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Nationalism in India

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

1918-19	Distressed UP peasants organised by Baba Ramchandra
April 1919	Gandhian hartal against Rowlatt Act; Jallianwala Bagh massacre
January 1921	Non-Cooperation and Khilafat movement launched
February 1922	Chauri Chaura; Gandhiji withdraws NonCooperation movement
May 1924	Alluri Sitarama Raju arrested ending a two-year armed tribal struggle
December 1929	Lahore Congress; Congress adopts the demand for 'Purna Swaraj'
1930	Ambedkar establishes Depressed Classes Association
March 1930	Gandhiji begins Civil Disobedience Movement by breaking salt law at
Dandi March 1931	Gandhiji ends Civil Disobedience Movement
December	1931 Second Round Table Conference
1932	Civil Disobedience re-launched.

During the time of World War-I, India

First of all, a large sum of money was needed, which was derived by introducing customs duties and income tax on Indians.

1. Secondly, India was forced to supply men as soldiers to the British army, which caused widespread anger among people.
2. Many parts of our country faced shortages of food supply and spread of the influenza epidemic, which added fuel to the fire to fight against the colonial government.

WHEN GANDHI CAME TO INDIA IN 1915 FROM SOUTH AFRICA

1. **Champaran- In 1916,** he launched first Satyagraha in Champaran, Bihar where he inspired people to protest against teenkathiya system (repressive plantation system)
2. **Kheda- In 1917,** he organized Satyagraha in the Kheda district of Gujarat to support the poor peasants who were demanding relaxation in revenue collection.
3. **Ahmedabad- In 1918,** he organized Satyagraha for cotton mill workers.

Gandhi Ji launched all these movements by following two principles that are truth and non-violence.

1. He believed that if the idea is pure, then a satyagrahi does not need to use force.
2. He was a practitioner of non-violence and believed that one could win any battle by following the Dharma of truth and non-violence.



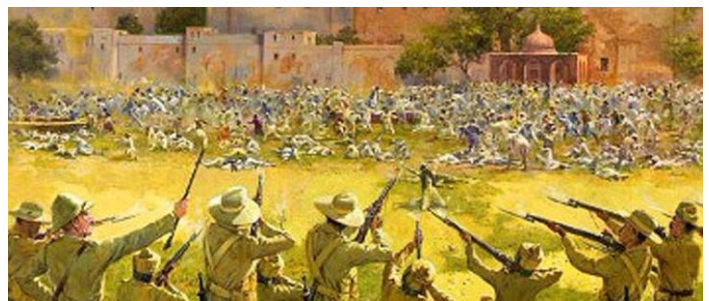
ROWLATT ACT OF 1919

The Imperial legislative council passed the Rowlatt act in 1919 which gave Britishers enormous power to suppress political activities and put political prisoners behind bars without any trial for two years.

In this response, Gandhiji launched a hartal (strike) on 6 April. It was the beginning of India workers' **national movement** went on strike, shops were closed down, railways and telegraph lines were disrupted. As a result, local leaders were picked up, and Gandhiji was barred from entering Delhi. Martial law was imposed in many places in India.

On 13 April, Amritsar people gathered to participate in the Baisakhi festival, unaware of martial law. When General Dyer came to know about this gathering, he fired upon people and killed a large number of them to create fear and feeling of awe. **It is marked as the black day in the history of the national movement of India.**

Gandhi was always a staunch supporter of non-violence, so after the incident of **Jallianwala Bagh**, he immediately called off the hartal.



NON COOPERATION AND KHILAFAT

Gandhiji realized that to launch a successful mass movement at the national level, **Hindus and Muslims should be brought together.** At the **Calcutta session of Congress in 1920**, He decided to **launch the Non-cooperation movement with the Khilafat movement.** Khilafat movement was launched by two **Muslim brothers- Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali.**

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT IN STAGES

1. He proposed that people boycott foreign goods, clothes
2. Surrender government titles, schools, colleges, law courts, civil services, and council elections.
3. Initially, Congress members were reluctant to boycott council elections, but later in the **congress session of 1920, they decided to adopt the Non-Cooperation program.**

Thousands of teachers, headmasters, lawyers, and students refused to go to colonial institutions and altogether boycotted it.

Foreign goods were boycotted and burnt.

Liquor shops were picketed, which led to the dramatic dropping of its import.

Gandhi Ji encouraged people to make their own clothes using Charkha. Charkha is the symbol of self-reliance and traditional Indian handicrafts' potential.

DIFFERING STRANDS WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

- **Rebellion in the countryside:** - From the cities, the noncooperation movement spread to the countryside. After the war, the struggles of peasants and tribal were developing in different parts of India.
- One movement here war against talukdars and landlords who demanded from **peasant exorbitantly high rents and a variety of other cases.**
- Peasants had to do begar. The peasant movement demanded reduction of revenue, **an abolition of begar and social boycott of oppressive landlords.**
- Oudh Kisan Sabha was setup headed by Jawaharlal Nehru and other, within a month, **over 300 branches** had been set up by the villagers.

- Tribal peasants interpreted the message of Mahatma Gandhi and the idea of Swaraj in yet another way.
- The colonial government had closed large forest areas preventing people from entering the forests to graze their cattle, or to collect fuel wood and fruits.
- Alluri Sitaram Raju Claimed that he had a variety of special powers. He asserted that India could be liberated only by the use of force.



In 1922, Chauri Chaura Satyagrahis attacked a police station that claimed some police officers' lives. When Gandhiji heard this violent act, he called off the movement

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

1. It was a step further from the Non-Cooperation Movement. People were now prompted to not only refuse cooperation but also break colonial laws.
2. People boycotted foreign cloth and picketed liquor shops.
3. Peasants were asked to refuse to pay revenue and chaukidari taxes.
4. Students, village officials and lawyers were asked not to attend English medium schools, colleges, offices and courts.

