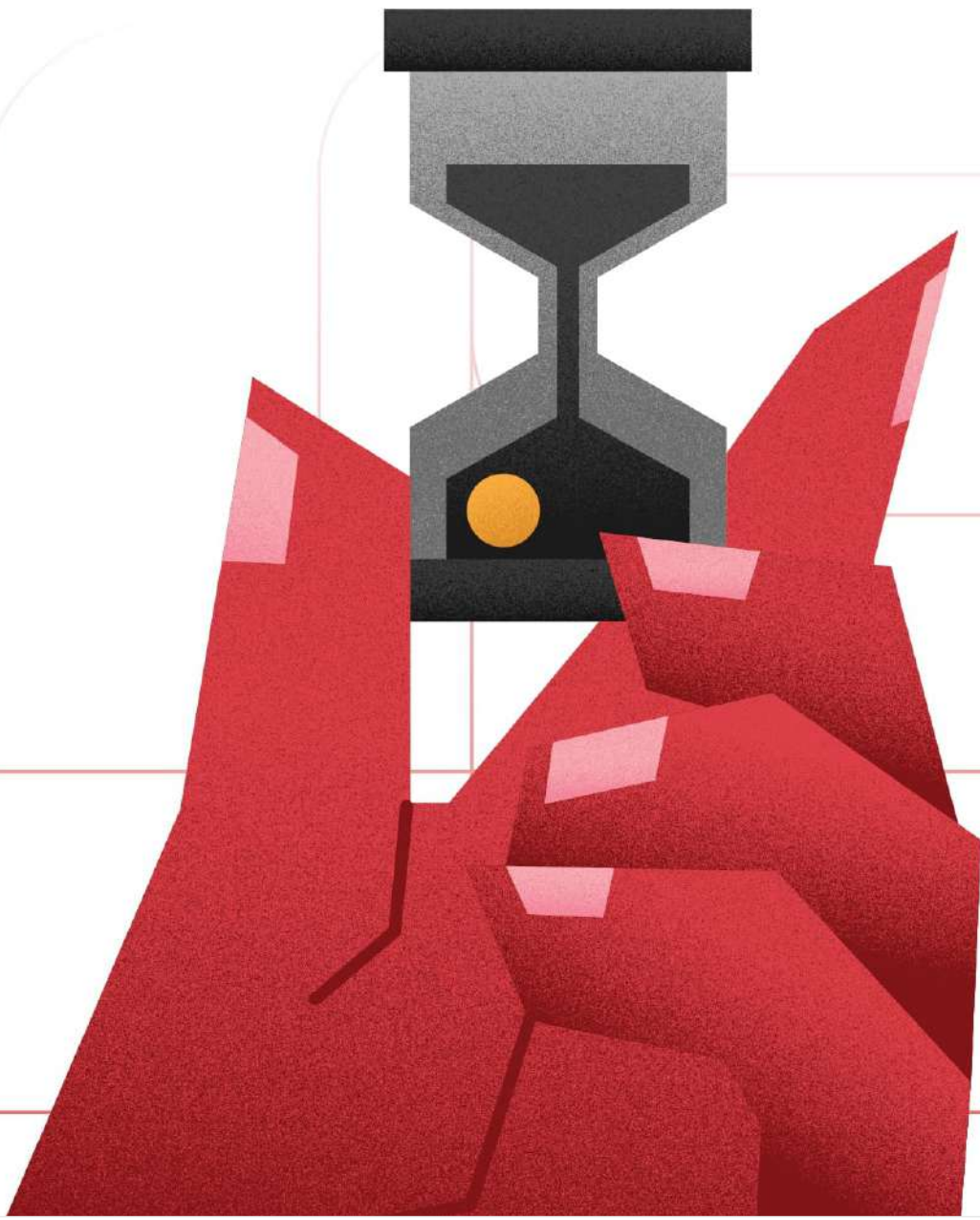




# Modern History

**UPSC Mains**

General Studies I  
Class Notes





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**UPSC MAINS**

**Modern History**

**GENERAL STUDIES - I**

**(Class Notes)**

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**Year 2025-26**

# Features of Our Modern History Notes for UPSC Mains

## ✔ Syllabus-Aligned & Mains-Oriented

- Every topic meticulously mapped to the official UPSC Mains syllabus.
  - Focus on answer-writing relevance with theme-based structuring (Revolt, Reforms, National Movement, British Policies, etc.).
- 

