

Nationalism in India

Class 10 Social Science - Complete Study Notes

Chapter Overview

This chapter examines the growth of nationalism in India during the colonial period, focusing on various movements, leaders, and events that led to India's independence in 1947.

Key Terms and Definitions

Nationalism: A feeling of unity and pride in one's country, leading to the desire for self-governance and independence.

Satyagraha: Non-violent resistance method developed by Gandhi, meaning "holding onto truth."

Swaraj: Self-rule or independence; became the primary goal of the Indian freedom movement.

Swadeshi: Policy of using only Indian-made goods and boycotting foreign products.

Hartal: A form of protest involving complete shutdown of business and work.

Civil Disobedience: Deliberate breaking of unjust laws as a form of peaceful protest.

Khilafat Movement: Movement by Indian Muslims to support the Turkish Caliph after World War I.

1. The First World War, Khilafat and Non-Cooperation (1914-1922)

Impact of World War I on India

Economic Impact:

- Massive increase in defense expenditure
- Rise in prices of essential goods
- Heavy taxation on Indians to fund the war
- Forced recruitment of soldiers
- Economic hardship for common people

Political Impact:

- Indians expected political concessions for supporting Britain
- Growing resentment against British rule

- Rise in nationalist sentiments
- Formation of Home Rule Leagues by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak

The Rowlatt Act (1919)

- Passed despite opposition from Indian members in Imperial Legislative Council
- Gave government enormous powers to repress political activities
- Allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years
- Sparked nationwide protests and agitation

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (April 13, 1919)

Background:

- Peaceful gathering in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar
- People had assembled to protest against Rowlatt Act and arrest of leaders

The Incident:

- General Dyer ordered firing on unarmed crowd
- No warning given, exits blocked
- Approximately 1000 people killed, many more injured
- Became a turning point in Indian freedom struggle

Impact:

- Shattered Indian faith in British justice
- United Indians against British rule
- Led to widespread condemnation even in Britain
- Strengthened the freedom movement

Khilafat Movement (1919-1924)

Background:

- Ottoman Empire (Turkey) defeated in WWI
- Indian Muslims concerned about the fate of Caliph (religious head)
- Led by Ali brothers (Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali)

Gandhi's Support:

- Saw opportunity to unite Hindus and Muslims
- Believed in supporting just causes regardless of religion

- Linked Khilafat with Non-Cooperation Movement

Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922)

Gandhiji's Strategy:

- Non-violent resistance against British rule
- Boycott of British institutions and goods
- Promotion of Indian alternatives

Programme:

- Surrender of titles and honors
- Boycott of civil services, army, police, courts, schools
- Boycott of foreign goods
- Promotion of hand-spinning and weaving (khadi)

Popular Participation:

- Students left schools and colleges
- Teachers resigned from government schools
- Lawyers boycotted courts
- People burned foreign cloth
- Alternative institutions established (National schools, panchayats)

Chauri Chaura Incident (February 1922):

- Violent incident where protesters burned a police station
 - 22 policemen killed
 - Gandhi immediately called off the movement
 - Belief that movement should remain non-violent
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2. Differing Strands within the Movement

Early Nationalism vs Mass Nationalism

Early Nationalism (1870s-1905):

- Led by educated middle class
- Moderate methods (petitions, prayers, protests)
- Limited mass participation
- Leaders: Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Mass Nationalism (1905 onwards):

- Inclusion of peasants, workers, women
- More aggressive methods
- Widespread participation
- Leaders: Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal

The Idea of Satyagraha

Development in South Africa:

- Gandhi's experience fighting discriminatory laws
- Developed technique of non-violent resistance
- Proved effectiveness against unjust laws

Key Principles:

- Non-violence (ahimsa)
- Truth (satya)
- Self-suffering rather than inflicting suffering on others
- Moral force more powerful than physical force

Early Satyagrahas in India:

- **Champaran (1917):** Against indigo planters in Bihar
 - **Kheda (1918):** Against high land revenue in Gujarat
 - **Ahmedabad (1918):** Mill workers' strike for better conditions
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3. The Aftermath of Non-Cooperation

Swaraj Party (1923)

Formation:

- Leaders: Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das
- Believed in entering legislatures to obstruct British policies
- Alternative to complete boycott of councils

Activities:

- Won elections and entered provincial legislatures
- Obstructed government functioning from within

- Demonstrated ineffectiveness of reforms

Revolutionary Activities

Hindustan Republican Association:

- Founded by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan
- Later renamed Hindustan Socialist Republican Association
- Famous members: Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Chandrashekhar Azad

Major Activities:

