



COMMUN X  
HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE

The Siege of Delhi

*Background Guide*

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## Letter from the Crisis Head

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to COMMUN X's Siege of Delhi Committee. Here, you'll work either to put down the 1857 Sepoy Rebellion on the British side, or keep the besieged city from crumbling on the mutineers' side. I'm Aditya, a junior, and I will be your crisis head for this conference. I'll be moderating your discussions as you navigate the unfolding crisis, but the rest is up to you: MUN is best when you all practice constructive communications to find resolutions, a skill that I hope you will take back to your communities. I also hope you all will have fun and maybe make some friends along the way. To best facilitate the conversation, **position papers will be required** to win an award on this committee. For sources, feel free to use those I've listed, or anything else linked throughout the document; additionally, you may want to search to find your own through libraries or the internet. Additionally, our committee is a crisis committee, meaning delegates will have to respond to events in real-time, voting on a course of action that helps them support their own and their room's position. Use your role's skills and abilities to affect the situation directly; to use these portfolio powers, which you can find under your role, you should pass notes to your chairs. *Don't worry if it doesn't make sense yet, we'll get things sorted at the beginning of the conference, and I, along with your chairs, will be there to support you throughout!*

I'm so excited to see your resolutions on the day-of. If you have any questions about the topic or your background guides, please feel free to email me at the address below!

Sincerely,

**Aditya Anand**

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تختِ لندن تک چلے گی تیغِ ہندوستان کی

“So long shall the sword of Hindustan flash before the throne of London.”

Bahadur Shah Zafar

### **Useful Terms**

- The East India Company (EIC) was a company sponsored by the British government to carry out trade in the Indian subcontinent. At first they stuck to this model, bringing home spices in return for European gunpowder technology. However, with the amount of freedom the British gave them to do what they pleased, the EIC quickly became more imperial in nature; it would rule India as an empire.
- Jihad is a religious war of independence by oppressed Muslim communities. However, around this time, the perception of the term would be distorted as a conflict against Christians as a whole. Colonized peoples across the world would call for Jihads, and India was no exception. As you read through, ask yourself: was this conflict a Jihad?

### **History**

To understand the 1857 Rebellion, you'll need the context of a couple centuries of religious, cultural, and governmental developments on the Indian subcontinent. While reading through this section, please keep in mind that the region had long been split into kingdoms; the idea of an “India,” was championed mostly by pious Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and later, Muslims who wanted to start religious empires.

### **Brahminism**

It's difficult to determine exactly when Brahminism emerged; some theorists place its inception at 1500BC, others at 8000BC. Brahmins, or priests, memorized the hymns and sacrifices, and were hired by tribal chieftains (rajās); the importance of this relationship could not be understated, as by the later Vedic

age (~700-500 BC), when those tribes became large kingdoms and the rajas became kings, a well developed caste system had emerged, with Brahmins above the Kshatriyas (Kings, Warriors, Landowners), Vaishyas (Merchants) and Shudras (Manual Laborers, Farmers), in that order. Later a Dalit, or untouchable caste was added. Throughout the following centuries, Brahminism would evolve into Jainism, Buddhism, and many other religions, but it was Hinduism that would gain the most followers from the 4th - 8th Century AD.

### **The Arrival of Islam & The Mughal Empire**

During the late Medieval era, from the 7th to 12th centuries, Muslim conquerors and merchants from the Middle East and Central Asia introduced Islam to India. It began as a small religious movement, but quickly gained traction as multiple Muslim Kingdoms popped up. By the time Babur, a descendent of Genghis Khan (thus the name, Mughal, came from Genghis' Mongol Empire), appeared in the 1520s, Islam had become the religion of a sizable part of the continent. Babur's quick expansion led to the rise of the Mughal Empire, and with it came the consolidation of the power of high-caste muslims.

The Empire would have a Golden Age between the rules of Akbar (1556) and Aurangzeb (1707); several modern estimates place the Mughals as the most economically and militarily powerful country in the world in its time. Surprisingly, Mughal Emperors held religious tolerance as a critical policy, even holding debates between representatives of the Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Muslim faiths.<sup>1</sup> As Christians began to increase trade with India at this time, they would also partake in these discussions.

