

 **Nationalism in India**

Chapter 2 | India and the Contemporary World - II

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1 Introduction - First World War & Its Impact

In India, the growth of modern nationalism is intimately connected to the **anti-colonial movement**. The sense of being oppressed under colonialism provided a shared bond that tied many different groups together.

What is Nationalism?

Nationalism is a feeling of oneness and unity among people sharing common culture, language, territory, and historical background. It promotes the idea of self-governance and sovereignty over one's homeland.

Impact of First World War on India

- Created a new **economic and political situation**
- Huge increase in **defence expenditure** financed by war loans and increased taxes
- **Customs duties** raised and **income tax** introduced
- Prices increased - **doubled between 1913 and 1918**
- **Forced recruitment** of soldiers from villages caused widespread anger
- **Crop failure** in 1918-19 and 1920-21 resulted in acute food shortages
- **Influenza epidemic** killed 12-13 million people

IMP FACTS

- ★ Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in January 1915
- ★ The First World War (1914-1918) changed economic and political conditions in India
- ★ Indians expected freedom after supporting Britain in the war
- ★ British response was repressive laws like Rowlatt Act instead of reforms

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The Idea of Satyagraha - Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi returned to India in **January 1915** from South Africa. He had already led successful struggles against racial discrimination using **Satyagraha**.



Mahatma Gandhi

Father of the Nation
Born: 2 October 1869, Porbandar
Returned from South Africa: 1915
Philosophy: Satyagraha & Non-Violence

What is Satyagraha?

Satyagraha literally means "holding onto truth" or "truth force". It emphasizes the power of truth and the need to search for truth. It is a non-violent method of mass agitation against injustice. If the cause is true and the fight is against injustice, physical force is not necessary.

Gandhi's Early Satyagrahas in India

- **1916 - Champaran Satyagraha (Bihar):** Against oppressive indigo plantation system
- **1917 - Kheda Satyagraha (Gujarat):** Supported peasants affected by crop failure and plague
- **1918 - Ahmedabad Mill Workers Strike:** Led movement for better wages

Principles of Satyagraha

- Emphasizes **power of truth** and need to search for truth
- Appeals to the **conscience of the oppressor**
- **Non-violent** struggle without using physical force
- If cause is **true and just**, physical force is not necessary
- A satyagrahi can win through **non-violence**
- This **dharma of non-violence** could unite all Indians

3 Rowlatt Act & Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919)

The Rowlatt Act (1919)

- Gave government enormous powers to **repress political activities**
- Allowed **detention without trial** for up to **2 years**
- Government could **arrest anyone without a warrant**
- Passed despite **united opposition of Indian members**

Gandhi's Response

- Launched **nationwide satyagraha** against Rowlatt Act
- Called for a **hartal (strike) on 6 April 1919**
- **Rallies** organized, workers went on **strike**
- **Shops closed down** in protest

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre - 13 April 1919

- On **10 April**, police fired on a peaceful procession in Amritsar
- **Martial law** imposed, **General Dyer** took command
- On **13 April 1919**, large crowd gathered at **Jallianwala Bagh**
- Some came to **protest**, others for **Baisakhi fair**
- General Dyer **blocked all exits** and **opened fire**
- Firing continued until **ammunition exhausted**
- **Hundreds killed**, many more wounded

IMP FACTS

- ★ Jallianwala Bagh had only **ONE** narrow entry/exit which Dyer blocked
- ★ The massacre united Indians in anger against British rule
- ★ Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest
- ★ This event became a turning point in India's freedom struggle

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The Khilafat Movement (1919-1920)

What was the Khilafat Issue?

The **Ottoman Turkey** was defeated in World War I. The **Khalifa** (spiritual head of Muslims worldwide) faced harsh treatment. Indian Muslims wanted to protect the powers of the Khalifa.



