PREFACE

The Uprising of 1857 is a memorable episode in the history of India. The death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb (1707 A.D.) marks a turning point in Indian history. Taking advantage of the prevalent situation many powers – Indian as well as Europeans made efforts to establish supremacy. A long struggle ensued among them and the British ultimately succeeded in laying the foundation of a Colonial State that lasted up to 1947.

Disenchantment and discontentment among the ruled came as a natural sequel to British rule. Along with territorial expansion their main motive of economic profit was fulfilled by the British and they created a deep economic discontent among different sections of Indian society. Indians wanted an opportunity to overthrow the Company's rule and got it in the 1857. The Uprising of 1857 was in many ways a representation of such feelings among the people. The Uprising shook the foundation of British rule but was suppressed with great power and ruthlessness.

The Uprising of 1857 is a great landmark in the history of India. The year 1857 symbolizes a turning point in the history of modern India because in that eventful year an upsurge, invariably referred to as the 'Mutiny' in most contemporary accounts, took on the dimensions of a rebellion as the princes and people of India, following the lead given by the sepoys, challenged a well-established administrative set up. Over the years, the nature and scope of this great struggle has been the subject of controversy with historians in India and overseas. During the last one and half century a massive literature have been produced by the historians and scholars on this event. However, it goes without saying that this Uprising occupies a unique peace in the annals of Indian freedom struggle.
The present study is a humble attempt to assess the British historiography on the Uprising of 1857. The present research work is based mainly on primary and contemporary sources from different archives, libraries and historical research centres. Some newspapers information have also been relied upon. Besides, some secondary sources have also been used.

The study is divided into six chapters. The First chapter entitled, "Historical Perspective" is all about the causes, events and suppression and nature of the Uprising of 1857. In this chapter, emphasize has been provided on the economic grievances among the Indians, which was the major cause of the Uprising has been discussed. The emphasize on the contributory factors, which were responsible for the birth of nationalism in India which emerged with the end of the Uprising has also been discussed since the sacrifices made by the Indians remain as an inspiration for the future course of events.

The second chapter is titled as 'Writings of John William Kaye, G.W. Malleson and J. Cave Brown'. In this chapter the approaches of some prominent Imperialist historians have been discussed. Sir J.W. Kaye, narrated the events of 1857 in three volums, 'History of the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58' in a chronological order from the administration of Lord Dalhousie to the progress of events in different parts of India. Kaye accepted it as the striking explanation of their national character in the historical records of British. G.B. Malleson carried on the work of Kaye, which was incomplete and called it Kaye's and Malleson's 'history of the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58', which is a continuation of Sir John Kaye's work in three volumes. Malleson called the event as Mutiny and found that enforcement of western ideas on eastern people awakened the large land owners and rural population against the British rule and it has also been discussed in this chapter.
After that another prominent work came forward with totally different aspect by J.C. Browne whose work entitled 'The Punjab and Delhi in 1857' has described the causes of Uprising at Panjab and Delhi.

The Chapter III entitled as, 'Charles Ball and other perspectives, during the 19th Century', discussed the views of Charles Ball and other 19th Century British Historians. Charles Ball's 'The History of the Indian Mutiny' in two volumes is a detailed account of the causes of discontent at different places. Charles Ball tried his best to show the racial superiority of the British who were successful not only in the suppression of the revolt but in the establishment of the British Empire in India and it has been discussed in this chapter. Other 19th century historian like; 'Reminiances of an Indian officials' by O Cavenagh, "life of Lord Lawrence" Vol. I & II' by R.B. Smith, 'The Sepoy Revolt, its causes and its consequences' by Henry Mead, 'Two natives of the Mutiny in Delhi' by C.T. Metcalf, 'The Indian Rebellion, its causes and results in series of letters' by A. Duff & etc., have been discussed in this chapter.

The Chapter IV entitled as 'G.W. Forrest and 20th Century Historiography' deals with the approaches of G.W. Forrest and other 20th Century British historians. G.W. Forrest has written 'A History of the Indian Mutiny' in three volumes, which was published in 1904. According to Forrest sepoys discontentment and the greased cartridges have created the spark and he called the 10th of May a military outbreak at the Meerut cantonment. According to him there were also other economic grievances which swept over the land. Another prominent British historians of 20th century have also been discussed in this chapter like 'The Revolt in Central India' by W. Malleson, 'Delhi 1857' by K. Young, 'The Indian Mutiny' by R. Hilton, 'The Other side of the

