

RISE OF NATIONALISM IN INDIA

IMPORTANT DATES AND YEARS:

1. 1913- Mahatma Gandhi started satyagraha in South Africa against the racist white government.
2. 1914-18- First World War.
3. 1915 – Mahatma Gandhi came back from South Africa.
4. 1916- Champaran Movement.
5. 1917 – Kheda Movement to support the peasant who could not pay the revenue due to crop failure and plague epidemic.
6. 1918 – Satyagraha movement at Ahmadabad to support the cotton mill workers against British atrocities.
7. 1919- Rowlatt Act was passed.
8. 1919 – Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
9. 1919 – Khilafat Movement.
10. 1921- Khilafat Non – Cooperation Movement.
11. 1922- Non Cooperation Movement was called off.
12. 1927- Formation of FICCI
13. 1928- Nehru Report (The Indian Constitution was drafted by Motilal Nehru)
14. 1929 –Lahore Session of Congress and demand of Complete Independence.
15. 1929 – A vague offer of Dominion Status was given by Lord Irwin.
16. 1930 – Distressed Class Association was formed by Dr. B R Ambedkar.
17. 1930 – Salt Law was broken through Dandi March(12 March 1930 to 6 April 1930)
18. 1930 - Civil Disobedience Movement was started.
19. 1930 – First Round Table Conference took place. Congress didn't participate.
20. 1931- Gandhi Irwin Pact.
21. 1931 – Second Round Table Conference took place. M K Gandhi and B R Ambedkar participated.
22. 1932- Poona pact between M K Gandhi and Dr. B R Ambedkar.

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES.

1. Mahatma Gandhi – The most prominent figure of Indian freedom struggle.
2. Pandit Motilal Nehru – A very famous lawyer of India who drafted the constitution of India in 1928 which was known as Nehru Report. He also played an important role in the formation of Swaraj Party in 1922.
3. Ravindra Nath Tagore – He wrote the national anthem of India (Jan – Gan – Man) and collected the folklores, myths and ballads of India to revive Indian Culture.
4. Natesa Shashtri – In Madras he published a four volume collection of Tamil Folk Tales, “The Folklore of Southern India.”
5. Baba Ramchandra – He was the leader of the peasant movement in Orissa.
6. G D Birla – An eminent industrialist who founded FICCI.
7. Purushottam Das Thakurdas – An industrialist who along with G D Birla founded FICCI.
8. Abanindranath Tagore – One of the greatest painters of India who painted Bharat Mata for the first time.
9. Bankim Chandra Chatterji – The author of Anandmath who wrote Vande Matram and used the word Bharat Mata for the first time.
10. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar – The founder of Depressed Class Association, a prominent lawyer who later on drafted Indian Constitution.
11. Alluri Sitaram Raju – A tribal leader who led the militant guerrilla movement in the Gudem Hills of Andhra Pradesh.
12. Abdul Gaffar Khan – Popularly known as Frontier Gandhi and a great companion of Mahatma Gandhi in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Why is the growth of nationalism in the colonies linked to anti-colonial movements?

The growth of modern nationalism in the colonies is linked to anti-colonial movements because people discovered their unity in the process of their struggle against colonialism. The sense of being oppressed under colonialism provided a shared bond that tied many different groups together. For example, India's struggle against British colonialism.

How did World War I help in the growth of the nationalist movement in India?

World War I brought about a change in the economic and political situation across India. It led to a huge increase in defence expenditure, which was financed by war loans. Custom duties were raised and income tax was introduced. The forced recruitment of the common people into the armies created an atmosphere of disappointment amongst the rural people in the country. To add to the problem, an influenza epidemic spread all over the country and caused the death of millions of people. These factors helped the growth of the nationalist movement in India.

Why were the Indians outraged by the Rowlatt Act?

The Rowlatt Act was hurriedly passed by the Imperial Legislative Assembly in 1919. Its features were:

1. The British Government could arrest or detain suspected persons and imprison them without a trial for two years.
2. No person had the right to appeal or approach a lawyer.
3. It gave the British government enormous autocratic powers, and the power to repress political activities of the Indians.