## 🔍 PYQ-Based Approach

- Integrated analysis of Previous Year Questions (PYQs) from GS Paper I to identify trends and high-weightage areas.
  - Sample answers and model frameworks based on UPSC Mains questions to boost writing skills.
- 

## ✍️ To-the-Point & Exam-Ready Content

- Crisp and concise notes — no unnecessary clutter.
  - Designed to enable quick revision before the exam without compromising depth.
- 

## 🌐 Conceptual Clarity with Analytical Edge

- Go beyond facts — understand causes, consequences, significance, and interlinkages across events and themes.
  - Emphasis on building analytical and critical thinking skills for mains-level answers.
- 

## 📊 Value Addition Through Smart Features

- Ready-to-use mains value points, flowcharts, timelines, and infographics.
  - Highlight boxes with keywords, ideologies, and thinker references (e.g., Dadabhai Naoroji, Tilak, Nehru, etc.) for enriched answers.
- 

## 📖 Integrated Prelims Support

- Though mains-focused, the content also reinforces key factual pillars relevant for Prelims — acts, sessions, viceroys, commissions, etc.

### **Time-Saving & Structured for Efficient Revision**

- Notes broken down into modular, easily navigable segments (Reform Movements, Socio-Religious Awakening, Freedom Struggle Phases, etc.).
  - Ideal for last-minute revision and daily answer writing integration.
- 

### **Mentor-Curated Insights**

- Curated by experienced mentors with years of UPSC guidance experience.
  - Notes include strategic cues and writing tips to help you stand out in GS Paper I.
- 

### **Self-Study Friendly & Peer-Tested**

- Tested by aspirants in actual Mains test series with proven impact on performance.
  - Designed to boost retention, recall, and reproduction in exam conditions.
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## A) Colonial Approach:

Colonial approaches to the history of modern India often focused on the narrative of British superiority and the "civilizing mission." Historians during the colonial period portrayed India as stagnant and in need of British intervention for modernization. Key themes included:

1. **Economic Exploitation:** British historians emphasized the economic benefits of colonial rule, often downplaying the exploitation of resources and the impact on local economies.
2. **Cultural Superiority:** British narratives often depicted Indian culture as inferior, using this justification for colonization while promoting British education and governance as progressive.
3. **Political Control:** The portrayal of Indian society as disorganized and in need of British order was common. This justified policies that suppressed dissent and maintained control.
4. **Resistance and Rebellion:** Colonial histories frequently focused on uprisings, framing them as irrational or primitive rather than legitimate expressions of nationalism and resistance.
5. **Racial Theories:** Racial hierarchies were used to justify colonial rule, depicting Indians as incapable of self-governance.

## B) Nationalist Approach:

Nationalist approaches to the history of modern India emerged as a counter to colonial narratives, emphasizing Indian agency, cultural pride, and the struggle for independence. Key features include:

1. **Focus on Resistance:** Nationalist historians highlighted various forms of resistance against colonial rule, from local uprisings to organized movements like the Indian National Congress.
2. **Cultural Revival:** There was a strong emphasis on rediscovering and celebrating India's rich cultural heritage, philosophy, and history, portraying them as sources of strength against colonial oppression.
3. **Unity and Identity:** Nationalist narratives sought to forge a sense of unity among diverse groups in India, promoting the idea of a shared national identity transcending regional and religious differences.
4. **Critique of Colonialism:** These historians critically examined the economic, social, and political impacts of colonial rule, emphasizing exploitation and injustices faced by Indians.
5. **Leadership Figures:** Prominent leaders of the independence movement, such as Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, were celebrated as heroes, and their ideologies became central to the narrative.

