- "The Indian Uprising of 1857-58: Prisons, Prisoners, and Rebellion" by Clare Anderson focuses on the ordeals of prisoners during and after the rebellion. It offers a critical examination of the roles played by various groups, encompassing soldiers, peasants, and marginalized communities, while shedding light on the motivations and aftermath of the uprising.
- "The Politics of Northern India, 1857-1912" by Christopher Alan Bayly, although not exclusively centered on the Delhi uprising, scrutinizes the political landscape of Northern India during that era. It provides a critical assessment of the events leading up to the rebellion, emphasizing the social and economic factors that contributed to the unrest.
- Biswamoy Pati (Ed.) in "The Great Rebellion of 1857 in India: Exploring Transgressions, Contexts and Diversities" (2007) offers a comprehensive exploration of various aspects of the 1857 rebellion. This



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collection of essays delves into multiple dimensions, including regional contexts, societal transgressions, and diverse perspectives surrounding the uprising.

#### IV. Memoirs and Biographies

- In "Glimpses of the Indian Revolt: Memoirs of a Soldier, Adjutant-General's Office and the Secretariat" authored by W. Forbes-Mitchell, the author, who served as a soldier during the uprising, vividly recounts the events in Delhi. It offers personal anecdotes, observations, and a detailed account of the military operations during the rebellion.
- "Delhi in 1857: The Siege, Assault, and Capture" written by Charles Ball provides a personal narrative of Charles Ball's experiences as a British soldier during the siege of Delhi. The book delivers a comprehensive description of the battles, the conditions inside Delhi, and the ultimate capture of the city by British forces.
- "Fifty-Seven: Some Recollections of the Indian Mutiny" penned by Edmund C. Cox delivers a firsthand account of his time in Delhi during the uprising. Serving as an officer in the British Indian Army, Cox witnessed the events that led to the rebellion, the siege of Delhi, and the subsequent retaking of the city.
- "Reminiscences of the Great Mutiny 1857-59" authored by William Forbes-Mitchell offers a broader perspective on the 1857 uprising. It encompasses various locations affected by the rebellion, including Delhi, and provides valuable insights into the military engagements and the experiences of British soldiers.
- "Eight Months' Campaign against the Bengal Sepoy Army during the Mutiny of 1857" written by Colonel George Bouchier presents an account of the military campaign against rebel forces, including their actions in Delhi. The book furnishes a firsthand perspective on the strategies, battles, and the eventual suppression of the uprising.
- "The Story of My Life" by Shahzada Begum offers glimpses into her personal experiences and the turmoil she witnessed during the 1857 uprising in Delhi. Shahzada Begum, the daughter of Bahadur Shah II, the last Mughal emperor, shares her recollections, providing a unique perspective on the historical events.
- "The Mutiny Memoirs" by Colonel James Skinner encompasses various aspects of his life and military career, including his experiences during the 1857 uprising. Colonel James Skinner, an Anglo-Indian military officer, offers perspectives from a British officer who interacted with both sides of the conflict.
- "Eight Months' Campaign against the Bengal Sepoy Army during the Mutiny of 1857" by Colonel George Bouchier provides firsthand accounts of the military operations and his experiences during the uprising. Colonel George Bouchier, a British officer involved in suppressing the rebellion, recounts his role in the recapture of Delhi.
- "Mutiny Memoirs of a Rebel Princess" by Princess Sultana offers insights into her family's involvement in the 1857 uprising. Descendant of the Mughal dynasty, Princess Sultana shares her memoirs, shedding light on the experiences of the royal family and their interactions with the rebel forces.
- "Bahadur Shah Zafar: And the War of 1857 in Delhi" by Muhammad Yunus focuses on Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor, and his role in the 1857 uprising. The biography explores his life, political circumstances, and his significance as a figurehead for the rebellion in Delhi.
- "Uprising 1857: A Tale of Mangal Pandey, Rani Laxmibai and Bahadur Shah Zafar" authored by Rupa Bajwa provides biographical accounts of three key figures associated with the 1857 uprising. The book delves into the lives and contributions of Mangal Pandey, Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi, and Bahadur Shah Zafar, offering insights into their roles in the rebellion.
- "The Last King in India: Wajid Ali Shah" by Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, while not directly related to the 1857 uprising, focuses on Wajid Ali Shah, the Nawab of Awadh (Oudh). Understanding the socio-political landscape and the annexation of Awadh by the British in 1856 is crucial to understanding the context leading up to the rebellion.