However, that's not to say there was no tension. Many natives were forced to convert in order to avoid higher taxes which they couldn't afford, and under some Mughal Emperors, many were threatened with violence. Still, while the government was undoubtedly Islamic, the country had a clear Hindu majority. After Aurangzeb's death, the Mughals fell into decline: high caste Muslims<sup>2</sup> and local leaders

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<sup>1</sup> For reference, religious tolerance movements like this only began to emerge in the West in the 1880s-90s; the World's Parliament Of Religions, held in Chicago in 1893, is probably the most notable example.

<sup>2</sup> The caste system didn't only apply to Hindus, as other religions began to incorporate it over time. Part of the reason this happened was because converts carried over their statuses.

took the emperor's rule in government, effectively becoming independent. During the rule of Muhammad Shah from 1719 to 1748, states began to openly secede from the empire. Disastrous wars followed. Delhi, the capital, was sacked by Afghan and Maratha invaders until 1757, when the British conquered it. The Shah's power was limited first to Delhi's city walls, but eventually, Mughal control extended to the Red Fort, the royal palace. Within the context of this decline, in 1775, Bahadur Shah II, later renamed Bahadur Shah Zafar, was born.

### **Rise of the East India Company, EIC**

1603 marked the first recorded trips of the British to the Indies. Just eight years later, they established their first factory in India. It's worth noting that other Europeans, notably the Portuguese and French, were simultaneously establishing their own trading posts. At this time, the Mughals were ruled by Emperor Akbar. Under his reign, many foreign merchants came to trade spices and other goods, so nothing marked the British as particularly special. The continent was in a Golden age, marked by relative stability and peace, with modern estimates marking it as the richest country of its time.

Early relations between settlers and the Empire were healthy. The EIC would spend the rest of the 17th century aiming to gain the Mughal's patronage and improve relations, claiming no land and focusing purely on trade. Cultural mixing between Europeans settlers and Indians at the time was surprisingly widespread, with many of the English showing a great interest in India's culture, and some even intermarrying.

After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Mughal realm had fallen into chaos, with virtually all of its territories becoming independent. Delhi was regularly made subject to conquest by usurping generals from across India, until finally being conquered by the British in 1757 at the Battle of Plassey. Around the same time, the EIC's ideas of conquest began to lean more into Christianizing natives, and the intermixing came to an end. This new disconnect between British and Indian cultures played a key part in the rebellion. However, the EIC only gave tacit support of conversion policies, including placing missionaries in places of power, as well as starting multiple orphanages and schools to teach the Bible. Similar policies

would be used in China during the Opium Wars and other parts of the Empire. This tumult culminated in the Education Act of 1835, which diverted all funding from native schools to ones that taught Western subjects.

The Muslim world was going through its own ideological transformation; under the pressures of colonialism, many radicals called for *Jihads*—religious wars of independence—against British rule; India was no exception. The clerics of the Wahhabi Sufi sect specifically became influential in the years before the conflict. Note that they still only represented a small portion of citizens: the majority of Muslims saw them as radical.

### **The Rebellion Breaks Out**

The rebellion itself broke out for a seemingly arbitrary reason: gun cartridges. Within the 19th Century, advances in weapons technology and gunpowder were being made rapidly, and the British sought to upgrade their colonial arsenal.<sup>3</sup> However, rumors began to circulate that the guns' cartridges had been dipped in pig and cow fat, and to use them they had to be bitten. This wasn't what triggered the rebellion, as British officers noted how open the Sepoys, Indian Soldiers serving under the EIC, were to corporate. The EIC's real mistake was to force the native soldiers who served in the colonial army to bite the cartridges.

The Bengal Sepoys in particular protested for a couple reasons. First, their kingdom of Oudh, or Awadh, had only recently been conquered by the British, and many still held resentments. The Hindus among them could not use any beef products, as cows had, and still have, a culturally and religiously significant place in their culture. Muslims, the majority, couldn't use pork products; understandably, many complained to their British leaders, but the identity of the liquid on the cartridge couldn't be verified. Interviewers noted, though, that they had been especially cooperative and peaceful.

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<sup>3</sup> Contrary to popular belief, the British weren't the only ones with this tech: Indian kingdoms had also adapted their militaries as new weapons and strategies got developed. The question as to why they were eventually conquered, then, is still a source of contention today.