**6. Legacy of Independence:** Nationalist history often emphasized the importance of the struggle for self-rule, portraying it as a rightful reclaiming of sovereignty.

### C) Marxist Approach:

Marxist approaches to the history of modern India emphasize class struggle, economic exploitation, and the impact of colonialism on social and economic structures. Key aspects include:

- 1. Class Struggle:** Marxist historians focus on the role of various social classes, particularly the peasantry and working class, in resisting colonial and feudal oppression. They argue that class conflict is central to understanding India's historical development.
- 2. Colonial Exploitation:** They analyze the economic consequences of colonial rule, highlighting how British policies deindustrialized India and created a dependent economy that exploited local resources for imperial benefit.
- 3. Feudal Structures:** Marxist narratives often critique the persistence of feudal relations in Indian society, linking them to colonial policies and arguing that these structures hindered social progress and development.
- 4. Nationalism and Class:** While recognizing the importance of the nationalist movement, Marxist historians argue that it often prioritized elite interests over the needs of the lower classes. They call for a class-based interpretation of nationalism.
- 5. Revolutionary Movements:** They emphasize the significance of leftist movements and uprisings, such as the peasant revolts and the communist movements, as vital to understanding the broader struggle for social justice.

### D) Subaltern approach:

Subaltern approaches to the history of modern India focus on the voices and experiences of marginalized groups often overlooked in traditional historical narratives. Key aspects include:

- 1. Emphasis on Marginality:** Subaltern historians prioritize the perspectives of lower classes, women, indigenous communities, and other marginalized groups, arguing that their experiences are crucial for understanding India's history.
- 2. Agency and Resistance:** These approaches highlight the agency of subaltern groups in resisting oppression, often showcasing their struggles against colonial rule and social hierarchies.
- 3. Critique of Elite Narratives:** Subaltern studies challenge the dominant narratives crafted by colonial and nationalist historians, emphasizing that history is often written from elite perspectives that overlook the realities of the majority.

- 4. Cultural Context:** There is a focus on the cultural practices, beliefs, and local histories of subaltern groups, recognizing their unique contributions to India's socio-political landscape.
- 5. Intersectionality:** Subaltern approaches often incorporate intersectional analyses, considering how various identities—such as caste, gender, and religion—interact to shape experiences of oppression and resistance.

#### **E) Communalist approach:**

Communalist approaches to the history of modern India focus on the religious and communal identities of various groups, often emphasizing the tensions and conflicts between Hindus and Muslims. Key features include:

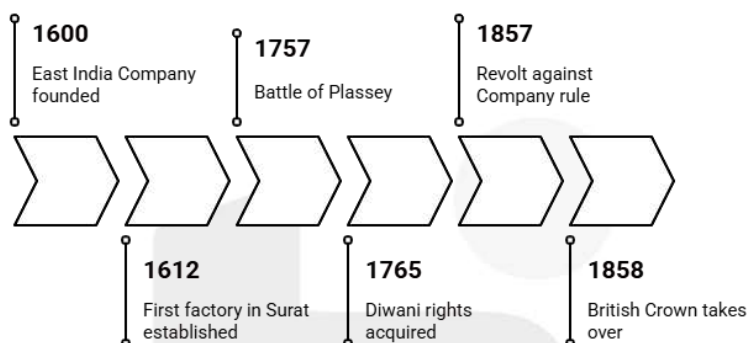
- 1. Identity Centrality:** Communalist narratives prioritize religious identities as fundamental to understanding historical developments, asserting that communal affiliations shaped political and social dynamics.
- 2. Historical Grievances:** These approaches often highlight perceived historical injustices, such as invasions, conversions, and social marginalization, which are seen as contributing to communal tensions.
- 3. Partition and Its Aftermath:** Communalist histories frequently focus on the events leading up to the Partition of India in 1947, framing it as an inevitable outcome of deep-rooted communal divisions.
- 4. Political Mobilization:** They analyze how political leaders and movements have mobilized communal identities for electoral and political gain, often exacerbating divisions.
- 5. Cultural Narratives:** Communalist approaches may draw upon cultural texts, myths, and historical events to reinforce communal identities and narratives.