Muhammad Ali & Shaukat Ali

Known as "Ali Brothers"
Leaders of Khilafat Movement
Formed Khilafat Committee (March 1919)

Khilafat Movement - Key Points

- **March 1919:** Khilafat Committee formed in Bombay
- Led by **Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali**
- Gandhi saw opportunity for **Hindu-Muslim unity**
- Congress agreed to start **Non-Cooperation Movement** with Khilafat

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Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922)

Gandhi's Idea

Gandhi believed that British rule survived because of **cooperation of Indians**. If Indians refused to cooperate, British rule would **collapse within a year**.

Programme of Non-Cooperation

- **Surrender** of titles and honours
- **Boycott** of civil services, army, police, courts
- **Boycott** of schools and colleges
- **Boycott** of foreign goods
- **Boycott** of legislative council elections

 July 17

Timeline of Non-Cooperation Movement

Sept 1920

Congress adopted Non-Cooperation at Calcutta session

Dec 1920

Nagpur Congress - Movement confirmed; goal of Swaraj adopted

1921

Movement spread across India; thousands participated

Feb 1922

Chauri Chaura incident – Gandhi withdrew movement

Chauri Chaura Incident – February 1922

- At **Chauri Chaura** (Gorakhpur, UP), peaceful demonstration turned violent
- Angry crowd **burnt a police station**
- **22 policemen** were killed
- Gandhi was deeply disturbed and **withdrew the movement**
- Gandhi felt satyagrahis needed **proper training**

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Differing Strands within the Movement

A) Movement in Towns



Urban Response

- **Thousands of students** left government schools
- **Teachers and headmasters** resigned
- **Lawyers** gave up practice (C.R. Das, Motilal Nehru)
- **Foreign goods boycotted**, cloth burnt

B) Peasant Movements



Awadh (UP)

- Led by **Baba Ramchandra**
- Demands: Reduction of **revenue**, abolition of **begar**
- **Oudh Kisan Sabha** formed

C) Tribal Movements

Gudem Hills (Andhra)

- Led by **Alluri Sitaram Raju**
- Tribals angry - forests closed by government
- Raju talked of Gandhi but believed in **use of force**
- Was captured and **executed in 1924**

D) Plantation Workers (Assam)

Swaraj in Plantations

- Under **Inland Emigration Act 1859**, workers couldn't leave without permission
- Thousands **defied authorities and left plantations**
- Were caught, **beaten up** and sent back

7 Towards Civil Disobedience - Simon Commission

The Simon Commission (1928)

- British set up commission under **Sir John Simon**
- **Not a single Indian member** - all British
- Greeted with slogan "**Go Back Simon**"
- **Lala Lajpat Rai** injured in lathi charge; later died

Lahore Congress - December 1929

- Under presidency of **Jawaharlal Nehru**
- Declared demand for '**Purna Swaraj**' (Complete Independence)
- **26 January 1930** declared as **Independence Day**

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Salt March & Civil Disobedience (1930)

Why Salt?

Salt was consumed by both **rich and poor**. Tax on salt and government monopoly was deeply unpopular. Gandhi felt it could **unite all Indians**.

17 July The Dandi March

12 Mar 1930

Gandhi started from **Sabarmati Ashram** with **78 volunteers**

24 Days

Walked **240 miles** (385 km), **10 miles per day**

6 Apr 1930

Reached **Dandi**, made salt - **broke the salt law**

Features of Civil Disobedience

- People asked to **break colonial laws**
- Thousands broke salt law across India
- **Foreign cloth boycotted** and burnt
- **Liquor shops picketed**
- Peasants refused to pay **revenue and taxes**
- **Forest laws violated**

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (5 March 1931)

- Gandhi agreed to participate in **Round Table Conference**
- Government agreed to **release political prisoners**
- Second Round Table Conference **failed**
- Movement relaunched but lost momentum by **1934**

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Different Social Groups in the Movement

Rich Peasants (Patidars, Jats)

- Wanted **revenue reduction** due to falling prices
- Became enthusiastic supporters initially
- Disappointed when movement called off in 1931

Poor Peasants

- Wanted **rent abolition**, not just reduction
- Joined radical movements
- Congress unwilling to support "no rent" campaigns