These features of the Rowlatt Act outraged the Indians.

Why did Mahatma Gandhi decide to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement?

Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement because of these reasons:

1. Since foreign cloth was boycotted, Khadi had to be worn. It was more expensive than foreign cloth. So people could not resist wearing foreign cloth.
2. Though teachers, lawyers, students, etc., boycotted British institutions, the process of establishing Indian institutions was slow. So these officials/students started joining back their British institutions.
3. The movement turned violent in many areas, for example, in Chauri Chaura. Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement until the people learned the true meaning of Satyagraha.

What is meant by the idea of Satyagraha?

The idea of Satyagraha emphasises the power of truth and the need to search for the truth. Mahatma Gandhi insisted on adhering to the truth under all circumstances. For him, if the cause is true and the struggle is against injustice, then physical force is not necessary to fight the oppressor.

Compare the images of Bharat Mata in this chapter with the image of Germania in Chapter 1.

There are two images of Bharat Mata - one is by Abanindranath Tagore and the other one by another artist. In Tagore's image, Bharat Mata is portrayed as an ascetic figure. She has been shown as calm, composed, divine and spiritual. In the other figure, she has been shown with a Trishul, standing beside a lion and an elephant. The two symbols have different forms. Thus, in India, Bharat Mata has acquired different forms. On the other hand, in Philip Velt's painting, Germania wears a crown of oak leaves, and bears a sword in her hand, which is a symbol of heroism. Hence, the similarity between these two images is that both embody bravery, i.e. power, authority, heroism and assertiveness.

List all the social groups that participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1921.

The social groups that participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1921 were:

1. Middle class - headmasters, teachers, lawyers and students in the cities
2. Poor peasantry in Awadh
3. Tribal peasantry in Andhra Pradesh
4. Plantation workers of Assam

Discuss the Salt March to make it clear why it was an effective symbol of resistance against colonialism.

Mahatma Gandhi started his famous Salt March accompanied by 78 of his trusted volunteers. It was an effective symbol of resistance against colonialism because it united the nation. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to identify all the classes, from industrialists to peasants, with their demands. And one such demand was to abolish salt tax because salt was something consumed by the rich and the poor alike. It is the most essential ingredient of food. This tax also revealed the oppressive policy of the British government, and was a very unjust act.

Imagine you are a woman participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Explain what the experience meant to your life.

The experience of participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement, i.e. protests, marches, manufacturing salt, and picketing cloth and liquor shops has a great significance in my life because whatever I did during the movement was based on Mahatma Gandhi's policy of Satyagraha and non-violence. Manufacturing salt was a peaceful way of defying the law. I was truly blessed to have participated in such a movement.

Why did political leaders differ sharply over the question of separate electorates?

Political leaders differed sharply over the question of separate electorates because they thought about the interests of their own communities. For example, Dalit leaders believed that political empowerment would resolve the problem of their social disabilities.

On the other hand, Mahatma Gandhi felt that a separate electorate for the Dalits would slow down the process of their integration into society.

Sir Muhammad Iqbal, President of the Muslim League, felt that a separate electorate for the Muslims would safeguard the minority community.

Why did Mahatma Gandhi call off the Rowlatt Satyagraha?

After the Jallianwala Bagh incident, people took to the streets. There were strikes, clashes and attacks on buildings.

The government followed a policy of repression. They humiliated and terrorised people. Satyagrahis were forced to rub their noses on the ground. They were forced to crawl on the streets and to do Salaam to the Sahibs. People were flogged. Some villages around Gujranwala in Punjab were bombed. As the violence spread, Mahatma Gandhi called off the movement.

Write a short note on the Simon Commission.

The Simon Commission was constituted in response to the nationalist movement in India to look into the functioning of the constitutional system and suggest changes.

It consisted of seven members under Sir John Simon. There was no single Indian member. It was opposed because there was not even a single Indian member in the commission.

All parties, including the Congress and the Muslim League, opposed the commission.