#### **East India company and its establishment**

- The East India Company was established in 1600 as a trading body to capitalize on the lucrative spice trade in Asia. Initially focused on trade with the East Indies, it gradually shifted its attention to India, particularly Bengal, due to its rich resources and favorable trading conditions.
- The Company's roots in Bengal began in the late 17th century when it established trading posts, taking advantage of the region's thriving economy and agricultural productivity. The strategic location of Bengal made it a key hub for trade in textiles, silk, and spices.
- By the 18th century, the Company's influence in Bengal grew significantly, particularly after the Battle of Plassey in 1757, which marked the beginning of its political dominance in the region.

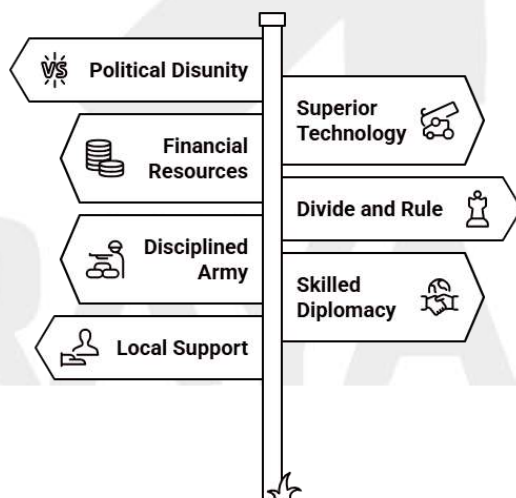
- The victory allowed the Company to install a puppet ruler, effectively gaining control over Bengal’s wealth and resources. This led to increased revenue extraction and significant socio-economic changes, laying the groundwork for British colonial rule in India.

### The Rise and Fall of the East India Company



### Causes of British success in India:

What factors contributed to British success in India?



The success of the British in India can be attributed to a combination of military, political, economic, and social factors. Here’s a detailed account of these causes:

#### Military Superiority

- **Advanced Weaponry:** The British forces were better equipped with advanced weaponry, including artillery and firearms, which gave them a tactical advantage over Indian armies.
- **Professional Army:** The British East India Company maintained a disciplined and well-trained military force, composed of European and Indian soldiers (sepoys), which was often more organized than local armies.

- **Divide and Rule:** The British exploited existing rivalries between Indian states and communities, often siding with one group against another to weaken opposition.

### Political Strategy

- **Diplomatic Alliances:** The British formed alliances with various Indian princes and rulers, gaining their support or neutrality, which helped isolate their opponents.
- **Use of Treaties:** The Company used treaties to gain control over territories and influence local rulers, often leading to indirect control rather than outright conquest.
- **Administrative Efficiency:** The British established a centralized administrative system that was efficient and capable of maintaining order, allowing them to control vast territories with relatively few personnel.

### Economic Factors

- **Control of Trade:** The East India Company initially focused on controlling trade routes and resources, particularly in textiles, spices, and opium, which provided significant revenue.
- **Exploitation of Resources:** The British systematically extracted resources from India, imposing heavy taxes and monopolizing key industries, leading to increased wealth for the Company.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The British invested in infrastructure, such as railways and roads, primarily to facilitate trade and troop movement, which also aided their administrative control.

### Social and Cultural Dynamics

- **Fragmented Society:** Indian society was highly diverse, with numerous religious, ethnic, and regional identities. The British capitalized on these divisions, often supporting one group against another.
- **Missionary Activities:** British missionaries aimed to spread Christianity and Western education, which contributed to social changes and sometimes fostered tensions among communities.
- **Caste and Class Structures:** The British often used existing caste and class structures to their advantage, employing local elites in governance, thereby ensuring loyalty among certain segments of society.

### Weakness of Indian States

- **Decline of Mughal Power:** The weakening of the Mughal Empire created a power vacuum that the British were able to exploit, as regional powers fought for dominance.
- **Internal Conflicts:** Frequent wars and internal strife among Indian states made it easier for the British to conquer and control territories, as many rulers were preoccupied with local conflicts.