Business Class

- Wanted **protection from foreign imports**
- Formed **FICCI** (1927)
- Supported initially but worried when movement became radical

Women

- ▶ Large-scale participation – important feature
- ▶ Participated in marches, made salt, picketed shops
- ▶ Many went to jail
- ▶ But Congress reluctant to give leadership positions

10 Limits of Civil Disobedience - Dalits & Muslims



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Leader of Dalits
Founded Depressed Classes Association (1930)
Demanded separate electorates
Chairman, Drafting Committee of Constitution

Dalit Participation – Limitations

- ▶ Congress had **ignored Dalits** for too long
- ▶ Swaraj did not address their **social disabilities**
- ▶ Gandhi called them "**Harijans**"
- ▶ Demanded **reserved seats and separate electorates**

The Poona Pact (September 1932)

- Ambedkar demanded **separate electorates** at Round Table Conference
- Gandhi began **fast unto death** against separate electorates
- Ambedkar signed **Poona Pact**
- Result: **Reserved seats** within general electorate

Muslim Alienation

- After Khilafat, Muslims felt **alienated from Congress**
- Congress seen as associated with **Hindu groups**
- **Hindu-Muslim riots** increased
- Muslim League **lukewarm** to Civil Disobedience

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Sense of Collective Belonging - Symbols

Bharat Mata

- Image created by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**
- Painted by **Abanindranath Tagore**
- '**Vande Mataram**' written in 1870s
- Widely sung during Swadeshi movement

The Indian Flag

- During Swadeshi - tricolour (red, green, yellow) with eight lotuses
- **1921:** Gandhi designed **Swaraj flag**
- Tricolour (red, green, white) with **spinning wheel**
- Charkha represented **Gandhian ideal of self-help**



Important Years at a Glance

Year	Event
1915	Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa
1916	Champaran Satyagraha (Bihar)
1917	Kheda Satyagraha (Gujarat)
1918	Ahmedabad Mill Workers Strike
1919	Rowlatt Act; Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (13 April); Khilafat Committee
1920	Non-Cooperation Movement started
Feb 1922	Chauri Chaura incident; Gandhi withdrew movement
1928	Simon Commission arrived - "Go Back Simon"
Dec 1929	Lahore Congress - Demand for Purna Swaraj
26 Jan 1930	Independence Day celebrated
12 Mar 1930	Dandi March began
6 Apr 1930	Gandhi broke salt law; Civil Disobedience started
1930	Depressed Classes Association formed by Ambedkar
Mar 1931	Gandhi-Irwin Pact signed
Sep 1932	Poona Pact signed
1934	Civil Disobedience Movement ended



Important Personalities

Personality	Role / Contribution
Mahatma Gandhi	Father of the Nation; led Satyagraha, Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience
Jawaharlal Nehru	President of Lahore Congress (1929); declared Purna Swaraj

Personality	Role / Contribution
Ali Brothers	Muhammad Ali & Shaukat Ali; leaders of Khilafat Movement
Baba Ramchandra	Led peasant movement in Awadh; Oudh Kisan Sabha
Alluri Sitaram Raju	Led tribal revolt in Gudem Hills; executed 1924
Abdul Ghaffar Khan	Frontier Gandhi; led Khudai Khidmatgar in NWFP
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	Leader of Dalits; Depressed Classes Association; Poona Pact
Bankim Chandra	Wrote 'Vande Mataram'; created image of Bharat Mata
Abanindranath Tagore	Painted famous image of Bharat Mata
General Dyer	Responsible for Jallianwala Bagh Massacre



Key Terms / Definitions

Satyagraha

"Holding onto truth" - Non-violent resistance to injustice

Hartal

Mass strike - shops, offices, schools closed as protest

Boycott

Refusal to buy, use, or participate as a protest

Swadeshi

Using goods made in one's own country

Swaraj

Self-rule or self-governance

Purna Swaraj

Complete independence from British rule

Begar

Forced labour without payment

Picket

Protest standing outside a place to prevent entry

Civil Disobedience

Deliberately breaking unjust laws as non-violent protest

Khalifa

Spiritual head of Muslims worldwide

Separate Electorates

System where community votes separately for own representatives

Inland Emigration Act

1859 Act preventing workers from leaving plantations



Chapter Summary

✓ **First World War** created economic hardships and raised hopes of freedom.

