



- The **direct responsibility for the administration of the country was assumed by the British Crown** and **Company rule was abolished**.
- The assumption of the Government of India by the sovereign of Great Britain was announced by **Lord Canning at a durbar at Allahabad in the 'Queen's Proclamation' issued on November 1, 1858**.
- **Princely states and paramountcy:** As per the Queen's proclamation, the **era of annexations and expansion had ended** and the British promised to respect the dignity and rights of the native princes. The Indian states were henceforth to **recognise the paramountcy of the British Crown** and were to be **treated as parts of a single charge**.
  - The people of India were promised freedom of religion without interference from British officials.
- **Rule of law:** The proclamation also promised equal and impartial protection under law to all Indians, **besides equal opportunities in government services irrespective of race or creed**. It was also promised that old Indian rights, customs, and practices would be given due regard while framing and administering the law.
- **Army reforms:** The army, which was at the forefront of the outbreak, was thoroughly reorganised and British military policy came to be dominated by the idea of **"division and counterpoise"**.
  - The British could **no longer depend on Indian loyalty**, so the number of **Indian soldiers was drastically reduced** even as the number of European soldiers was increased.
  - The concept of **divide and rule was adopted, with separate units being created on the basis of caste/community/region**.
  - Recruits were to be drawn from the 'martial' races of Punjab, Nepal, and north-western frontier who had proved loyal to the British during the revolt. Effort was made to keep the army away from civilian population.
- **Divide and Rule:** The policy of divide and rule started in earnest after the Revolt of 1857. The British **used one class/community against another unscrupulously**.
  - Thus, **socially**, there was **irremediable deterioration**. While British territorial conquest was at an end, a period of systematic economic loot by the British began.

## Conclusion

For the British, the Revolt of 1857 proved useful in that it showed up the glaring shortcomings in the Company's administration and its army, which they rectified promptly. These defects would never have been revealed to the world if the Revolt had not happened.

For the Indians, the 1857 Revolt had a major influence. In conceptual terms, the British who had started their rule as 'outsiders', became 'insiders' by vesting in their monarch the sovereignty of India. Bernard Cohn (in context of the Queen's Proclamation) on the course of the struggle for freedom. It brought out in the open grievances of people and the sepoys, which were seen to be genuine. The Revolt of 1857 did establish local traditions of resistance to British rule which were to be of help in the course of the national struggle for freedom.