

History Notes

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Contents

1 Nationalism in India

1

§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.

Question 10. Explain the effects of Non-Cooperation on the economic front.

Answer. The effects were as follows

1. Foreign cloth boycotted, liquor shops were picketed.
2. Value of imported foreign cloth dropped from 102cr to 57cr during 1921-22.
3. Traders refused to trade foreign goods and refused to finance foreign goods.

Question 11. Why Mahatma Gandhi withdraw “Civil Disobedience Movement”?

Answer. Mahatma Gandhi withdrew the movement due to the following reasons

- He was getting worried about the development of the movement in certain places and thought the movement might go violent.
- When Abdul Ghaffar Khan(a follower of Gandhi ji) got arrested, the movement started to go wild and violent. People came to streets and started protestations. Police responded with heavy repression where they fired at innocent people and several people died.
- When Gandhi ji himself got arrested around a month later after Ghaffar Khan, people went insane in *Sholapur*. They started attacking Police Chowkis, Law Courts, government buildings, basically everything which symbolized the *British Rule*.
- All *satyagrahi's* were brutally attacked. Small children and women were beaten up. Around 1 lakh people were arrested.
- Gandhi ji thought to hold the movement for now and came into a pact with Lord Irwin. According to the pact, the movement will be stopped and Gandhi ji would attend the 2nd round table conference in London.

Question 12. Why was “Non-Cooperation Movement” withdrawn?

Answer. Some reasons are:

- Gandhi ji thought that the movement was turning violent in some places. Satyagrahis need to trained properly before participating in mass struggles.

- Absence of institutions was slowing down the movement as people started to roll back in schools, offices, and government bodies due to lack of alternatives.
- The immediate cause of withdrawal was the “*Chauri-Chaura*” incident where 22 policemen were bolted in the Chowki. The chowki was lit on fire which took the lives of police officers.
- The Congress was tired of mass struggles and wanted to participate in elections of the provincial council that have been set up by the Government of India Act 1919.
- They felt that it was important to oppose British policies within the council, argue for reforms and demonstrate that these councils were not truly democratic