After months of protest, Lieutenant Baugh, stationed with his Sepoys in Meerut, just north of Delhi, demanded forcefully that they bite the cartridges. During this episode, his fellow generals urged him to stop, but he continued anyway; one of his troops, Mangal Pandey, refused, began to shoot and called for an uprising. Pandey would later be tried in court, and was found to be under the influence of *bhang*, marijuana, when he mutinied, but the deed was done: the rebellion started in Meerut and expanded quickly. Within weeks they had marched into Delhi and, with the help of Indian soldiers inside who deserted and joined them, they quickly took control of the city.

It is important to stress the complexity of the conflict. Neither side can be considered entirely moral. The British hoped for domination of the Indian subcontinent and called to replace its culture with their own, even if it meant killing civilians to get there; the mutineers killed uninvolved Christian converts upon reaching the city. Both sides committed what would today be considered atrocities. Because Delhi was almost completely destroyed after the fact, we don't have access to many sources from the Sepoys' perspective, that being why the conflict is usually referred to as a mutiny or uprising instead of a revolution.<sup>4</sup> Many of those that exist are untranslated, but the book [The Last Mughal](#) takes a stab at documenting the Delhiwallas' (people of Delhi's) experiences. Much of this committee will be based around it, so feel free to read it if you're interested, but given its length, note that any readings beyond this document are not necessary.

Though the city's people initially welcomed the rebellion, reality quickly set in: the Sepoys looted shops, arrested citizens and political opponents, and committed crimes ranging from petty to violent. The British had begun to besiege Delhi, and the city was beginning to crumble under a lack of resources; for their part, the mutineers forced Mughal royals into positions of power, seeing the rebellion as a chance to revive the Mughal Empire. Remember that since Delhi was conquered in 1757, many believed the Wahhabi prophecy that India would be liberated after 100 years.

## **Blocs & Roles**

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<sup>4</sup> When understanding this conflict, it can be helpful to ask: What's the difference? How would you classify it?

## The Ridge

EIC military officials who fled Delhi settled on a protective Ridge just outside of the city walls. The first weeks were tough, with a cholera outbreak, multiple Sepoy attacks, and a lack of supplies. But victories at Nafargarh and Badlii Ki-Sarai in the countryside have strengthened the British position; with reinforcements actively arriving, the question then was whether to launch an attack. Many generals feared the mutineers still outnumbered the Ridge by hundreds of thousands of troops, whereas others felt any delay was costing them crucial time. That issue, though, will be up for you to decide in committee.

## John Nicholson

A firebrand general known for cruelty as much for ingenuity. After making sure Punjab was stable, he arrived at the ridge as the British's saving grace, beating back the Sepoys at Badli Kii-Sarai and Nafargarh. Some called him an "imperial psychopath," including his own countrymen, and he was reported to have told General Archdale Wilson that he would shoot him if he delayed the attack on Delhi.

With all of his victories, Nicholson gathered an incredible amount of support from the soldiers of the Ridge. Consider using this influence as a portfolio power to get your points into order.

## Archdale Wilson

Having kept the ridge safe from attacks until Nicholson's reinforcements arrived, Wilson bore the brunt of the early rebellion; in fact, he'd been one of the generals in Meerut at the first mutiny. Wilson often encouraged delaying the attack on Delhi due to his fears that the Sepoy force outnumbered. His approach is more passive than many would like.

As a portfolio Power, though your influence is waning, if you're skilled with your words, you can gradually gain support among the soldiers; use this to advance you own positions in committee

## William Hodson



After his heroic exploits transporting soldiers and supplying across miles of dangerous territory, Hodson was given control of 2,000 cavalry troops who would come to be known as “Hodson’s Horses,” and would serve a key role in the smaller attacks on Sepoy forces; in one incident, he convinced 6000 mutineers to surrender peacefully, a sign of their demoralization. Though he wanted to attack Delhi as soon as possible, he, unlike many others, respected General Archdale Wilson’s wish to keep waiting until more information about the city’s forces was gathered.

As portfolio powers, you control your cavalry unit, which can be used for attacks, diplomacy, or to meddle with enemy supply lines. Additionally, as a partial leader of intelligence, you have access to a network of spies and saboteurs in the city, including a connection in the Red Fort. Use these wisely to advance yours and the Ridge’s position in committee.

### James Hope Grant

As a veteran of the Opium Wars in China and First Anglo-Sikh War in Northwest India, Grant was no stranger to war, and it showed: his cavalry contributions significantly aided the Ridge to regain control of Delhi. Grant’s Victories against the Sepoys in the city’s countryside also brought in much-needed supplies from seizing weapons, for which he was seen as a saving grace. He understood the risks of attacking the city too early and thus partially supported General Archdale Wilson, but felt the Ridge needed to focus on destroying supply lines.