## Impact of Events

- **Key Battles:** Victories in decisive battles, such as the Battle of Plassey (1757) and the Battle of Buxar (1764), solidified British control over Bengal and set the stage for further expansion.
- **Sepoy Mutiny:** The 1857 rebellion highlighted the discontent against British rule, but its suppression ultimately strengthened British resolve and control, leading to the establishment of direct British rule in India

## The Battle of Plassey

The Battle of Plassey, marked a pivotal moment in Indian history. The victory of the British East India Company over Siraj ud-Daula, the Nawab of Bengal, established British dominance in India. It led to significant political changes, including the weakening of Mughal authority and the rise of British rule.

### The Battle of Plassey had several key causes:

1. **Competition for Trade:** The British East India Company and the French were vying for control over trade in India, particularly in Bengal, a prosperous region with valuable resources.
2. **Weakness of the Nawab:** Siraj ud-Daula's ascension to power was marked by conflicts with rival factions, leading to instability. His attempts to assert authority threatened British interests.
3. **Political Alliances:** The British formed alliances with discontented local leaders, including Mir Jafar, who sought to overthrow Siraj ud-Daula, thereby undermining the Nawab's position.
4. **Military Presence:** The East India Company had established a strong military presence in Bengal, which was seen as a direct threat by the Nawab, leading to escalating tensions.
5. **Economic Disputes:** Siraj ud-Daula's policies to control trade and collect taxes were opposed by the Company, creating friction and prompting British intervention.

### The battle's impact included:

1. **British Expansion:** The victory allowed the British to consolidate power in Bengal, which became a lucrative base for further territorial expansion in India.
2. **Economic Control:** The East India Company gained control over Bengal's rich resources, enhancing its financial power and facilitating further military campaigns.
3. **Political Manipulation:** The battle exemplified the use of diplomacy and alliances, as the British secured the support of key local figures, undermining traditional governance structures.

**4. Cultural and Social Change:** British rule initiated significant cultural and social transformations, influencing Indian society, administration, and economy.

### The Battle of Buxar

The Battle of Buxar, fought on October 22, 1764, arose from several

#### key causes:

- 1. Expansion of British Power:** Following their victory at Plassey, the British East India Company sought to consolidate and expand its territorial control in India, creating tensions with local rulers.
- 2. Nawab of Bengal's Defiance:** The British faced resistance from Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Oudh, and Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal, who were opposed to British interference in their territories.
- 3. Political Alliances:** The Nawabs formed an alliance to counter British expansion, seeking to reclaim lost power and assert their sovereignty against foreign domination.
- 4. Economic Interests:** The British aimed to secure lucrative trade routes and resources, leading to confrontations with local economies that resisted British control.
- 5. Military Incidents:** Skirmishes and conflicts between British forces and local rulers escalated tensions, prompting the British to take military action.

### The British administrative policies in India

The British administrative policies in India were extensive and transformed the political landscape, economy, and society. Here's a detailed account:

#### Centralized Administration

- **Governor-General:** The British established a centralized system with the Governor-General at the top, overseeing all administrative functions. The position was created under the Government of India Act 1833.
- **Administrative Divisions:** India was divided into provinces, each administered by a Lieutenant Governor or Chief Commissioner. This structure allowed for more direct control over vast territories.

#### Legal System

- **Codification of Laws:** The British introduced a formal legal framework, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1860, which standardized laws across the country.
- **Courts:** A hierarchy of courts was established, with a focus on British legal principles. The introduction of English as the language of the courts marginalized traditional systems.

#### Revenue Policies

- **Land Revenue Systems:** The British implemented various land revenue systems, such as the

Zamindari system, which created landlords responsible for tax collection, often leading to exploitation of peasant farmers.

- **Fixed Revenue Assessment:** Policies like the Permanent Settlement of 1793 in Bengal fixed land revenue, incentivizing landlords but burdening peasants with high taxes.

