

## **Nationalism in India**

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The growth of modern nationalism is intimately connected to anti-colonial movement.

The congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi tried to forge groups together within one movement. However, the unity did not emerge without conflict.

### **First World War, Khilafat and Non-Cooperation**

1. National Movement was spreading in New areas in 1919 and incorporating new social groups and developing new modes of struggle.
2. Mahatma Gandhi came to India and The Idea of Satyagraha emphasised the power of truth and the need to search for truth.
3. He advocated that physical force was not necessary to fight the oppressor.
4. In 1916, He travelled to Champaran in Bihar to inspire the peasants to struggle against the oppressive plantation system.

### **The Idea of Satyagraha**

1. Mahatma Gandhi returned to India in January, 1915. His heroic fight for the Indians in South Africa was well-known. His novel method of mass agitation known as Satyagraha had yielded good results.
2. The idea of Satyagraha emphasized the power of truth and the need to search for truth.
3. In 1916, Gandhi travelled to Champaran in Bihar to inspire the peasants to struggle against the oppressive plantation system.
4. In 1917, crops field in Kheda district of Gujrat, but the government refused to remit land revenue and insisted on its full collection.
5. In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi intervened in a dispute between workers and mill owners of Ahmedabad. He advised to workers to go on strike and to demand a 35% increase in wages.
6. Satyagraha brought Gandhiji into close touch with the workers in the urban areas.

### **The Rowlatt act**

1. When the Rowlatt act 1919, was passed hurriedly through the Imperial Legislative Council inspire of unanimous opposition of the Indian members, Gandhiji's patience comes to an end.
2. Gandhi wanted non-violent civil disobedience against such unjust laws, which would start with a hartal on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

3. 6th April 1919 was observed as Satyagraha Day when people all over the country observed fast and hartal.
4. 1919, the country witnessed a remarkable political awakening in India.
5. Local leaders were picked up from Amritsar and Mahatma Gandhi was barred from entering Delhi.
6. On 10<sup>th</sup> April, the police in Amritsar fired upon a peaceful procession, provoking widespread attacks on banks.

### **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**

1. A large crowd gathered in the enclosed ground of Jallianwalla Bagh.
2. People came to protest against government's repressive measure while some came to attend the annual Baisakhi fair.
3. General Dyer entered the area. Blocked the exit points and opened fire on the crowd, killing hundreds.
4. The government responded with brutal repression seeking to humiliate and terrorise people.
5. Satyagrahis were forced to rub their noses on the ground, crawl on the streets and do Salaam (salute) to all Sahibs.

### **Khilafat movement**

1. Rowlatt Satyagraha had been a widespread movement, it was still limited mostly to cities and towns.
2. Mahatma Gandhi now felt the need to launch a more broad based movement in India.
3. But he was certain that no such movement could be organized without bringing the Hindus and Muslims closer together.
4. The First World War had ended with the defeat of Ottoman Turkey. There were rumors that a harsh peace treaty was going to be imposed on the Ottoman Emperor, who was the spiritual head (Khalifa) of the Islamic world.
5. The Muslims of India decided to force Britain to change her Turkish policy.
6. A Khalifa Committee was formed under the leadership of Maulana Azad, Ajmal Khan and Hasrat Mohani.
7. A young generation of Muslim leaders like the brothers Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali began discussing with Mahatma Gandhi about the possibility of a united mass action on the issue.

### **Differing strands within the movement:**

1. 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.

2. One movement here was against talukdars and landlords who demanded from peasant exorbitantly high rents and a variety of other cesses.
3. Peasants had to do begar. The peasant movement demanded reduction of revenue, an abolition of begar and social boycott of oppressive landlords.
4. Oudh Kisan Sabha was setup headed by Jawaharlal Nehru and others, within a month, over 300 branches had been set up by the villagers.
5. Tribal peasants interpreted the message of Mahatma Gandhi and the idea of Swaraj in yet another way.
6. 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.
7. 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.

### **Towards Civil Disobedience**

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

### **The Sense of Collective Belonging**

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.

### **Question 1.**

Explain : (a) Why growth of Nationalism in the colonies is linked to an anti-colonial movement.

(b) How the First World War helped in the growth of the National Movement in India.

(c) Why Indians were outraged by the Rowlatt Act.

(d) Why Gandhiji decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement.

**Answer:**(a) In colonies the people had to face poverty and miseries due to the colonial exploitation. Consequently, they shared a common hatred against the foreign rule.

