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BENGAL FAMINE (1943)

1. 4-5 million Indians were killed & it is one of the biggest man-made famine in history.
2. There was no actual food shortage & it was a man-made famine as :
 - a. food supplies from India, including Bengal, were diverted to Europe to meet needs of soldiers & Europeans. Therefore needs of army & Europeans given priority over Indian lives
 - b. Japan occupied Burma in March 1942, therefore food import from Burma stopped
 - c. Poor management of logistics or supply chain by government.
 - d. High prices due to speculation in markets due to war.

3. Impact

- a) Led to huge distrust of British among Indians as European lives were prioritized above Indian lives & Indian lives didn't matter.
- b) Govt did little for relief work.
- c) Linlithgow requested food for India & proposed ban on food export from Bengal but Churchill (Br PM) denied & instead enquired if MG was still alive or dead due to ongoing fast unto death (1943). Churchill was criticised as Hitler like in Britain.
- d) Public opinion in Britain shifted more in favour of Indian independence & by 1943 most Br politicians were sympathetic to Indian independence.

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INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY /AZAD HIND FAUJ

1. Jan, Feb, March 1942: Malaya, Singapore & Burma, respectively, taken over by Japan from Br.
2. June 1942: motivated by Japanese victories, Indian Independence League setup in Bangkok, Thailand by NRIs (mainly Pritam Singh, Swami Satyananda Puri etc)
3. August 1942: QIM began in India.
4. Sep 1942 - Captain Mohan Singh while retreating from Malaya with Indian soldiers, went to the Japanese army and convinced them to handover Prisoners of War (PoWs) so he can setup Indian National Army (INA). 40,000 PoWs in Singapore joined INA.
5. However, in Dec 1942, Captain Mohan Singh was arrested by Japanese as he wanted primary role & autonomy for INA in attack on British India, which created friction with Japanese.
6. Early 1943: An aged Rash Bihari Bose, who had escaped to Japan after Ghadar Movt (1913-15), took leadership of INA & reorganised it.
7. **Netaji Bose:**
 1. In 1939 Tripuri session of INC he was elected President consecutively after Haripura session (1938) but due to differences with Gandhians he had to leave the INC.
 2. July 1940: Arrested by British as he was seen politically dangerous to British political stability in India. He favoured starting a movement to overthrow British.

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3. Jan 1941: his failing health due to a hunger strike forced the Br to release him & he was put under house arrest in Calcutta. He fooled the Br as he escaped in disguise as an Afghan.
4. He escaped to Afghanistan & then reached USSR. From there he travelled in disguise as "Orlando Mazzotta" to Italy.
5. March 1941: Arrived in Germany
6. 1942: he setup Azad Hind Radio (1942) in Germany from where he broadcasted his messages to boost morale of Indians in QIM (1942-45).
7. Feb 1943: He left Germany due to lack of German support to his cause as he found Hitler to be a racist who saw British as a ruling race and Indians as not. In Indian Ocean he got transferred from a German submarine to a Japanese one.
8. July 1943- He arrived in Singapore from Germany and took over leadership of IIL, and of INA from an aged R.B. Bose in a ceremony (*IIL=political organization, INA= military)
9. Netaji Bose now began expansion of INA + raised huge funds from among NRIs for INA as wanted INA to be funded by Indian money & to not depend on Japanese.
10. He raised Rani Jhansi Regiment that had NRI women (*notice symbolism here as Revolutionaries always had consistent goal of repeating 1857 revolt)
11. INA also had Gandhi Regiment & Nehru regiment.

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12. Netaji Bose extracted assurances from General Tojo of Japan who stated that "Japan doesn't want to annex India post victory".
13. He also set up a **Provisional Govt of Free India** on **21st October 1943** with INA headquarters in Rangoon (Burma) & Singapore. He named it as Provisional since he believed that a permanent govt could only be a democratically elected govt.
14. **Andaman & Nicobar Islands:** an Indian Independence League branch was setup by Rama Krishna in April 1942. In 1943 INA liberated Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Netaji Bose visited the islands on 29-31 December 1943. He hoisted the Indian flag at Gymkhana Ground (now Netaji Stadium). 1945- British recaptured the islands.
15. **1944: Kohima & Imphal Campaign** failed: INA & Japan attacked India-Burma border but failed. Indian soldiers were discriminated against by the Japanese in terms of weapons etc during Impahsl Campaign (1944).
16. INA soldiers marching song was Qadam Qadam Badhaye Ja.
17. Netaji gave slogan of Jai Hind & Delhi Chalo.
18. 15th Aug 1945: Japan surrendered.
19. 18th Aug 1945: alleged plane crash that killed Netaji Bose, took place at Taihoku Airport in Taipei (Taiwan).

INA TRIALS & INA AGITATIONS (Nov 1945-1946)

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1. Nov 1945- Trials of INA men, now PoWs, began and so did INA agitations for release of INA men. The most famous being the trial at Red Fort of Shah Nawaz Khan (a close aide of Netaji), Prem Sehgal & Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon.
2. INA trials led to mass upsurge across India by all sections & was supported by all parties therefore maximum unity throughout INM was seen during INA agitations.
3. British stated that there has been no issue in past INM that generated so much sympathy among Indians. Therefore, INA truly unified India.
4. Agitations were started by people themselves and not any political party.
5. INC
 - a. made INA agitations part of election campaign i.e. demanded release of INA men.
 - b. It also fought cases for INA men (*under Bullabhai Desai, lawyer & leader of INC in Central Legislative Assembly)
 - c. setup INA Relief Committee that raised funds & gave money to INA men on release & tried for rehabilitation of INA men.
6. 1st time govt officials openly supported a movement by contributing money for INA men. Common man, Gurudwaras & even Bollywood contributed funds.
7. Feb 1946: During INA agitations there was mutiny by Naval Ratings in Feb 1946 who went on strikes.
8. They had following grievances
 - a. Fear of loss of jobs after war

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- b. Poor service conditions & racial discrimination in salaries (*relate 1857)
 - c. Had supported INA agitations & contributed money for INA men therefore were inspired by INA
9. They revolted & raised tri colour flags, flags of INA, of INC & of ML1906 on ships.
10. Wrote Quit India on ships (e.g. HMIS Talwar)
11. Went around Bombay in trucks/lorries with pictures of Netaji Bose.
12. Got support of CPI1925 & now workers of Bombay went on massive strike & Bombay came to a standstill.
13. Were advised by Aruna Asaf Ali who gave leadership despite opposition by MG & INC as it was truce period & time for negotiations.
14. Airforce Men in Karachi began sympathy strikes.
15. Mutiny ended due to British repression & lack of support of INC & ML.
16. Patel & Jinnah calmed down ratings by holding meetings.
17. After independence, most of the INA men & naval ratings were not recruited into the armed forces on grounds of breach of discipline.

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