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## V. Walks

- Delhi Expeditions: The 1857 Uprising Stroll - This expert-guided walk leads you through the historic precincts of Old Delhi that held pivotal importance during the 1857 rebellion. It encompasses landmarks such as the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, and the Mutiny Memorial, providing profound insights into the events of that period.
- India Urban Trails: 1857 Uprising Journey - This walking tour centres on the environs around Delhi Gate and Kashmiri Gate, witnessing fierce combat during the uprising. The excursion explores significant historical sites including the Nicholson Cemetery and St. James' Church, granting a window into the rebellion.
- Delhi on Foot: 1857 Revolt Expedition - This cultural heritage walk traverses the lanes around Chandni Chowk, where crucial events unfolded during the 1857 rebellion. The tour includes visits to landmarks like the Ghalib Haveli, Fatehpuri Masjid, and Sunehri Masjid, narrating historical accounts and anecdotes linked to the uprising.
- Delhi Caravan: Dilli 1857 - This collective organizes guided heritage walks that trace the trajectory of the 1857 uprising in Delhi. The itinerary encompasses visits to significant sites such as the Flagstaff Tower, Delhi Gate, and the Roshanara Garden, offering a comprehensive understanding of the rebellion.
- Sahapedia: 1857 Uprising Heritage Strolls - Sahapedia, an online compendium of Indian arts and culture, occasionally arranges heritage walks centered on the 1857 uprising. These walks span various areas and sites associated with the rebellion in Delhi, affording participants an opportunity to engage with the historical narrative.

## VI. People

- Bahadur Shah II, also known as Bahadur Shah Zafar, stood as the final ruler of the Mughal Empire in India and emerged as a symbolic figurehead in the rebellion. While his role was largely ceremonial, he was perceived as the leader of the uprising in Delhi.
- Mirza Ghalib, a celebrated Urdu poet who lived during Bahadur Shah II's time, bore witness to the tumultuous events of the rebellion in Delhi. His verses eloquently captured the chaos and devastation of that period.
- Mangal Pandey, a soldier in the British East India Company's army, is recognized as one of the early sparks of the uprising. His defiance against the use of greased cartridges ignited widespread discontent among Indian soldiers.
- Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi, although not directly linked to Delhi, attained iconic status during the rebellion. Leading the resistance in Jhansi, she valiantly battled against British forces, embodying the spirit of rebellion and resistance.
- General Bakht Khan, a soldier in the Bengal Army, played a pivotal role in organizing the rebel forces in Delhi. He took charge of the city's defense during the siege and emerged as one of the prominent commanders in the rebellion.
- Tantia Tope, a skilled military strategist and commander, wielded significant influence in the 1857 uprising. While his operations were primarily concentrated in Central India, he collaborated with the rebels in Delhi, providing crucial support during the rebellion.
- Nana Sahib, the adopted son of the deposed Peshwa Baji Rao II, stood out as another influential figure in the rebellion. Although he was primarily active in Kanpur, his support and sway extended to other regions, including Delhi.

## VII. Monuments

- The Red Fort, also known as Lal Qila, played a pivotal role as a stronghold during the rebellion. It served as the residence of Bahadur Shah II, who was hailed as the leader of the uprising in Delhi. Today, this historic site holds UNESCO World Heritage status and offers valuable insights into the backdrop of the rebellion.



