

The Indian independence movement was a prolonged struggle against colonial rule that culminated in independence in 1947. British control over India developed gradually through economic, political, and military dominance. Colonial rule transformed Indian society, economy, and governance, often prioritizing imperial interests over local welfare.

Economic policies under colonial rule disrupted traditional industries and agriculture, leading to poverty and economic dependency. Indian resources were used to support imperial trade, while local populations faced high taxation and recurring famines. These conditions contributed to growing dissatisfaction and resistance.

Early resistance took the form of reform movements and political associations that sought greater participation in governance. Over time, nationalist consciousness expanded, driven by shared experiences of economic exploitation and political exclusion. Education, print media, and political organizations played a key role in spreading nationalist ideas.

The independence movement evolved through multiple phases, including constitutional negotiations, mass protests, and civil disobedience. Nonviolent resistance became a defining feature, emphasizing moral authority and mass participation. At the same time, revolutionary movements also emerged, reflecting frustration with slow progress.

The impact of global events, including the World Wars, significantly influenced the struggle for independence. Economic strain, political reforms, and changing international attitudes weakened colonial authority. By the mid-twentieth century, continued colonial rule had become increasingly unsustainable.

Independence was achieved in 1947, but it was accompanied by partition, which led to widespread violence, displacement, and loss of life. The legacy of the independence movement includes both the achievement of political freedom and the enduring challenges of nation-building, social unity, and economic development.

## COLD WAR

The Cold War was a prolonged period of political and ideological tension that followed the Second World War. It was characterized by rivalry between opposing political systems rather than direct military confrontation. This conflict shaped international relations for much of the twentieth century.

The origins of the Cold War lay in differing visions for the postwar world. Economic recovery, political influence, and security concerns contributed to mutual suspicion. Competing ideologies offered contrasting models of social organization, economic development, and governance.

Although direct warfare between major powers was avoided, the Cold War involved indirect conflicts, arms competition, and political influence across the globe. Regions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America became arenas for proxy conflicts and ideological competition.

The development of nuclear weapons introduced the possibility of unprecedented destruction, creating a balance of fear that influenced strategic decisions. Diplomacy, espionage, and propaganda became central tools of competition. The Cold War affected domestic politics, culture, science, and education.

The period ended with the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The end of the Cold War marked a major shift in global power relations, but its legacy continues to influence international politics and security.