

History Notes

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§1 Nationalism in India

Question 1. How did World War 1 helped in the growth of nationalism in India?

Answer.

1. War led to increase in taxes, custom duties and other commodities. It also led to introduction of *income taxes*.
2. Villages were called upon for supplying soldiers for war and this *forced recruitment* angered the people.
3. Between the years 1918-1919 and 1920-21, there was major crop failure which led to acute shortage of food.
4. To add to the sufferings, *influenza* epidemic also occurred at the time of these famines.
5. According to the census of 1920-21, approximately 13 million people died as a result of famines and epidemic.

People expected that their sufferings would end after the war, but that didn't happen.

Question 2. What do you mean by satyagraha and why did Gandhi ji appeal to follow it?

Answer.

1. The idea of satyagraha emphasized on on the power of truth and the need to search for truth.
2. Satyagraha seeked victory in battle without vengeance or being aggressive.

3. The idea was to persuade the oppressors to see the truth.

Gandhi ji appealed to follow this because:

1. He got recent success in South Africa.
2. He thought that non-violence could unite all Indians.

Question 3. Explain the three earliest satyagrahas launched by Mahatma Gandhi in India.

Answer. There were three movements launched by Mahatma Gandhi

1. He first launched a movement in Champaran(Bihar) in the year 1917 against the oppressive plantation system imposed by British.
2. Gandhi ji later went to Kheda(a district in Gujrat) to support peasants in the same year 1917. The peasants were drastically affected by crop failure and a plague pandemic. Due to this, they were unable to pay the revenue and demanded the collection to be relaxed.
3. In 1918, he went to Ahmedabad to organize a *Satyagraha Movement* with the cotton mill workers of that area.

Question 4. The growth of modern nationalism is intimately connected to the anti colonial movement in india. Explain.

Answer.

1. People began sensing nationalism in the process of their struggle with colonialism.
2. The sense of being oppressed under colonialism provide a share bond that tied many different groups together.
3. But each group felt the effects of colonialism differently , their experiences varied and the notion of freedom were not always the same.

Exercise 1.1. Write a short note on Khilafat issue.

Question 5. Why did Gandhi ji chose salt as symbol of resistance?

Answer. Gandhi Ji used salt as a symbol of resistance because:

1. Salt was an effective symbol of resistance as it was a revolt against a commodity , salt which was consumed by both rich and poor
2. The governments monopoly over the production of salt and the tax on salt was a really oppressive administrative move.
3. By denying salt law and manufacturing salt against government permission Gandhiji set a forth example of how the oppressor could be defeated with non violence.

Question 6. Differentiate Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience movement.

Answer.

Question 7. What measures were taken to uplift the condition of the "untouchables"?

Answer. He did this because he thought that India won't get freedom until 100 years unless *dalits* were not a part of movement.

1. He called "untouchables" as *harijans* or the children of god and organized satyagraha to provide them access to temples and public wells, tanks and road.
2. He himself cleaned toiler to help in the upliftment of the untouchables.
3. He persuaded upper castes to change their heart and give up on the "sin of untouchability" and accept them as a people of our own country.

Question 8. Describe Poona Pact 1932.

Question 9. Why did the muslims show lukewarm response towards Civil Disobedience Movement?

Answer.

1. After the calling of first Non-Cooperation muslims felt alienated from Congress.
2. In mid-1920s, the Congress gave more attention to hindu religious nationalist groups like Hindu Mahasabha.
3. As relations between Hindu and Muslim worsened, each community organized their own religious professions.
4. The Muslim League under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah demanded separate electorates in elections.
5. Later Jinnah said that they would leave the the demand of separate electorates if they were given reserved seats in the election. But Congress completely rejected the the muslims to have reserved seats in elections.