

Speech 1: Pro-Gandhi (Full Script with Addition)

Ladies and gentlemen, as we come to the end of this debate, let's ask ourselves—what did Bengal and Southeast Asia, a region as diverse, complex, and emotionally scarred during the time of colonial rule, truly need?

The answer is clear: a leader who could heal the divisions rather than deepen them—a leader who inspired others to embrace non-violence and worked to unite people across communities. And that leader was Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi's approach was rooted in nonviolence, unity, and moral courage. At a time when violence and division could easily consume the region, Gandhi's philosophy offered a path of peace and reconciliation. Bengal, with its volatile communal tensions, needed a leader who could bridge gaps, not widen them. Gandhi's emphasis on Hindu-Muslim unity, his fasts for peace, and his deep understanding of rural India would have been instrumental in guiding the people of this region, as well as making a deep spiritual connection.

Subhash Chandra Bose was undoubtedly brave and passionate, but his leadership was not universally accepted, and he lacked long-term vision. His reliance on military alliances with powers like Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan posed serious ethical and strategic risks. While his intentions were noble, the path he chose could have brought more destruction to an already suffering region. He also failed to gain international support, damaging relationships with European countries and the USA due to his alliances with Japan and Germany. Furthermore, he compromised India's moral position.

Bose did not build consensus with other Congress leaders and failed to unify all sections of society, which could have led to communal violence. Mass mobilization and armed resistance were not practical for most common people.

Gandhi's leadership was not about power—it was about empowerment. He awakened a moral force within millions, inspired peaceful resistance, and ensured that the freedom struggle remained rooted in human values. His grassroots-level work was recognized all over the world. His leadership was more sustainable and globally admired.

That kind of leadership—steady, inclusive, and principled—is exactly what Bengal and Southeast Asia would have benefited from most.

Let us choose the leader who not only fought for freedom but also showed us how to live it—peacefully and together.

Gandhi's legacy transcended borders, inspiring global movements for justice and equality, from the streets of South Africa to the civil rights struggles in America. His ability to mobilize millions through acts like the Salt March proved that true power lies not in weapons, but in the collective will of a united people. Let us honor the leader whose vision of freedom endures in every heart that dares to dream of a just world.

Thank you.

Speech 2: Pro-Bose (Full Script with Addition)

Ladies and gentlemen, as we come to the end of this debate, let's ask ourselves—what did Bengal and Southeast Asia, a region as diverse, complex, and emotionally scarred during the time of colonial rule, truly need?

The answer is clear: a decisive, bold, and revolutionary leader whose only focus was gaining independence at any cost—not some noble ideology or philosophy. And that leader was Subhash Chandra Bose.

While Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence was noble in theory, the harsh reality of the time was that the British Empire did not retreat because of moral persuasion alone. Nonviolence was idealistic against a ruthless British regime that did not care whether people died through hunger strikes. When nonviolent protests failed to bring outcomes, Bose understood that words and ideals could only go so far when people were being exploited, starved, and silenced.

His Indian National Army gave a voice to millions who were ready to fight for freedom with pride and strength. He ignited a spirit of fearlessness in the hearts of Bengalis and Southeast Asians alike. Let us not forget that Bose was a son of Bengal. He knew the pulse of the region—its resilience, its anger, its longing for real change. His strategy was not submission but action. His alliances, though controversial, were strategic—calculated risks taken in the hope of securing independence. And it was Bose's fierce stand that shook the British at their core and forced them to rethink the sustainability of their rule.

Gandhi rejected collaboration with Axis powers and remained limited within India, which could have made India isolated. Again, under his nonviolence principle, military strength and defense were not prioritized, leaving the country vulnerable. Some of his actions were highly controversial, such as supporting the rise of the British mercenary army during World War I, weak stances during the soldiers' revolution, and manipulating public sentiments—some even claim it showed selfishness or a craving for power.

These traits were not seen in Subhash Chandra Bose. Gandhi did not provide any platform for youths who wanted immediate freedom and opposed the idea of armed resistance by his own countrymen. Gandhi's path may have inspired patience, but Bose's leadership inspired power—and in times of crisis, power is what people need to reclaim their dignity.

Subhash Chandra Bose was not just a dreamer—he was a doer. And that's the kind of leader Bengal and Southeast Asia needed.

Bose's Indian National Army not only challenged the British militarily but also awakened a nation to believe in its own strength. From the jungles of Southeast Asia to the hearts of Bengalis, he forged a legacy of courage that forced the empire to tremble. Let us celebrate the leader who dared to fight, not just for freedom, but for the pride of a people ready to shape their own destiny.

Thank you.