- Kakori Train Robbery (1925)
 - Assassination of Saunders (1928)
 - Bombing of Central Legislative Assembly (1929)
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4. The Coming of Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi's Background

- Born in Porbandar, Gujarat (1869)
- Studied law in London
- Practiced law in South Africa (1893-1915)
- Developed Satyagraha technique in South Africa
- Returned to India in 1915

Gandhi's Unique Approach

Simple Living:

- Adopted simple lifestyle
- Wore khadi and minimal clothing
- Lived among common people

Mass Appeal:

- Used religious symbols and language
- Connected with Indian traditions
- Made freedom struggle a mass movement

Methods:

- Non-violent resistance

- Civil disobedience
 - Constructive programme (khadi, removal of untouchability)
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5. Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-1934)

Background

Simon Commission (1928):

- All-British commission to suggest constitutional reforms
- No Indian member included
- Boycotted with slogan "Simon Go Back"
- Lala Lajpat Rai died due to police lathi-charge during protests

Nehru Report (1928):

- Drafted by Motilal Nehru
- Demanded dominion status for India
- Rejected by British government

Lahore Congress Session (1929):

- Jawaharlal Nehru became Congress President
- Demand for Purna Swaraj (complete independence)
- January 26, 1930 declared as Independence Day

The Salt March (Dandi March)

Background:

- Salt tax affected every Indian
- Government monopoly on salt production
- Perfect issue to mobilize masses

The March:

- Started from Sabarmati Ashram on March 12, 1930
- 240-mile journey to Dandi
- Gandhi accompanied by 78 followers
- Reached Dandi on April 6, 1930
- Gandhi broke salt law by making salt from seawater

Impact:

- Sparked nationwide civil disobedience
- Thousands joined the movement
- International attention on Indian freedom struggle

Features of Civil Disobedience Movement**Methods:**

- Breaking salt laws
- Boycott of foreign cloth and goods
- Non-payment of taxes
- Violation of forest laws
- Picketing of shops selling foreign goods

Participation:

- All classes of society participated
- Women joined in large numbers
- Students, teachers, lawyers, peasants participated
- Business community supported through hartals

Government Response:

- Mass arrests of leaders and participants
- Brutal suppression of protests
- Gandhi and other leaders imprisoned

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (March 1931)**Terms:**

- Gandhi agreed to attend Second Round Table Conference
- Government agreed to release political prisoners
- Civil Disobedience Movement suspended

Second Round Table Conference:

- Held in London (1931)
- Gandhi attended as sole Congress representative
- Conference failed due to disagreements
- Gandhi returned disappointed

Resumption of Civil Disobedience

- Movement resumed in 1932
 - Government response was even more severe
 - Gradually lost momentum by 1934
 - Officially withdrawn in 1934
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6. The Sense of Collective Belonging

Symbols and Icons

Bharat Mata:

- Personification of India as mother goddess
- Painted by Abanindranath Tagore
- Became powerful symbol of nationalism

National Flag:

- Tricolor representing different communities
- Spinning wheel (charkha) in the center
- Symbol of self-reliance and freedom

National Song - Vande Mataram:

- Composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- Became rallying cry of freedom movement
- Created sense of unity and pride

Reinterpretation of History

Glorification of Past:

- Revival of stories of ancient heroes
- Emphasis on India's golden age
- Created pride in Indian heritage

Folk Tales and Songs:

- Collected and promoted Indian folklore
- Created popular literature about freedom struggle
- United people through shared cultural heritage

7. The Limits of Civil Disobedience

Dalits (Untouchables)

Limited Participation:

- Many Dalits did not actively participate
- Felt that Swaraj would not improve their condition
- Some supported government policies for their upliftment

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Position:

- Demanded separate electorates for Dalits
- Believed in political empowerment for social equality
- Opposed by Gandhi who feared division of Hindu society

Poona Pact (1932):

- Agreement between Gandhi and Ambedkar
- Reserved seats for Dalits in general electorate
- Ended demand for separate electorate

Muslim Participation

Initial Participation:

- Many Muslims participated in early phases
- United during Khilafat and Non-Cooperation

Growing Distance:

- After Khilafat movement ended, participation declined
- Congress seen as Hindu organization by some Muslims
- Fear of Hindu dominance in independent India
- Led to demand for separate nation (Pakistan)

Communal Riots:

- Increased communal tensions during 1920s-30s
- Riots in various parts of India
- Widened Hindu-Muslim divide

Industrial Workers

Limited Participation:

- Some participated but not consistently
 - Had their own economic struggles
 - Congress relationship with labor movement was complex
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Important Personalities

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

- Father of the Nation
- Pioneer of Satyagraha
- Led major movements: Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India

Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964)