For a portfolio power, your victories have gained you significant influence over the troops, which you can use to sway resolutions in your favor; additionally, you have command of some cavalry troops, which you can use to attack, bring supplies or spy.

### Sir John Lawrence

After the rebellion broke out, Lawrence would lead logistics in the Punjab; it was through his careful planning that a Sikh revolt was avoided, with him being popular even among Punjabi natives. Any remaining soldiers he sent to the ridge to take part in the eventual siege of Delhi. Now, as General Wilson

demands more before attacking, Lawrence knows he could risk losing control over Punjab if diverts any more resources. That decision, though, will be up to you.

**Note that in real life, Lawrence was not at the Ridge for the siege, but for the sake of this committee he will be present to oversee logistics.**

As a portfolio power, you can choose to bring more soldiers and other resources from other parts of India to here; be careful, though, because this might open the door for rebellion to start in Punjab.

### Charles Reid

As the captain of the Sirmoor Battalion, Reid was in command of some of the only Indian soldiers who chose to take the British's side; many of them were Nepalis who had previously fought wars with the Sepoys in the lowland, and thus held suspicions against them. Generals on the ridge were on edge, Reid often had to defend the Sirmoor Battalion's use. Nonetheless, the Gurkha's proved effective in their battles in the Delhi countryside, though Reid himself was injured.

As a portfolio power, Reid can control his own division of 200 Gurkhas (290 have already been injured); note that their job doesn't solely have to be military, as they may be better suited to destroy the Red Fort's supply lines.

### Sir Edward Talbert Thackeray

As a young second lieutenant, Thackeray, like many others, viewed this crisis as a chance to advance his rank and claim glory; thus, his actions were often risky. As an engineer his skills were valuable in the breaching of Delhi's walls, making him indispensable for the attack. His knowledge of the city's layout also proved crucial.

As portfolio powers, you have access to a team of engineers which you can use to launch attacks, or help with the EIC's technology. The reestablishment of telegram lines could bring in reinforcements from around the Empire. Additionally, you have access to a network of saboteurs and spies in the city, which can be used to launch internal attacks or report back with information.

### Philip Salkeld

Salkeld, a 26 year old at the time of the siege, served as both an engineer and a fighter, making him a valuable asset to the struggling British. His technical skills can come in handy several times, especially for keeping military technology up and running.

Though we don't know much about his real life opinions, as an engineer, he likely shared General Nicholson's views that the British needed to attack the city as soon as possible, like others in his position. However, with his low rank, he likely also had respect for General Wilson's perspective, that they would need to wait to gain more information on the mutineers' forces before striking.

As portfolio powers, Salkeld may use his technical abilities to aid the Ridge's defences and attacks; additionally, he has access to a small number of troops, which he may use for his own purposes; use these wisely to advance your position in the committee!

### Duncan Charles Home

Duncan Charles Home, a lieutenant in the Bengal Engineers branch of the EIC military, was instrumental in maintaining the Ridge's technology during attacks. His use of explosives made him a powerful asset.

Though we don't know much about his real life opinions, as an engineer, he likely shared General Nicholson's views that the British needed to attack the city as soon as possible, like others in his position. However, with his low rank, he likely also had respect for General Wilson's perspective, that they would need to wait to gain more information on the mutineers' forces before striking.

As portfolio powers, Home may use his technical abilities to aid the Ridge's defences and attacks; additionally, he has access to a small number of troops, which he may use for his own purposes; use these wisely to advance your position in the committee!

### Lord Colin "Baron Clyde" Campbell

Having served against Napoleon 60 years earlier, the Baron's colonial exploits have stretched from China to the Americas. He served as the Commander of All British Forces in India from the war's beginning, and had been tasked with putting down later revolts at Lucknow and Cawnpore.

**Note that in real life, Campbell was not at the ridge, but for the sake of this committee he'll be there to oversee communications with the British mainland.**

As a portfolio power, you must use your high status to connect directly with the British government and crown; if reinforcements can be brought from other parts of the Empire, the crisis will surely reach a quick end! However, access to a telegram machine would be necessary to establish a line, and most of them have been destroyed and broken by the mutineers. If you can collect parts and get Richard Baird Smith's technicians to repair it, it may change the course of the siege.