### Education and Social Reforms

- **English Education:** The British promoted English education, creating a class of Western-educated Indians who would assist in administration. Institutions like the University of Calcutta were established in 1857.
- **Social Reforms:** The British enacted laws against practices like Sati (widow burning) and promoted reforms to improve women's rights, though often for self-serving reasons.

### Economic Policies

- **Monopolistic Control:** The British imposed heavy tariffs on Indian goods, promoting British manufactured products while deindustrializing local economies.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Railways, roads, and telegraphs were developed primarily to facilitate resource extraction and military movement, not for local benefit.

### Military Administration

- **British Army and Native Troops:** The British maintained a strong military presence with a reliance on Indian sepoys, leading to the structure of the Army that favored British officers.
- **Suppression of Rebellions:** The British used military force to quell uprisings, such as the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, leading to direct control over India following the rebellion.

### Local Governance

- **Municipal and Local Boards:** While local governance structures were introduced, real power remained with British officials, limiting true self-governance.
- **Co-option of Indian Elites:** The British often co-opted local elites into administrative roles, maintaining control while creating a dependent ruling class.

### Divide and Rule

- **Religious and Social Divisions:** The British exploited existing social and religious divisions, promoting policies that exacerbated communal tensions, particularly between Hindus and Muslims.

### A) Policy of Ring fence:

The British policy of "Ring Fence" in India, primarily adopted during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, aimed to create a buffer zone around British-controlled territories to protect them from external threats and manage relations with neighboring states. Here's a detailed account:

## Objectives of the Ring Fence Policy

1. **Security and Defense:** The primary goal was to establish a secure perimeter around British territories, minimizing the risk of invasions or conflicts with hostile states.
2. **Control of Buffer Zones:** By controlling regions surrounding British territories, the British could exert influence over local rulers and maintain stability in the region.
3. **Prevention of Native Alliances:** The policy aimed to prevent the formation of alliances between native states that could threaten British interests, especially against the backdrop of rising nationalism and regional powers.

## Implementation of the Policy

1. **Diplomatic Maneuvering:**
  - The British employed diplomacy to secure treaties and alliances with various local rulers. By establishing protectorates, they sought to ensure loyalty and prevent hostile actions from neighboring states.
2. **Military Presence:**
  - The British maintained a significant military presence in strategic locations to deter potential aggressors and to quickly respond to any threats in the buffer zones.
3. **Annexation of Territories:**
  - The British often annexed territories deemed strategically important, integrating them into their empire to strengthen their defensive perimeter. Notable examples include the annexation of Oudh and Sindh.
4. **Treaties and Agreements:**
  - Key treaties, such as the Treaty of Bassein (1802) and the Treaty of Seringapatam (1792), solidified British control and created a network of allied states that would not challenge British authority.

## Impact of the Policy

1. **Strengthening British Control:**
  - The Ring Fence policy significantly enhanced British territorial control and influence in India, allowing them to manage the political landscape more effectively.
2. **Regional Stability:**
  - While the policy aimed at stability, it often led to unrest among local rulers and populations who resented British interference in their affairs.
3. **Prevention of Resistance:**
  - By controlling surrounding territories, the British were able to preemptively suppress

potential uprisings and manage any resistance from neighboring states.

#### 4. Formation of Protectorates:

- The establishment of protectorates allowed the British to control local governments while ostensibly maintaining the existing rulers in power, which further entrenched British dominance.

### Challenges and Criticism

#### 1. Overextension:

- As the British expanded their buffer zones, the administrative burden increased, making it challenging to manage distant territories effectively.

