

# NATIONALISM IN INDIA

## How feeling of Nationalism developed in India?

The sense of being oppressed under colonialism provided a shared bond that tied many different groups together.

## Changes after World War - I:

- After war, taxes were increased
- This lead to extreme hardship for common people.
- Forced recruitment for armies.

## The Idea of Satyagraha:

- Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa in January 1915.
- Mahatma Gandhi believed that this dharma of non-violence could unite all Indians.
- Coming to India Gandhi fought 3 successful struggle.**

→ 1916, Champaran  
→ 1917, Kheda  
→ 1918, Ahmedabad

## The Rowlatt Act:

Gave the govt. enormous powers to repress political activities, and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.

## Rowlatt Satyagraha

- Started with hartal on 6 April.
- Rallies were organised in various cities.
- Local leaders were picked from Amritsar.

## Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- 13 April, 1919
- Martial law was imposed
- On Baisakhi, Dyer entered the area, blocked the exit points and fired upon crowd.

## After Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- Crowds took to the streets.
- The government responded with brutal repression.
- Seeing violence spread, Mahatma Gandhi called off the movement.
- Mahatma Gandhi realised that it is important to unite Hindu and Muslim.

## Khalifat Issue:

There were rumours that a harsh peace treaty was going to be imposed on the Ottoman emperor.

To defend the Khalifa's temporal powers, a Khalifat Committee was formed in Bombay in March 1919.

A young generation of Muslim leaders like the brothers Muhammad Ali and

Shaukat Ali began discussing with Mahatma Gandhi, about the possibility of a united mass action on the issue.

## Why Non-Cooperation?

In his famous book *Hindi Swaraj* (1909) Mahatma Gandhi declared that British rule was established in India with the cooperation of Indians, and had survived only because of this cooperation.

## Non Cooperation Khilafat Movement

- Began in January, 1921
- Thousands of students left government-controlled institutes.
- Headmasters and teachers, and lawyers gave up their legal practices.
- The council elections were boycotted in most provinces, excepted Madras.
- People began wearing Indian clothes, production of Indian textile mills and handlooms went up.

## Rebellion in the Countryside:

The movement here was against talukdars and landlords.

By October, the *Oudh Kisan Sabha* was set up headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, Baba Ramchandra and a few others.

## Movement in tribal areas

- A militant guerrilla movement spread in the early 1920s.
- People were angry on colonial government for banning their entry in large forest regions.
- Alluri Sitaram Raju emerged as leader in the Gudem hills of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Gudem rebels attacked police stations.
- Raju was captured and executed in 1924, and over time became a folk hero.

### After

*Chauri Chaura* incidence, Gandhi decided to withdraw movement in Feb, 1922.

He felt the movement was turning violent in many places.

## Simon Commission

- Commission was assigned to suggest changes into the constitutional system in India.
- When the Simon Commission arrived in India in 1928, it was greeted with the slogan 'Go back Simon'.

- On October 1929, Lord Irwin offered Round Table Conference.
- Lahore session of Congress decided to celebrate independence day on 26 January, 1930.

## The Salt March and the Civil Disobedience Movement

- Mahatma Gandhi found in salt a powerful symbol that could unite the nation.
- There was tax on salt and the government monopoly over its production.

iii) Mahatma Gandhi started his famous salt march accompanied by 78 of his trusted volunteers.

iv) On 6 April he reached Dandi and violated salt law by boiling salt water.

v) Many people broke the salt law.

vi) Foreign cloth was boycotted.

vii) Peasants refused to pay revenue.

viii) Village officials resigned.

ix) It was in 20th century, with the growth of nationalism, that the identity of India came to be visually associated with the image of *Bharat Mata*.

x) In the 1870s Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote 'Vande Mataram' as a hymn to the motherland.

xi) Later it was included in his novel *Anandamath* and widely sung during the Swadeshi movement in Bengal.

## How participants saw the Movement

### Rich Peasants

- For them fight for Swaraj was struggle against high revenue.
- Many participated.

### Poor Peasants

- The relationship between the poor peasants & Congress remained uncertain.
- Participated in less amount.

### Business Class

- During movement, they gave financial assistance and refused to buy/sell imported goods.

- See Swaraj as a time when colonial restrictions on business would no longer exist and trade and industry would flourish without constraints.

### Women Participation

- They participated in large numbers.
- But Gandhi was convinced that it was the duty of women to look after home.

## Civil Disobedience Movement

Started - 6 April, 1930

Stop - 5 March, 1931

Restart - 1932

Stop - 1934

## Limitations of CDM

- Dalits and Muslims didn't participate.

## The Sense of Collective Belongings

- This sense of collective belonging came partly through the experience of united struggles.
- Songs, popular prints and symbol played a part in making of nationalism.

- People started collecting folk tales from villages, they believed, gave a true picture of traditional culture that had been corrupted and damaged by outside forces.