#### Henry W. Barnard

As one of the many on the ridge with cholera, Barnard still brought the British a victory at Badli kii-Sarai on the outskirts of Delhi; his hopes to take Delhi were less about bloodshed, and he stressed the goal was not to kill the mutineers; because of this sentiment, he was a moderate supporter of General Wilson, advocating that an attack on the city should be delayed until more information about the mutineer's forces came back. Barnard believed the attack had to be delayed so doctors could be brought in to treat the ridge's cholera outbreak. Getting stable supplies, he asserted, was essential to the success of the attack, and perhaps for his own survival.

**Note that in real life, Barnard died of his illness before the attack began, but for the sake of this committee he'll be surviving.**

As a portfolio power, you have a large amount of influence amongst the sick and tired soldiers. Many of them are demanding better wages or simply deserting, and you must act as a voice between the committee and the people. You can influence soldiers to affect decision-making; use these powers wisely as you advance your own resolutions.

### Richard Baird Smith

As the Ridge's chief engineer from the beginning, Smith attempted to convince one general after another to take back the city, but by the time Nicholson had arrived, the ridge's forces had been weakened significantly. You also lead a group of sappers, saboteurs, in the city.

With you being the lead engineer, your portfolio power is, arguably, one of the most important: to initiate the attack by destroying the city wall. If you refuse to do this, things become a lot harder for the other Generals. Leverage this wisely to advance your own interests! On top of this, perhaps keeping tabs on the city's spy network would be useful.

### Robert Tytler

When he was young, Tytler followed in his father's footsteps and joined the EIC's army, serving in the first Anglo-Sikh War. His position on the ridge is conspicuous, but we do know he and his wife, Harriet, documented much of the conflict through photography; additionally, he may have supported General Wilson's wishes to delay the response to wait for more reinforcements, and, as an avid naturalist and culturalist, may have wished to prevent as much destruction and bloodshed as possible.

Though his loyalties ultimately lie with the colonial authorities, he was more willing than others to work to find a peaceful solution; if necessary, Tytler can use this diplomatic instinct as a portfolio power, sending notes to the Red Fort's leaders, hearing their demands, and voicing them to the rest of the Ridge.

### Harriet Tytler

Coming to the siege with her husband Robert, Harriet represented both the civilian population around Delhi and the demands of the camp's lower soldiers; chiefly, she knows the outbreak of Cholera must be contained before more on the committee get it, which means working to find doctors.

Note that not much is known about Harriet's positions, but for the sake of this committee they'll be more clearly defined.

As a portfolio power, you may converse with the camp's common people to a higher degree than most others, meaning you can gauge what they want and need; use this wisely to gather information and advance your positions!

### **The Red Fort**

The Mughal Royals of the Red Fort were a mixed bag, with some taking to solitary, poetic lifestyles and others vying for the throne through poisonings and political assassinations. When the Sepoys came out of nowhere, however, most were forced into military leadership positions. It's worth mentioning that there wasn't much choice in the matter with Delhi in chaos: mutineers looted shops, fought with each other, arrested opposition leaders and stole from civilian supplies to fight the British. Some in the Fort joined in with them, others resented them but couldn't do anything; your roles below will give you a framework for your positions. Good luck navigating the crumbling city!

### **Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II**

When Bahadur Shah was born in 1775, the British's influence in India was confined to mere trading outposts. Throughout his life, he witnessed the destruction of his lineage's empire, for two centuries the richest in the world, falling until his direct control extended only over the Red Fort's grounds. As a chessboard king, one nearing his 80's, he accepted the loss, and so when hundreds of Sepoys and religious revivalists took Delhi, he had little faith in their movement. Your role in the crisis is to protect the Delhiwallas as the city's administration falls into chaos. Balance the mutineers' demands with the needs of your people, even if it will cost your life, and that of the empire.

As the unofficial leader of civilian power and resistance in the city, you should use the high influence you hold over the Delhiwallas as a bargaining chip; additionally, many Sepoys see you as a key spiritual leader, but they are quickly becoming demoralized; leverage these portfolio powers wisely in committee to advance your own positions!

### Hakim Ahsanullah Khan

Hakim Ahsanullah Khan served as the personal physician and close confidant of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar, and was renowned for his loyalty. During the revolt of 1857, Ahsanullah Khan attempted to mediate with the British on behalf of the Emperor, an act that nearly cost him his life.