- First Prime Minister of India
- Led Congress for decades
- Advocate of complete independence

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875-1950)

- Iron Man of India
- Excellent organizer
- United princely states after independence

Subhash Chandra Bose (1897-1945)

- Netaji
- Formed Indian National Army (INA)
- "Give me blood and I shall give you freedom"

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (1891-1956)

- Chief architect of Indian Constitution
- Champion of Dalit rights
- Advocate of social justice

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888-1958)

- Prominent Muslim leader in Congress

- First Education Minister of India
 - Advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity
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Important Dates Timeline

- **1915:** Gandhi returns to India
 - **1917:** Champaran Satyagraha
 - **1918:** Kheda and Ahmedabad Satyagrahas
 - **1919:** Rowlatt Act passed, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
 - **1919:** Khilafat Movement begins
 - **1920:** Non-Cooperation Movement launched
 - **1922:** Chauri Chaura incident, Non-Cooperation withdrawn
 - **1928:** Simon Commission arrives, Nehru Report
 - **1929:** Lahore Congress, demand for Purna Swaraj
 - **1930:** Salt March, Civil Disobedience Movement begins
 - **1931:** Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Second Round Table Conference
 - **1932:** Poona Pact
 - **1934:** Civil Disobedience Movement officially ends
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Regional Movements

Champaran Movement (1917)

- First Satyagraha in India
- Against indigo planters' exploitation
- Successful campaign for peasants' rights

Kheda Satyagraha (1918)

- Against high land revenue during crop failure
- Vallabhbhai Patel played key role
- Demonstrated effectiveness of non-violent resistance

Non-Cooperation in Different Regions

Bengal:

- Strong student participation

- National schools and colleges established
- Effective boycott of foreign goods

Punjab:

- Akali movement among Sikhs
- Peasant movements
- Strong response to Jallianwala Bagh

United Provinces:

- Peasant movements against landlords
- Tribal areas joined the movement
- Effective boycott campaigns

Peasant Movements

Awadh Peasant Movement:

- Led by Baba Ramchandra
- Against high rents and beggar (forced labor)
- Merged with Non-Cooperation Movement

Mapping Forest Communities:

- Tribal areas resisted forest laws
 - Andhra Pradesh: Alluri Sitarama Raju led guerrilla warfare
 - Central India: Various tribal uprisings
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Women in Freedom Movement

Forms of Participation

- Participated in picketing and protests
- Manufactured salt during Salt Satyagraha
- Boycotted foreign goods
- Participated in processions and meetings

Notable Women Leaders

- **Sarojini Naidu:** Nightingale of India, first woman president of Congress
- **Kasturba Gandhi:** Gandhi's wife, active participant

- **Annie Besant:** Founded Home Rule League
- **Aruna Asaf Ali:** Hoisted flag during Quit India Movement

Impact on Women's Status

- Brought women into public sphere
 - Challenged traditional gender roles
 - Led to demand for women's rights
 - Foundation for women's movement in independent India
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Economic Aspects of Nationalism

Boycott of Foreign Goods

- Effective economic weapon against British
- Promoted Indian industries
- Created awareness about economic exploitation

Promotion of Khadi

- Symbol of self-reliance
- Provided employment to rural people
- Reduced dependence on British textiles

Impact on Indian Business

- Indian merchants supported freedom movement
 - Funding for nationalist activities
 - Growth of indigenous industries
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Key Questions for Examination

1. **Explain the impact of World War I on the growth of nationalism in India.**
2. **Why did Gandhiji start the Non-Cooperation Movement? Why was it withdrawn?**
3. **Describe the significance of the Salt March in the Civil Disobedience Movement.**
4. **How did the freedom movement create a sense of collective belonging among Indians?**
5. **Analyze the participation of different social groups in the Civil Disobedience Movement.**
6. **Explain the limits of Civil Disobedience Movement.**
7. **How did nationalism spread among different sections of Indian society?**

Important Maps to Study

- Route of Salt March (Dandi March)
 - Major centers of Non-Cooperation Movement
 - Areas of Civil Disobedience Movement
 - Peasant and tribal movements across India
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Conclusion

The growth of nationalism in India was a complex process involving various social groups, movements, and leaders. While the movement succeeded in achieving independence, it also revealed the challenges of creating unity in a diverse society. The freedom struggle laid the foundation for modern India but also highlighted issues that would continue to shape the nation's future, including questions of social justice, communal harmony, and economic development.

The Indian freedom movement demonstrated the power of non-violent resistance and mass mobilization, inspiring liberation movements worldwide. However, it also showed the limitations of nationalist movements in addressing all social inequalities and divisions within society.