SKIMMING AND SCANNING – MARKING UP YOUR READING

The table below contains some symbols which are useful for marking up a text as you read it. These symbols allow you to identify areas of the text which are important in some way.

| ✓  | This confirms what I thought |
| ✗ | This contradicts what I thought |
| ? | This puzzles me |
| ?? | This really confuses me |
| * | This strikes me as important |
| → | This is new or interesting to me |
| R | This reminds me of something (you can make a note of what it reminds you of!) |
| A | This answers a question that I had |

**EXAMPLE**

**Indian Rebellion of 1857**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a major, but ultimately unsuccessful, uprising in India in 1857–58 against British rule. For nearly 100 years, that rule had been presided over by the British East India Company, which had functioned as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown. The rebellion began on 10 May 1857 in the form of a mutiny of sepoys of the Company's army in the garrison town of Meerut, 40 miles northeast of Delhi (now Old Delhi). It then erupted into mutinies and civilian rebellions chiefly in the upper Gangetic plain and central India, though incidents of revolt also occurred further north and east. The rebellion posed a considerable threat to British power in that region, and was contained only with the rebels' defeat in Gwalior on 20 June 1858. On 1 November 1858, the British granted amnesty to all rebels not involved in murder, though they did not declare the hostilities formally to have ended until 1 July 1859. The rebellion is known by many names, including the Sepoy Mutiny; the Indian Mutiny; the Great Rebellion, the Revolt of 1857; the Indian Insurrection; and India's First War of Independence.

The Indian rebellion was fed by resentments born of diverse perceptions, including invasive British-style social reforms, harsh land taxes, summary treatment of some rich landowners and princes, as well as skepticism about the improvements brought about by British rule. Many Indians did rise against the British, however, very many also fought for the British, and the majority remained seemingly complying to British rule. Violence, which sometimes betrayed exceptional cruelty, was inflicted on both sides, on British officers, and civilians, including women and children, by the rebels, and on the rebels, and their supporters, including sometimes entire villages, by British reprisals, the cities of Delhi and Lucknow were laid waste in the fighting and the British retaliation.

After the outbreak of the mutiny in Meerut, the rebels very quickly (reached Delhi), whose 81-year-old Mughal ruler, Bahadur Shah Zafar, they declared the Emperor of Hindostan. Soon, the rebels had also captured large tracts of the North-Western Provinces and Awadh (Oudh). The East India Company's response came as well. With help from reinforcements, Kanpur was retaken by mid-July 1857, and Delhi by the end of September. However, it then took the remainder of 1857 and the better part of 1858 for the rebellion to be suppressed in Jhansi, Lucknow, and especially the Awadh countryside. Other regions of Companycontrolled India—Bengal presidency, the Bombay Presidency, and the Madras Presidency—remained largely calm. In the Punjab, the Sikh princes usually helped the British by providing both soldiers and support. The large princely states, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, and Kashmir, as well as the smaller ones of Rajputana, did not join the rebellion, serving the British, in the Governor-General Lord Canning's words, as “breakwaters in a storm.”

In some regions, most notably in Awadh, the rebellion took on the attributes of a patriotic revolt against European presence. However, the rebel leaders proclaimed no articles of faith that provoked a new political system. Even so, the rebellion proved to be an important watershed in Indian- and British Empire history.

As was the case in Japan, the financial system, and the administration in India, through passage of the Government of India Act 1858, India was thereafter administered directly by the British government in the new British Raj. On 1 November 1858, Queen Victoria issued a proclamation to Indians, which while lacking the authority of a constitutional provision, promised rights similar to those of other British subjects. It followed decades, when admission to these rights was not always forthcoming. Indians were to positively refer to the Queen's proclamation in growing awareness of a new nationalism.

**Indian Rebellion of 1857**

A 1912 map showing the centres of the rebellion

**Date**

10 May 1857 – 1 November 1858 (1 year and 6 months)

**Location**

India

**Result**

British victory

- Suppression of the revolt
- Formal end of the Mughal empire
- End of Company rule in India
- Transfer of rule to the British Crown

**Territorial changes**

British Indian Empire created out of former East India Company territory (some land returned to native rulers, other land confiscated by the British crown)

**Belligerents**

- Sepoy mutineers
- Mughal Empire
- British Gwalior forces
- Forces of Rani Laxmi Bai, the rebel ruler of Jhansi
- Forces of Nana Sahib of Poona

**British**

- British Empire
- Kingdom of Nepal
- East India Company

**Nepal**

- Ajaygarh
- Alwar
- Bhavnagar
- Bhuridattpur

**India**

- Awadh
- Bikaner