BEGINNING OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

In 1930, to protest against salt manufacturing's monopoly rights, Gandhiji launched the Dandi march, where he, with his supporters, made salt and blatantly broke the salt law.

SALT MARCH

On 31st January 1930, Mahatma Gandhi wrote a letter to Viceroy Irwin addressing eleven demands, including abolishing the Salt Tax. Salt is one of the essential food items consumed by the rich and poor, and a tax on it was considered oppressive. This letter was an ultimatum that he would launch a civil disobedience campaign if the demands were not met by March 11.

THE DANDI MARCH

1. Mahatma Gandhi started the Salt March with 78 volunteers
2. The Salt March covered more than 240 miles, from Gandhiji's Sabarmati Ashram to Gujarat's coastal town of Dandi.
3. The volunteers walked for 24 days, covering about 10 miles a day.
4. Thousands gathered to meet Mahatma Gandhi wherever he halted, and spread awareness about Swaraj and urged people to defy the British rule non-violently.
5. On April 6, they arrived at Dandi and ceremonially violated the law by manufacturing salt by boiling seawater.

GANDHI IRWIN PACT

The Civil Disobedience Movement grew across the country. Trying to suppress this rebellion, the British arrested Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, in April 1930. Mahatma Gandhi was arrested a month later, instigating people to attack all structures that symbolised British rule.

Witnessing the horrific situation, Gandhiji called off the campaign and entered into a pact with Irwin on 5 March 1931. As one of the proposed conditions of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Gandhiji consented to engage in a Round Table Conference in London. However,

when the conference broke down, Gandhiji returned to India disappointed and decided to relaunch the Civil Disobedience Movement.

TOWARDS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

- Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922.
- The movement was turning violent in many places and satyagrahis needed properly trained for mass struggle.
- CR Das and Motilal Nehru formed the Swaraj Party within the Congress to argue for a return to council politics.
- Salt was a powerful symbol that could unite the nation.
- Salt march accompanied by 78 of his trusted volunteers.
- Finally, Mahatma Gandhi once again decided to call off the movement and entered into a pact with Irwin on 5 March 1931.
- Participants saw the movement in different angle such as Patidars of Gujarat and Jats of Uttar Pradesh.
- To organise business interest, formed the Indian Industrial and commercial congress in 1920 and Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI).
- Gandhi called to Untouchable that is Harijan, Children of God.

LIMITATIONS OF THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

- Untouchables were overlooked in the movement.
- The Hindu-Muslim divide has widened due to the non-participation of Muslim political organisations.
- Conflicts between Congress and Muslims arose as a result of Muslim demand for special seats.
- A substantial number of Muslims have been alienated from the battle due to their fear of becoming Muslims as a minority within India

THE SENSE OF COLLECTIVE BELONGING

- Nationalist Movement Spreads when people belonging to different regions and communities begin to develop a sense of collective belongingness. The identity of a nation is most often symbolized in a figure or image.
- This image of Bharat Mata was first created by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1870 when he wrote 'Vande Mataram' for our motherland. Indian folk songs and folk sung by bards played an important role in making the idea of nationalism.
- In Bengal, Rabindranath Tagore and in Madras, Natesa, Sastri collection of folk tales and songs, which led the movement for folk revival?
- During the Swadeshi Movement, a tri-color (red, green and yellow) flag was designed in Bengal. It had eight lotuses representing eight provinces and a crescent moon representing Hindus and Muslims.
- Means of creating a feeling of nationalism was through reinterpretation of history. The nationalist writers urged the readers to take pride in India's great achievements in the past and struggle to change the miserable conditions of life under British rule.

SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **In which novel was the hymn 'Vande Mataram' included and who was the novel written by?**

Novel—Aandamath

Author — Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

2. **In which year and place did Mahatma Gandhi organise Satyagraha for the first time in India?**

In 1916, in Champaran, Bihar

3. **Who is the author of the famous book 'Hind Swaraj'?**

Mahatma Gandhi

4. **Which Act did not permit plantation workers to leave the tea garden without permission?**

Inland Emigration Act of 1859

5. **What combination of colours was there in the 'Swaraj flag' designed by Gandhiji in 1921?**

Red, Green and White

6. **Who created the first image of Bharat Mata?**

Abanindranath Tagore

7. **In which session of the Indian National Congress was the demand for 'Purna Swaraj' formalized?**

Lahore Session, December 1929

8. **Why was the Rowlatt Act imposed?**

The imposing of the Rowlatt Act authorized the government to imprison any person without trial and conviction in a court of law.

9. **Explain any three problems faced by the peasants of Awadh.**

Three problems faced by the peasants of Awadh were:

- a) Talukdars and landlords demanded exorbitantly high rents and a variety of other taxes from the peasants.
 - b) Peasants had to do begar and work at the landlords' farms without any payment.
 - c) As tenants they had no security of tenure and were being regularly evicted so that they could acquire no right over the leased land.
10. Explain any three effects of the Non-cooperation Movement on the economy of India.

The economic sphere was affected by the Non-cooperation Movement:

- a) Foreign goods were boycotted, liquor shops were picketed and foreign cloth was burnt. The import of foreign cloth halved between 1921-1922. Its value dropped from ₹ 102 crore to ₹ 57 crore.
- b) Many merchants and traders refused to trade in foreign goods or finance foreign trade.
- c) People began discarding imported clothes and wearing Indian ones.
- d) The production of Indian textile mills and handlooms went up. Use of khadi was popularized.