As the city's chief doctor and medical advisor, your portfolio power gives you control over many of the city's hospitals; overpopulated, with disease running rampant, the city is on the verge of crumbling, an issue which you must fix.

### Nawab Zinat Mahal Begum

The cunning last empress of the Mughals, she had long ruled in her husband Bahadur Shah Zafar's stead; often, her power was acquired through poisoning, whether it be of British Nobles, army generals, or even other family royals. When the Sepoys marched in, she lost much of her previous power over Delhi, and a sense of resentment was clear. She understood the threat, though, and worked tirelessly to keep her sons safe and in good standing.

As a portfolio power, you have access to a network of spies and saboteurs on the ridge and throughout the city; you can use them to destroy the infrastructure and operations of your opponents, or track down and imprison British spies and saboteurs; use this power wisely as you put forward your own resolutions!

### Mirza Mughal (b. Muhammad Zahir ud-din Mirza)

As the eldest legitimate son of the royal family, Mirza Mughal was originally appointed commander-in-chief by the Sepoys. He was inexperienced, knowing nothing about warfare, but he knew he had to act to organize troops to ensure the city's safety. When General Bakht Khan showed up, he took the position and Mirza was appointed to take charge of supplies, but he'd already become unpopular for his failures as a general in the Delhi countryside. Now, he's been given control over the city's administration, and he must work tirelessly to make sure to save as many Delhiwallas as possible.

As a portfolio power, you'll be given a small group of soldiers which he can use to keep the city stable, though, as discontented Sepoys, they may be hard to control. Keep in mind, though, that the mutineers aren't fond of you, the civilian population looks to you to keep them safe. Your uses of these things may be to secure supply lines, retain law and order, or, if the time comes, to stand up to the Sepoys' violent looting.

### Mirza Khizr Sultan

Not exactly popular, Khizr Sultan made a couple of mistakes that would hurt his reputation severely: firstly, he ran away in fear from the battle of Badli kii-Sarai, in which he was supposed to be leading the charge; as such, he was blamed for the Sepoy's crushing defeat. Secondly, he used the chaos of the rebellion as an excuse to arrest his opponents and steal money from Delhi's banks. Based on his behavior, it's likely he only joined the Sepoys for his own benefit.

Not a stranger to corruption, as a portfolio power, you may steal funds from public banks at risk of causing further instability.

### Mirza Abu Bakr

As a ruffian, Abu Bakr waited no time to join in with the Sepoys' chaos: looting Delhi's shops, beating soldiers and Red Fort workers, and attacking policemen who tried to arrest him were just a few of his crimes. Additionally, when he took control over some cavalry he led a disastrous expedition into the countryside, culminating with the Sepoy defeat at Hindan Bridge. To add onto this, he was famous for



submitting multiple complaints to Bahadur Shah Zafar, using his influence to demand benefits for himself.

Despite this, your cooperation with the Sepoys gives you a good reputation among them. So, as a portfolio power, you can gather a small force to keep loot shops with or attack the Ridge with; additionally, you can submit complaints to the Red Fort. Use both these powers wisely to strengthen your position!

### General Bakht Khan

As the city's main Sepoy general, elected to his position by his own troops, Bakht Khan originally looked like a saving grace when he showed up halfway through the siege; however, time has shown otherwise. By frequently butting heads with the royals, especially Mirza Mughal, he made many enemies early on. Additionally, his radical sect of Wahhabi Islam, which advocated for a Jihad (religious war of independence) to form a theocratic empire, marked him as extreme in the eyes of many. Though he may not be the most popular in the committee, the influence he holds in the mutineer's ranks can't be understated.

Keep in mind that Bakht's spiritual teacher, the cleric, Maulvi Sarfaraz Ali is also present in the committee, and has a significant influence on the city's Wahhabi population.

As portfolio powers, you should use this influence to lead attacks on the Ridge, or to secure your power by putting through policies that support yourself. Secondly, you may choose to open the city for Jihadist forces to enter and partake in the fighting, though understand this will likely destabilize the city immensely; aka, only do it if you absolutely need to!

### Mirza Ilahe Bakhsh

As one of the main pro-British elements in the Red Fort, his reputation among the Sepoys wasn't the best. He frequently attempted to convince Bahadur Shah Zafar to surrender before more lives were lost, but with the mutineers ransacking the city, neither had much of a choice. After the conflict he was

responsible for telling the British which of his family members were rebels and which were forced into the conflict, a deed for which he was later considered the *Traitor of Delhi*.