- People began discovering their unity in the process of their struggle with colonialism provided a shared bond that tied many different groups together.

British policies like racialism and divide and rule exposed their unfair intentions that was enough to create national feelings among Indians.

(b) The war created a new economic and political situation. It led to an increase in defence expenditure which was financed by war loans and increasing taxes; customs duties were raised and income tax introduced.

There was an increase in prices leading to extreme hardships for the common people. The forced recruitment in rural areas caused widespread anger. Acute shortage of food and influenza epidemic led to famine and misery. The Indians began to realise that British were drawing them in war only for their own interest. All this united the Indians against the British and helped in the growth of the National Movement in India.

(c)

1. Rowlatt Act deprived the people of their civil rights.
2. It authorised the government to imprison people without trial.

(d) Gandhiji called off Non-Cooperation Movement because :

1. The movement was turning violent in many places.
2. Satyagrahis were not properly trained for mass struggles.

**Question 2.**What is meant by the idea of satyagraha?

**Answer:**

The idea of satyagraha means a method of agitation and protest, based on truth and non-violence.

**Question 3.**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. A large but peaceful crowd gathered there to protest against the proclamation issued by General Dyer. General Dyer came there with troops, blocked the only exit of the compound and ordered his troops to open fire on the unarmed and peaceful crowd without warning. A large number of people were killed. Dyer's object in doing so was to 'produce a moral effect', to create in the minds of satyagrahis a feeling of terror and awe.

**(b) The Simon Commission :** The reforms introduced by the Government of India Act, 1919 did not come up to the expectations of the people and there was constant demand for constitutional changes. As a consequence of it, a Commission was set up in 1927 to look into the working of the constitutional system in India and suggest changes. The Commission came to be known as the Simon Commission after its chairman John Simon. The Commission was an all British Commission; it did not have a single Indian member. The self-respect of the Indians was hurt. All the political parties, including the Congress and the Muslim League, decided to boycott it. When the Commission arrived in India it was received with black flags, mass demonstrations, hartals and slogans of 'Go Back Simon.'

**Question 4.**Compare the images of Bharat Mata in this chapter with the images of Germania in Chapter 1.

**Answer:**In the twentieth century, with the growth of nationalism, the identity of India came to be visually associated with the image of Bharat Mata while Germania became the allegory of the German nation in the nineteenth century. In the famous painting by Abanindranath Tagore, Bharat Mata is portrayed as an ascetic figure; She is calm, composed, divine and spiritual. She is shown as dispensing learning, food and clothing, the mala in one hand emphasises her ascetic quality. In one image painted by the artist Lorenz Clasen, Germania is shown guarding the Rhine holding sword in right hand, the breastplate with eagle in left hand. She seems furious by nature in this image. Another image of Bharat Mata is a contrast to the one described before. In this image She is shown wearing a gold crown and ornaments. She is also shown with a trishul, standing beside a lion and an elephant—both symbols of power and authority. Germania, in another painting is shown wearing a

crown of oak leaves which stands for heroism, and holding a sword and olive branch in one hand and flag in the other hand.

**Question 5.** List all the different social groups which joined the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1921. Then choose any three and write about their hopes and struggles to show why they joined the movement.

**Answer:** People of various social groups participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement, each with its own specific aspiration. All of them responded to the call of Swaraj, but the term meant different things to different people. They all were inspired by Gandhiji.

In cities, the movement started with middle- class participation. Thousands of students left government-controlled schools and colleges, headmasters and teachers resigned, and lawyers gave up their legal practices.

In Awadh, peasants were led by Baba Ramchandra. They launched the movement against talukdars and landlords who demanded from them exorbitantly high rents and a variety of other cesses. The peasant movement demanded reduction of revenue, abolition of begar, and social boycott of oppressive landlords.

Tribal peasants interpreted the message of Mahatma Gandhi and the idea of swaraj in another way. They launched the movement against the forest laws of the colonial government which deprived them of the traditional right of entering the forests to graze their cattle and collect fuelwood and fruits. In Gudum hills of Andhra Pradesh, a militant guerrilla movement spread in the early 1920s under the leadership of Alluri Sitaram Raju. As Raju asserted that India could be liberated only by the use of force, not through non-violence, the Gudum rebels attacked police stations, attempted to kill British officials and carried on guerrilla warfare for achieving swaraj.

Plantation workers in Assam also led the movement against the Inland Emigration Act of 1859. They defied the authorities, left the plantations and headed home.