



Q1. Explain:

- (a) Why is the growth of nationalism in the colonies linked to an anti-colonial movement ?
- (b) How did the First World War help in the growth of the National Movement in India? [CBSE2014]

Or

Explain any four facts to show how did the First World War help in the growth of the National Movement in India. [CBSE March 2011]

- (a) Why were Indians outraged by the Rowlatt Act ?
- (b) Why did Gandhiji decide to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement?

Answer: (a) (i) In India, as in Vietnam and many other colonies, the growth of modern nationalism is intimately connected to the Anti-colonial Movement. People began discovering their unity in the process of their struggle with colonialism. The sense of being oppressed under colonialism provided a shared bond that tied many different groups together.

(ii) The European powers considered their culture more civilised, modern and superior. They forcefully started imposing their culture on the colonies. This also aroused the feeling of nationalism.

(iii) Gandhiji used 'Satyagraha' against the Britishers. This also promoted the spirit of nationalism among the people.

(iv) The anti-colonial movement was a united struggle by the people against the foreigners. The united struggle was responsible for arousing the spirit of nationalism.

(b) The War created a new economic and political situation :

(i) It led to a huge increase in defence expenditure which was financed by war loans and increasing taxes, customs duties were raised, and income tax introduced.

(ii) Through the war years, prices increased - doubling between 1913 and 1918 - leading to extreme hardships for the common people.

(iii) Villagers were called upon to supply soldiers, and the forced recruitment in rural areas caused widespread anger.

(c) (i) Rowlatt Act was passed through the Imperial Legislative Council on a report of the Sedition Committee, headed by Justice Rowlatt.

(ii) It was the black act which gave the government and the police to repress political activities, and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.

(iii) The Act was passed despite the united opposition of the Indian members of the Council.

This Act became one of the factors due to which Gandhiji launched Non-Cooperation Movement.

(d) In February 1922, Gandhiji decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement due to the following reasons:

(i) The movement was turning violent. At Chauri-Chaura in Gorakhpur, a peaceful demonstration in a bazar turned into a violent clash in which more than 20 policemen were killed.

(ii) Gandhiji felt that the Satyagrahis needed to be properly trained before they would be ready for mass struggle.

(iii) Within the Congress, some leaders were tired of mass struggles and wanted to participate in elections to the provincial councils, which were set up under the Government of India Act, 1919.

(iv) Industrialists, workers, peasants etc. interpreted the term 'Swaraj' in their own way. At many places like that of Andhra Pradesh, leaders like Alluri Sitaram Raju asserted that India could be liberated only by the use of force. But their values were not approved by the Congress.

Q2. What is meant by the idea of Satyagraha ?

Or

Explain the idea of Satyagraha according to Gandhiji. [CBSE 2014 (D)]

Answer:

- It was a non-violent method of mass agitation against the Oppressor.
- It emphasised the power of truth and the need to search the truth.
- It suggested that if the cause was true, if the struggle was against injustice, there is no need for physical force to fight the oppressor.
- People-including the oppressors had to be persuaded to see the truth instead of being forced to accept truth through the use of violence.
- By this struggle, truth was bound to be victorious.

Q3. Write a newspaper report on :

(a) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre

(b) The Simon Commission

Answer: (a) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre: A public meeting was announced for the 13th April, 1919, at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar to protest against the Rowlatt Act. The people were allowed to assemble there. After they had gathered there in thousands, General Dyer marched there with armoured cars and troops. Without giving any warning to the people to disperse, he ordered firing on the unarmed, and the peaceful people. The casualties among the Indians were very heavy. Dyer's purpose in doing so was to 'produce a moral effect', to create in the minds of Satyagrahis, a feeling of terror and awe. This massacre of innocent people in thousands converted Mahatma Gandhi into a non-cooperator.

(b) (i) The Indian members of the Central Legislative Assembly exposed the drawbacks in the Government of India Act of 1919 A.D. As a result of it, the Simon Commission was appointed in 1927 A.D. to suggest any further constitutional reforms. This commission consisted of seven members and its Chairman was Sir John Simon.

(ii) Why was it boycotted by the Indians?

But Indians boycotted the Simon Commission, because there was no Indian member in this commission. The terms of the commission's appointment did not give any indication of 'Swaraj', while the demand of the Indians was only 'Swaraj'. Therefore, the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and other parties decided to oppose the Simon Commission.

(iii) Methods: Indian people organised hartals all over the country. They also held black flag demonstration with the slogan, "Simon go back", when the Commission reached Bombay (Mumbai). Such demonstrations were held everywhere it went.

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