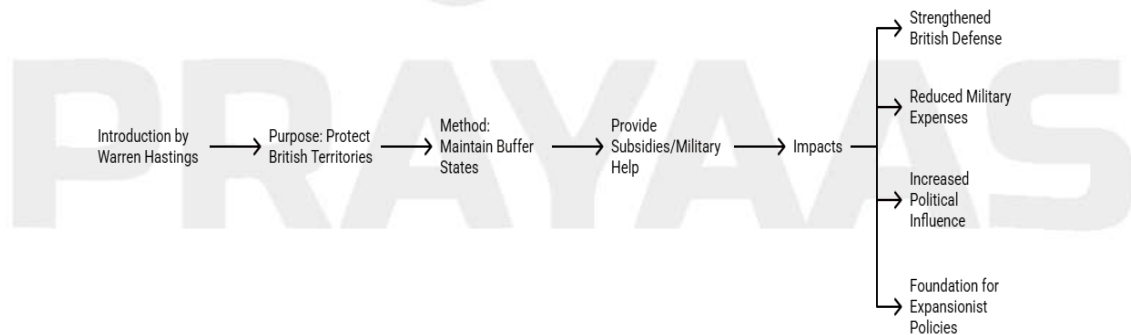
#### 2. Nationalism:

- The Ring Fence policy inadvertently fueled nationalist sentiments among Indian leaders and populations, as it was viewed as a tactic of imperial domination.

#### 3. Increased Hostility:

- The annexation of territories and imposition of treaties often created resentment, leading to revolts, such as the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny, which stemmed from widespread discontent with British rule.

#### Policy of Ring Fence and Its Impacts



### B) Subsidiary Alliances:

Introduced by **Lord Wellesley in 1798**, this policy aimed to establish a system of indirect control over Indian rulers. Here's a detailed account of its features, implementation, and impact:

#### Features of Subsidiary Alliance

##### 1. Military Support:

- Under this policy, Indian rulers were required to accept a British contingent of troops in their territory to protect them from external threats. This ensured that the British

maintained a military presence.

## 2. Non-Interference in Internal Affairs:

- While the British provided military assistance, they promised not to interfere in the internal governance of the princely states, allowing local rulers to retain nominal authority.

## 3. Financial Obligations:

- Rulers had to pay for the maintenance of the British troops stationed in their states. If they failed to do so, they risked losing their territory.

## 4. Disbandment of Native Forces:

- Rulers were often required to disband their own armies, relying solely on British troops for defense, which significantly weakened their military independence.

## 5. Recognition of British Authority:

- The alliance required Indian rulers to recognize British supremacy in matters of foreign relations, effectively making them subservient to British interests.

## Implementation of the Policy

### 1. Initial Adoption:

- The policy was first implemented in Hyderabad and Awadh. The Nizam of Hyderabad and the Nawab of Awadh were persuaded to accept British forces in exchange for protection

### 2. Expansion:

- The policy was gradually extended to other states, including the Marathas and various smaller princely states, leading to increased British control over Indian territories.

### 3. Diplomatic Pressure:

- The British used diplomatic pressure, often exploiting rivalries among Indian rulers, to coerce them into entering subsidiary alliances.

## Impact of the Policy

### 1. Expansion of British Control:

- The Subsidiary Alliance significantly expanded British territorial holdings and influence. It allowed the British East India Company to control vast areas of India without direct annexation.

### 2. Weakened Local Rulers:

- Many Indian rulers became mere figureheads, losing military power and autonomy. The reliance on British troops made them vulnerable to British manipulation.

### 3. Disruption of Traditional Power Structures:

- The policy altered the traditional power dynamics in India, undermining established political systems and leading to a shift in authority.

### 4. Increased Hostility:

- The imposition of this policy fostered resentment among Indian rulers and their subjects, contributing to a growing sense of nationalism and resistance against British rule.

### 5. Prelude to Annexation:

- The Subsidiary Alliance often set the stage for further British annexation. States that could not maintain the financial obligations or faced internal strife were more easily absorbed into British territories.

## Notable Examples

### 1. Nizam of Hyderabad:

- The Nizam accepted the Subsidiary Alliance in 1798, leading to increased British control in the Deccan region.

### 2. Nawab of Awadh:

- Awadh was also drawn into the Subsidiary Alliance, leading to its eventual annexation in 1856 due to alleged misrule.

### 3. Maratha Confederacy:

- The British employed the Subsidiary Alliance against various Maratha states, weakening their unity and ultimately leading to the downfall of the Maratha Empire.