Describe the different stages in the Non-Cooperation Movement. How was public support for the movement mobilised?

Mahatma Gandhi had planned that the Non-Cooperation Movement would have two stages:

1. In the first stage, there would be a surrender of titles, and a boycott of civil services, army, police, courts, legislative councils, schools and foreign goods.
2. In the second stage, in case of a repressive policy being adopted by the government, a full civil disobedience campaign would be launched.

Through the summer of 1920, Mahatma Gandhi and Shaukat Ali toured India extensively, mobilising support for the movement. People were told about the movement to get maximum participation.

List the various activities that took place during the first phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

The activities that took place during the first phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement were:

1. Boycott of foreign goods
2. Picketing of liquor shops
3. Refusal by peasants to pay revenue and chaukidari taxes
4. Resignation by village officials
5. Violation of forest laws

Which different social groups participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement?

The major social groups that participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement were:

1. Rich peasant communities
2. Poor peasantry
3. Business class
4. Industrial working class in small numbers
5. Women

Describe the policy of the British government during the first phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Initially, the British government ignored the movement, but when it intensified, the government began arresting leaders of the Congress.

The arrest of leaders like Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan led to violent clashes in Peshawar. When Mahatma Gandhi was arrested, there was violence in Solapur.

The government then followed a more repressive policy. Peaceful Satyagrahis, including women and children, were attacked and beaten up.

Describe the second phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Mahatma Gandhi went to London to attend the Second Round Table Conference as the sole representative of the Congress. However, the conference failed. Mahatma Gandhi returned empty-handed. When he came back, he saw the British government following a repressive policy. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Jawaharlal Nehru had been arrested. The Congress

had been declared illegal. The government had taken several steps to prevent meetings, demonstrations and boycotts.

Mahatma Gandhi launched the movement again on January 1, 1932. It continued for a while, but soon lost momentum and was withdrawn in 1934.

Describe the Poona Pact of September 1932.

Poona Pact of September 1932 gave the Depressed Classes (later to be known as the Schedule Castes) reserved seats in provincial and central legislative councils, but they were to be voted in by the general electorate.

Describe in brief how people belonging to different communities, regions and languages developed a sense of collective belonging in India.

Like the allegories of Europe, in India, the identity of the nation was symbolised with Bharat Mata. Devotion to this symbol was treated as evidence of one's nationalism.

There was a revival of Indian folklore. History and fiction, folklore and songs, popular prints and symbols - all played a part in the making of nationalism.

Icons and symbols like the flag also helped in unification.

The interpretation of history with glorious developments in the past also helped in unifying and inspiring people. This was mainly done by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Define Begar and boycott.

'Begar' was a kind of labour in which people were forced to work without any payment (wages).

'Boycott' is a form of protest in which people refuse to deal and associate with certain people or participate in certain activities, or to buy or use certain products.

List the Satyagrahi movements organised by Mahatma Gandhi before 1919 in India.

The Satyagrahi movements that Mahatma Gandhi organised before 1919 in India were:

1916 - Champaran Movement

1917 - Satyagraha in Kheda District of Gujarat

1918 - Satyagraha amongst workers of cotton mills in Ahmedabad

Describe the Inland Emigration Act of 1859.

Under the Inland Emigration Act of 1859, plantation workers could leave the tea gardens with permission. In practice, however, such permission was rarely granted.

Name some prominent industrialists who supported the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Purushottamdas Thakurdas, G. D. Birla and other industrialists attacked the colonial control over the Indian economy and supported the Civil Disobedience Movement when it was launched for the first time.

Why was the policy of Non-Cooperation adopted by Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress?

The policy of Non-Cooperation was adopted by Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress because Mahatma Gandhi declared that British rule was established in India with the cooperation of the Indians, and if the Indians refused to cooperate, the British rule in India would collapse within a year and Swaraj would be achieved.

What do you understand by modern nationalism in India?

Generally, the concept of modern nationalism has different meanings in different areas. In Europe, it was associated with the formation of nation states and a new identity for the people. In India, it was associated with the anti-colonial movement, as in Vietnam.