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## WW II (1939-45) & INM

### 1939: INC stand @WW II

1. MG wanted unconditional support to British as justice was on allied side & wrong to benefit from weakness of British.
2. Netaji Bose wanted to take advantage of war with an immediate Civil Disobedience Movement (\*CDM).
3. Nehru took stand that- no cooperation in war until actual independence but also no movt during war.
4. Majority of INC leaders favored allied victory as axis powers were aggressors & dictatorships. Also post WW I (1914-19), victorious powers took over colonies of losing powers. Therefore, all INM progress could be lost with axis victory if India became a colony of Japan. Further, Axis Powers were themselves dictatorships (\*when they did not give democracy to own people, why should they give democracy to people of colonies). However, British made India join war without consent of Indians, hence **INC gave following demands** if Br wanted support of Indians in war effort (\*i.e. INC asking Indians to join army + preventing- strikes by workers, no revenue campaigns & protests)-
  - a) (\*ToP: Transfer of Executive Power) Immediate Responsible Govt at Centre.
  - b) (\*CA) Promise a Constituent Assembly post war
  - c) (\*Swaraj) British should declare war aims regarding India's future. (\*notice that INC demands a middle path between stands of MG, Bose, Nehru).

**Linlithgow3643** (1936-43) rejected & **promised only an advisory committee** of politicians from Br India & representatives of Princely States (\*565PS) to advice

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British in war (\*so Indians feel that though joined war without consent but now being consulted in war effort)

### **1939 Wardha Meet of Congress Working Committee (\*CWC)**

- 1) INC refused war support to Br.
- 2) Congress ministries in Provinces to resign
- 3) Impact:
  - a) Linlithgow3643 panicked & promised dominion status after war (\*\*Irwin Statement Oct 1929 = dominion status at future date)
  - b) March 1940- ML1906 saw opportunity & passed Lahore/Pakistan resolution.

### **August Offer (A01940) by Linlithgow3643**

1. will set up an Advisory War Council
2. (\*ToP) will expand VEC to have more Indians
3. (\*CA) will set up Constituent Assembly after war where **mainly** Indians will frame constitution with dominion status (\*Swaraj) (\*\*not solely Indians of Cripps Mission 1942).
4. Thus, for 1<sup>st</sup> time British recognised right of Indians to draft their own constitution & 1<sup>st</sup> -time explicit decision of dominion status with definite timeline (\*thank u Hitler or WW2) (\*\*no Indian in 7 member Simon Commission + RTC was not a CA).
5. (\*@Partition) Linlithgow stated that- “no future constitution without consent of minority” therefore gave veto power to ML1906 regarding framing of

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constitution (\*Imagine in CA - Article 1 is proposed as "there shall be a union of India". ML will vote No & article will fail.)

#### 6. Impact

- a. Rejected by INC at Wardha Meet (1940) as accepting AO1940 was as good as accepting partition + INC goal was Purna Swaraj (since 1929) & not Dominion Status.
- b. ML1906 rejected as no explicit mention of two constituent assemblies or of partition (\*ML1906's anxiety = if British do transfer of executive power at Centre then a Hindu majority govt may not respect veto power of ML@CA/COI & may use force to prevent creation of Pakistan + what if British don't take next step of creating Pakistan after ML uses Veto during constitution framing i.e. what if Br continue to rule India)

#### **Individual Satyagraha (IS1940)**

1. Under pressure to launch CDM after failure of AO1940, MG launched instead **Individual Satyagraha**.
2. Satyagrahi was to make an anti-war speech & goal of Satyagrahi was to have freedom of speech (\*not Purna Swaraj).
3. Vinobha Bhave, Nehru & Brahma Dutt were 1<sup>st</sup> three satyagrahis. They were arrested under Defence of India Act, 1939.
4. Satyagrahis launched **Delhi Chalo Movement** & **Jail Bhara Movement** i.e. made demand of freedom of speech, got arrested & if not arrested then kept marching to Delhi until arrested.
5. Individual Satyagraha built tempo for future Quit India Movement (1942-45)

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### **VEC expanded in 1941-**

- a) From 3 of 8 Indians to 8 of 12 Indians but Defence, Home, & Finance not to be with Indian ministers (\*\*GOI1919: 3/8 members in VEC to be Indians [\*Viceroy + C-i-C + 6 of which 3 Indians]. Now 1<sup>st</sup> time Indian Ministers in majority at Centre)

### **CRIPPS MISSION (1942)**

#### **1. Background**

- a. June 1941: Germany attacked USSR;
- b. Dec 1941: Japan attacked US in Pearl Harbour (in Hawaii)
- c. Axis powers seemed unstoppable & now fear of Japan invading India.
- d. Dec 1941: INC overrides objections of Nehru & MG & offered support to Br if
  - i. (\*@Swaraj) Purna Swaraj post war &
  - ii. (\*@ToP) immediate transfer of power at Centre.
- e. March 1942: Japan occupied Rangoon (Burma), thus anxious Br under US, USSR pressure to ensure India's support in war effort, sent Cripps Mission (March 1942) under Sir Stafford Cripps (a minister in Br War Cabinet of PM Winston Churchill; other members were senior British officials)

#### **2. Provisions/Offer**



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- a. (\*@Swaraj) Dominion status post war & foreign policy with Indians  
(\*Dominion Status post war was already offered in A01940, hence something more)
- b. (\*@CA)
  - i. Constituent Assembly (\*CA) post war having **solely** Indians (\*in A01940 it was mainly Indians i.e. some British could be members but now solely)
  - ii. CA to have- Nominees of Princes and elected members from PLAs after fresh elections in provinces as per GOI Act 1935.
- c. (\*@Partition)- if any Province of Br India/Princely State not in agreement with constitution framed by CA then Option to Provinces of British India & to each Princely State to
  - i. not join union, and
  - ii. frame own constitution or set up own union within British empire.  
(\*\*therefore
    1. Step 1= framing of constitution.
    2. Step 2= members of CA representing a PS or province of British India pass resolution that they don't agree with COI framed.
    3. Step 3= they allowed to secede from Union
    4. Step 4= they frame own constitution or set up own union within Br empire)
    5. Hence technically  $565+11= 576$  countries possible)

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- d. (\*@ToP) If Transfer of Power during war then Defence to continue under Viceroy & no dilution of powers of Viceroy (\*i.e. viceroy not equal to powerless President acting purely on Aid & Advice of popular ministers).

### 3. Result:

- a. Talks broke down on veto powers of Viceroy & Br adopted take it or leave it approach.
- b. MG called it **post-dated cheque** (\*as most things offered were to take effect post war & nothing immediately).
- c. INC wanted
  - i. Purna Swaraj after war
  - ii. 565PS to be represented by elected members in CA
  - iii. wanted no right to secede to any province or Princely State (\*1938 INC Haripura Session with Netaji Bose as President, INC had declared that Purna Swaraj is goal for whole of India & 565PS are an integral part of India (\*i.e. no special status))
- d. ML1906 opposed as wanted two CAs & Pakistan.
- e. (\*⊗ @Partition) However, INC agreed to autonomy for Muslim Majority provinces (\*MMPs) in future Constitution of India (\*\* i.e. in relation to these provinces Centre could be weak as compared to non-Muslim majority provinces) (\*\*i.e. article 370 for not just Kashmir but for all MMPs)

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