You have a connection at the Ridge, which you may use diplomatically, or to secretly give away information on the Red Fort's plans. Use this wisely to influence the committee's events.

### General Sudhari Singh

Called to the Ridge to fight, Sudhari Singh instead deserted and joined the Sepoys; likely, this was an attempt to avenge the Sikhs, a religious group from his home state of Punjab which Britain had conquered 12 years earlier. However, with the city being in chaos, Sudhari found it difficult to work with the Sepoys, many of whom were undisciplined and chose to loot Delhi's shops instead of to fight; in specific General Bakht Khan, who had arrived half way through the siege and argued constantly with other military leaders. Tensions got so bad that General Sudhari Singh and Brigade Major Hira Singh attempted to remove Khan from his position, though it failed.

As portfolio powers, Sudhari Singh has access to a brigade of soldiers. Additionally, as many Sikhs are serving on the Ridge, he may attempt to get them to desert; use these wisely to advance your own resolutions

### Brigade Major Hira Singh

Having fought for Punjab's independence in the First Anglo-Sikh war just 12 years prior, Major Singh was originally called to serve on the Ridge under General Hodson; instead, he deserted and joined the Sepoys, likely in an attempt to avenge his people's maltreatment by the British. However, like everyone else in Delhi, he found the rebellion was not all he hoped it would be: mutineers looted local businesses, broke into fights, and the main Sepoy General Bakht Khan frequently got into disagreements with others. For this reason Singh hoped to undermine Bakht's position as often as he could, and he and General Sudhari Singh would attempt to depose him before the Battle of Nafargarh. Still, though, he

wanted Delhi to become the start of a revolution throughout the EIC, so he stayed loyal to the Red Fort's cause.

As a portfolio power, Brigade Major Singh has a few brigades under his control. Additionally, as many Sikhs are employed on the Ridge, Singh may hope to convince them to desert; use these tools wisely as you navigate the committee!

### Maulvi Sarfaraz Ali

Many years prior to the rebellion, Maulvi Ali served as cleric of Wahhabi faith, a radical sect of Islam that sought to start a *Jihad* (religious war of independence) against the EIC, and establish a theocratic empire in its place. He was already well-connected throughout the Mughal court, having many students, even a certain General Bakht Khan, who would become the main Sepoy Military leader of Delhi. Still, though, most saw him as extreme. As Jihadists began to enter Delhi, Bakht's powers as a rebel leader were expanded.

As a portfolio power, you have an incredible amount of influence among Sepoys and many Wahhabis throughout Delhi. Additionally, you may attempt to raise troops by calling independent Jihadists from outside, but they will be predictably less organized; use these abilities wisely to advance your own resolutions in committee!

## **Position Papers**

**Do not** use AI models like ChatGPT for any reasons; **we will know if you write your paper with it.**

### **Questions to Consider**

The Ridge :

1. What do you think is the best strategy to take back the city? Why?
2. After the crisis, how should order be restored to the EIC?
3. How can you leverage your own influence to advance your own goals?
4. How would you work with those that have opposing views to you?

5. How would you work with the rebels themselves after they're captured?

The Red Fort :

1. What should the fort's top priority be?
2. How can the city's administration be kept together long-term?
3. If the rebels successfully repel the British, what then?
4. How can you leverage your own influence to advance your own goals?
5. How would you work with those that have opposing views to you?

### **Bibliography**

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Note: If you're wondering why certain Indian fighters stayed loyal to the British, this could help give context!

### **Additional Reading**

[https://books.google.com/books?id=mD2-fatW9DAC&pg=PA11&source=gbs\\_selected\\_pages&ad=1#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=mD2-fatW9DAC&pg=PA11&source=gbs_selected_pages&ad=1#v=onepage&q&f=false) Some poetry from Bahadur Shah Zafar himself! Delhi was a city proud of its arts, anyhow. For this reason, many viewed the Sepoys as uncultured, barbaric hillbillies.

English Education Act 1835: <https://time.graphics/event/237566> –recommended for context – If you want to go more in-depth, [this speech from Thomas Babbington Macaulay](#), a British politician, heavily influenced the act, and helps to explain some of the British's motivations.

Much of the paragraph on the muslim perspective is covered in more detail in this [article](#); I recommend you to check it out if you're interested!