The Chapter V titled as 'Account of the British Administrators' has discussed the Approach of British administrator. These administrator played an important role during the Uprising of 1857. In this chapter an attempt has been made to explore views of Company's Governor-General and other officer. To examined the history of Uprising, the help of these officers, personal diaries–autobiography, memoirs, private papers, reminiscences and 1st hand writings have been taken. This chapter has also discussed the writings of British administrators like – 'Daily life during the Indian Mutiny' by J.W. Sherer, 'An Account of the Mutinies in Oudh and the siege of Lucknow' by M.R. Gubbins, "Records of the Intelligence Department of the Government of the North west Provinces of India during the Mutiny of 1857", by Sir William Muir, 'Personal Narrative of the Siege of Lucknow' by L.E. Rutrt Rees and 'A Personal Narrative of the outbreak and Massacre At Cawnpore, During the sepoys Revolt of 1857' by W.J. Shephered and etc.

The sixth chapter entitled 'Assessment of the British Generals and other Military Officers' has focused on the approach of the military officers and Military Generals and the methods used by the company's military officials for the suppression of the Uprising has been discussed in this chapter. Every military historians describes that the 1857 revolt was because of the dissatisfaction in Bengal army's soldiers. But very soon it spread among all army's soldiers. They have accepted fundamentally it was an army mutiny. In this chapter the writings of British Generals and other Military officers like – 'The sepoy Revolt ; A Critical Narrative' by J. Mcleod Innes, 'The Indian Munity is
perspective’ by Sir George MacMunn, and 'Recollection of a military life' by Adye Gen. J. E. & etc have also been discussed.

At the concluding part the views of British historians during the 19th century and 20th century have been examined. The British historians called the Uprising of 1857 in India as 'Mutiny' because it was sparked through the sepoys of Meerut on 10th May 1857. But majority of the Indian scholars described it as the 'first war of independence' because of the unity of Hindu-Muslim and its widespread nature. Other non-British Europeans called it a 'national uprising' as the Indians for the first time unitedly tried to overthrow the foreign rule of English East India Company. With the passage of time the views of the historians moved with different approaches. British historians at the time of Uprising wanted to maintain the supremacy of the British Empire and to glorify it. British historiography on the Uprising became sermon not a science, and offered the most tangible evidence of the colonial prejudices of the English people whose hatred of the Indians extended beyond religion to race. An exhaustive bibliography and glossary have been added at the end of the thesis.

(Suman Siwach)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the outset I wish to express my eternal gratitude to my esteemed Guru ji and Supervisor, Dr. Amarjit Singh, Professor and Chairman, Department of History, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, for his supervision, valuable advice, and guidance from the very early stage of this research work to the completion of my research work and as well as giving me extraordinary experiences throughout the work. Above all and the most needed, he provided me unflinching encouragement and support in various ways and enriched my growth as a student, as a researcher and as a teacher, I want to be. I am indebted to him more than he knows.

I want to express my gratitude to my other teachers of Department of History, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra for encouraging me throughout this period. I also take this opportunity to express my indebtedness to the non-teaching staff of my department for their co-operation.

I am grateful to the officials and staff of the National Archives of India, New Delhi, who helped me in collection of research material. I am thankful to the staff of Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi, Central Reference Library, Delhi University, Delhi, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi and Indian Council of Historical Research Library, New Delhi, for providing me rare books. I am also thankful to the staff of Punjab State Archives, Patiala, Haryana State Archives, Panchkula who provided me the necessary facilities and all kind of assistance. I am also thankful to the Librarians and staff of the Jawahar Lal Nehru Library, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, and the Librarian, Department of History, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra for their valuable assistance.
I am extremely grateful to the Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra for awarding me a four year University Research Scholarship (U.R.S.) to pursue my research work.

Words are inadequate to express thankfulness to my respected parents Sh. Abhey Ram and Smt. Krishna Devi for their love and affection and especially to my brother Dr. Ram BhusHan for all his help. I heartedly express the feeling of gratitude to my respected Father-in-law Shri Randhir Singh and Mother-in-law Smt. Sheela Devi for their affection. I would also like to mention the name of Mr. Azad Singh, Smt. Suman Devi, Jyoti, Dipti and Suman.

I owe my gratitude to my husband Mr. Pawan Kumar. I specially thank him for his loving care, moral support and constant motivation. Words also cannot explain the love of my little daughter Ashna. Her face just provided me full energy whenever I felt tired during the course of my research work.

I would like to express my loving thanks to my sisters Dr. Seema Singh, Kranti, brother Mr. Sandeep Siwach, my bhabi Kavita and also to my friends Dr. Ritu Mahajan, Mr. Naresh Nain, Dharmvir Saini and Neeraj Kumar.

At the end, I would like to thank one and all who have helped me for the successful completion of my thesis.

Date: Kurukshetra

(Suman Siwach)