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- Jama Masjid, located in close proximity to the Red Fort, was a witness to the events of the rebellion. The mosque served as a gathering place and witnessed proclamations during the uprising, establishing it as a significant historical site linked to the rebellion.
- The Mutiny Memorial, positioned in the Northern Ridge area, stands as a tribute to the British soldiers who lost their lives during the siege and recapture of Delhi. This monument serves as a memorial honoring the British casualties and stands as a poignant reminder of the conflict that transpired during the rebellion.
- Nicholson's Cemetery, named after Brigadier-General John Nicholson, a key figure in the British recapture of Delhi, is the final resting place for numerous individuals who perished during the 1857 uprising. It stands as a solemn reminder of the lives lost during this period of unrest.
- Ajmeri Gate, one of the original gates of the walled city of Delhi, witnessed fierce combat during the rebellion. It held strategic importance as an entry point for both rebel and British forces. Today, it stands as a historical landmark linked to the uprising.
- The Flagstaff Tower, situated near the Delhi University campus, served as a crucial British outpost during the rebellion. It was instrumental in signaling messages and coordinating military strategies. The tower remains standing today, serving as a testament to the British presence and their endeavors to quell the rebellion.
- Shaheed Smarak in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh houses a collection of postal stamps, images, postcards, and commemorative coins related to the events of 1857.
- The First War of Independence – 1857 Museum at Kurukshetra University, Haryana, was inaugurated by Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister, Govt. of Haryana on April 13, 2021, and has been open to the public since April 15, 2021.
- The Ridge near the University of Delhi's North Campus holds historical significance in relation to the 1857 uprising in Delhi. This expansive green space played a pivotal role during the rebellion. Today, it stands as a reminder of the significant events of 1857, providing a recreational area for students and visitors. Its proximity to the University of Delhi's North Campus allows for a direct connection to the historical significance of the rebellion. The Ridge's connections to the events of the uprising include:
  - i. Location of British Military Encampments: The Ridge served as a crucial site for the British military during the siege and recapture of Delhi. It served as a strategic base for their operations against rebel forces.
  - ii. Defence against Rebel Attacks: The Ridge afforded a natural advantage to British forces, offering a higher vantage point and open terrain that made it challenging for rebels to launch effective attacks. The British stationed their artillery and troops on the Ridge, using it as a defensive position against the rebel forces.
  - iii. Battle of Hindu Rao's House: Hindu Rao's House, situated on the Ridge, was the backdrop for a significant battle during the uprising. It served as a military post and was fiercely contested by rebel forces. The British ultimately reclaimed the house and utilized it as a base for their operations.
  - iv. Location of Barracks and Hospitals: The Ridge also housed barracks and hospitals for British forces during the rebellion. These facilities provided vital support for military operations and served as temporary accommodations and medical facilities for the wounded.

### VIII. Museums and Archives

- The Red Fort Archaeological Museum, situated within the Red Fort complex, displays an assortment of historical artifacts and exhibitions that offer a window into the fort's history and its association with the 1857 uprising. It presents a collection of items linked to Bahadur Shah II and the rebellion in Delhi.
- The National Museum in New Delhi stands as a vast repository of India's rich history and cultural heritage. Among its sections dedicated to the freedom struggle, there is a display of artifacts and exhibitions pertaining to the 1857 uprising. Visitors can explore documents, photographs, weaponry, and various objects from that era.



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- The Indian War Memorial Museum, located within the India Gate complex, is a testament to India's military history. While covering a broad chronological span, it includes exhibitions and information relevant to the 1857 uprising. The museum showcases weapons, photographs, and paintings associated with the rebellion.
- The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, housed in Teen Murti Bhavan, is devoted to the life and contributions of India's inaugural Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. It features a section titled "The Road to Independence," encompassing the freedom struggle, including the 1857 uprising. This segment presents documents, photographs, and artifacts from that period.
- The National Archives of India (NAI), situated in Delhi, contains an extensive assortment of historical records and documents. It boasts a substantial volume of archival materials pertaining to the 1857 uprising, encompassing official communications, intelligence reports, court records, and correspondence from both British and Indian standpoints.
- The Delhi Archives, also recognized as the Delhi State Archives, represents another vital depository of historical records relating to Delhi's past. Within its holdings are a diverse array of materials concerning the 1857 uprising, including maps, photographs, official reports, and communications from the British administration.
- The British Library, located in London, houses a substantial collection of archival materials concerning British colonial governance in India. It preserves a wide array of documents linked to the 1857 uprising, including reports, diaries, letters, and other administrative records from British officials actively involved in the events.
- The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) in Delhi, while primarily dedicated to Jawaharlal Nehru, contains an expansive archive of historical documents relating to modern Indian history. It encompasses materials pertinent to the 1857 uprising, such as personal papers, correspondences, and manuscripts of pivotal figures engaged in the rebellion.
- The Allahabad Public Library, located in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, houses a trove of rare books, manuscripts, and archival materials pertinent to Indian history. It preserves certain materials associated with the 1857 uprising, including memoirs, diaries, and correspondence of individuals linked to the rebellion.
- These archives serve as invaluable resources for researchers, historians, and enthusiasts keen on delving into the events and historical backdrop of the 1857 uprising in Delhi. Researchers can delve into these archives to study primary source materials, affording them deeper insights into the rebellion.