✓ **Mahatma Gandhi** introduced **Satyagraha** - non-violent resistance.

✓ **Rowlatt Act (1919)** and **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** united Indians.

✓ **Khilafat Movement** brought Hindus and Muslims together.

✓ **Non-Cooperation (1920-22)** withdrawn after Chauri Chaura violence.

✓ **Simon Commission (1928)** boycotted - no Indian members.

✓ **Lahore Congress (1929)** declared **Purna Swaraj**.

✓ **Salt March (1930)** launched **Civil Disobedience Movement**.

✓ Different groups participated with different expectations.

✓ **Poona Pact (1932)** - reserved seats for Dalits.

✓ Symbols like **Bharat Mata, Vande Mataram, tricolour flag** created collective identity.



Important Questions for Board Exam

1 Mark Questions

Q. When did Mahatma Gandhi return to India?

Ans: January 1915.

Q. What does 'Satyagraha' mean?

Ans: Holding onto truth - a non-violent method of protest.

Q. When did Jallianwala Bagh Massacre take place?

Ans: 13 April 1919.

Q. Who led the Khilafat Movement?

Ans: Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali (Ali Brothers).

Q. Why was Non-Cooperation withdrawn?

Ans: Chauri Chaura incident (February 1922) - violence broke out.

Q. What was the slogan against Simon Commission?

Ans: "Go Back Simon".

Q. How far did Gandhi march to Dandi?

Ans: 240 miles (385 km) from Sabarmati to Dandi.

Q. Who wrote Vande Mataram?

Ans: Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

3 Mark Questions

Q. Explain Gandhi's idea of Satyagraha.

Ans: (i) Means "holding onto truth" (ii) Non-violent method (iii) Appeals to conscience of oppressor (iv) If cause is true, physical force not needed (v) Could unite all Indians.

Q. Why was Simon Commission opposed?

Ans: (i) No Indian member - all British (ii) Indians wanted to frame own constitution (iii) Seen as insult (iv) All parties united - "Go Back Simon".

Q. What role did women play in Civil Disobedience?

Ans: (i) Participated in marches (ii) Made salt (iii) Picketed shops (iv) Many went to jail (v) But Congress reluctant to give leadership roles.

5 Mark Questions

Q. Describe the Salt March and its significance.

Ans: (i) Gandhi sent demands to Viceroy including abolishing salt tax (ii) Started 12 March 1930 from Sabarmati with 78 volunteers (iii) Walked 240 miles in 24 days (iv) On 6 April, broke salt law at Dandi. **Significance:** Started Civil Disobedience; united all classes; thousands broke salt law; showed power of non-violence; got worldwide attention.

Q. Explain circumstances leading to Non-Cooperation Movement.

Ans: Circumstances: (i) Economic hardship after WWI (ii) Rowlatt Act gave repressive powers (iii) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre united Indians (iv) Khilafat issue enabled Hindu-Muslim unity. **Features:** Surrender of titles, boycott of services/courts/schools/foreign goods/elections.

Q. How did different social groups participate in Civil Disobedience?

Ans: (i) **Rich Peasants:** Wanted revenue reduction (ii) **Poor Peasants:** Wanted rent abolition (iii) **Business Class:** Wanted protection from imports (iv) **Workers:** Better conditions (v) **Women:** Marches, salt-making, picketing (vi) **Tribals:** Forest rights - Alluri Sitaram Raju.

Q. How was sense of collective belonging created?

Ans: (i) **Bharat Mata:** Image by Bankim Chandra, painted by Abanindranath (ii) **Vande Mataram:** Hymn to motherland (iii) **Flag:** Tricolour with spinning wheel (iv) **Folk traditions:** Songs, tales collected (v) **History:** Reinterpreted to instill pride.



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