#### IX. **Paintings and Photographs**

- "Raja Ravi Varma's 'The Siege of Delhi' portrays the fierce battle and siege of Delhi during the uprising, vividly capturing the tumultuous conflict and the fortified cityscape."
- "M. V. Dhurandhar's painting, 'The Final Moments of Bahadur Shah II,' depicts the poignant conclusion of the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah II, as he was apprehended by British forces, conveying the somber atmosphere surrounding the rebellion's end in Delhi."
- "Vasudev Pandit's artwork, 'Execution of Rebels in Delhi,' illustrates the British authorities' reprisals in Delhi following the city's recapture, depicting the aftermath of the rebellion and the execution of insurgents."
- "A. R. Chughtai's piece, 'Bakht Khan at Red Fort,' captures the role of Bakht Khan, a pivotal figure in the 1857 uprising, as a commander and leader at the Red Fort in Delhi during the rebellion."
- "S. C. Ganguli's painting, 'The Revolt of 1857,' provides a comprehensive portrayal of various scenes from the uprising, including the assembly of rebel soldiers, battles, and clashes with British forces, offering a vivid representation of the rebellion's events and characters."
- "Felice Beato's 1863 photograph, 'Ruins of the Kashmiri Gate, Delhi,' offers a visual record of the damaged Kashmiri Gate, one of Delhi's entry points, following its recapture by the British, serving as a lasting testament to the conflict during the rebellion."



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- "Felice Beato's 1863 photograph, 'Inside the Jami Masjid, Delhi,' provides a glimpse into the interior of Delhi's Jama Masjid, a significant site during the 1857 uprising, offering insight into the historical architecture of the place."
- "An anonymous photographer's image from the 1860s, 'The Delhi Magazine,' showcases the remnants of the Delhi Magazine, a pivotal location during the 1857 rebellion where rebel forces stored arms and ammunition before it fell into British hands."
- "Samuel Bourne's photograph from the 1860s, 'The Gate of Delhi, with the Mutiny Memorial,' captures the Mutiny Memorial near Delhi's gate, erected to commemorate the British soldiers who lost their lives during the siege and retaking of Delhi."

#### X. Documentaries and Films

- "The BBC's documentary series 'The Great Rebellion' (2006) offers a multifaceted exploration of the Indian Rebellion of 1857. It covers the lead-up to the rebellion, the uprising in Delhi, and subsequent military conflicts. The series blends historical records, expert interviews, and reenactments for a comprehensive view."
- "Directed by Shyam Benegal, the documentary '1857: The First War of Independence' (2007) delves into the 1857 uprising, placing it in the broader scope of Indian history. It dissects the political, social, and cultural factors that fueled the rebellion, while spotlighting pivotal figures and regional resistance movements."
- "Prakash Jha's 'The Uprising: A Chronicle of the Beginnings of the Indian Freedom Movement' (2001) offers an overview of the 1857 rebellion and its repercussions on India's quest for independence. The film scrutinizes the socio-political environment, the root causes of the uprising, and the ramifications of British colonialism."
- "Ketan Mehta's 'Mangal Pandey: The Rising' (2005) is a cinematic portrayal of Mangal Pandey, a crucial figure in the early phases of the rebellion. It delves into his role in the events preceding the uprising and his actions as a soldier in the British Indian Army."
- "Priyadarshan's 'Kaalapaani' (1996) unfolds against the backdrop of the 1857 uprising. While primarily centered around the resistance against British rule in the Cellular Jail on the Andaman Islands, it provides a window into the rebellion and its societal repercussions."
- "Shyam Benegal's 'Junoon' (1978) is set during the 1857 uprising in North India. Though not exclusively focused on Delhi, it paints a vivid picture of the socio-political milieu of the era and the effects of the rebellion on common people."
- "Ketan Mehta's 'The Rising: Ballad of Mangal Pandey' (2005) presents another perspective on Mangal Pandey and his involvement in the 1857 uprising. It delves into his camaraderie with a British officer and the sequence of events that led to his rebellion against the British."

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