## C) Doctrine of Lapse:

This doctrine provided a **legal rationale for annexing Indian states that lacked a direct male heir**. Here's a detailed account of its principles, implementation, and consequences:

### Principles of the Doctrine of Lapse

#### 1. No Natural Heir:

- The Doctrine asserted that if a ruler died without a direct legitimate heir, their state would automatically revert to British control. This was based on the premise that the British were the rightful guardians of governance.

#### 2. Adoption and Succession:

- The policy allowed for the possibility of adoption; however, adopted heirs were often rejected by the British as legitimate successors. The British often did not recognize adoptions made by the rulers.

#### 3. Legal Justification:

- The doctrine was justified on the grounds of maintaining law and order and ensuring good governance in the absence of a rightful heir.

## Doctrine of Lapse Principles



### Implementation of the Policy

#### 1. Annexation of States:

- The Doctrine of Lapse was actively used to annex several states, most notably:
  - **Satara (1848):** The first state annexed under this doctrine after the death of its ruler without a natural heir.
  - **Jaipur (1850):** The British refused to recognize the adopted heir of the Rajput ruler.
  - **Nagpur (1853):** The state was annexed following the death of its ruler without a male heir.
  - **Oudh (Awadh):** Although initially annexed for alleged misrule, the Doctrine was invoked to justify the annexation when the Nawab was accused of incompetence.

#### 2. Use of Coercion and Diplomacy:

- The British often used diplomatic pressure and military strength to convince rulers to accept the Doctrine, making it a tool for expansion without direct confrontation.

### Impact of the Doctrine of Lapse

#### 1. Expansion of British Territories:

- The policy significantly expanded British territories in India, adding numerous princely

states to their control

## 2. Discontent and Resentment:

- The Doctrine of Lapse led to widespread resentment among Indian rulers and their subjects. It was viewed as an imposition of foreign control over traditional governance and succession practices.

## 3. Catalyst for Rebellion:

- The policy was one of the key factors that contributed to the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny (or First War of Independence). Discontent over the annexation of states fueled nationalist sentiments and unrest against British rule.

## 4. Undermining of Indigenous Governance:

- The Doctrine disrupted established political structures, weakening local governance and altering traditional power dynamics in India.

## 5. Crisis of Legitimacy:

- By disregarding local customs regarding succession and adoption, the British undermined their own legitimacy, creating a perception of colonial oppression.

## D) The policy of "masterly inactivity"

### Principles of Masterly Inactivity

#### 1. Non-Interference:

- The British aimed to avoid direct involvement in the internal affairs of Indian states, preferring to let local rulers govern themselves as long as they did not threaten British interests.

#### 2. Preservation of Stability:

- The policy sought to maintain stability and order without excessive military intervention, allowing for a semblance of autonomy among Indian rulers.

#### 3. Resource Management:

- By avoiding direct involvement in conflicts and administrative matters, the British could conserve their military and administrative resources for more significant threats or strategic opportunities.

#### 4. Diplomatic Leverage:

- This approach allowed the British to position themselves as neutral arbiters in disputes between Indian states, thus enhancing their influence without direct control.

## Implementation of the Policy

### 1. Rulers' Autonomy:

- The British recognized the authority of local rulers and allowed them to manage their states as long as they acknowledged British supremacy in matters of foreign policy and defense.

## **2. Limited Intervention:**

- The British intervened only when it was strategically necessary, such as to quell significant unrest or to protect British economic interests.

## **3. Treaties and Alliances:**

- The policy was often supported by treaties that formalized British protection over various princely states while allowing rulers to maintain their authority.

## **4. Neutral Stance in Conflicts:**

- The British often refrained from intervening in disputes between Indian states unless they posed a risk to British interests, thereby avoiding unnecessary military engagements.

## **Impact of Masterly Inactivity**

### **1. Stability in Indian States:**

- The policy contributed to a degree of stability in many princely states, allowing local rulers to govern without interference, which sometimes resulted in effective governance.

### **2. Limited British Expansion:**

- By practicing masterly inactivity, the British could avoid overextending their military resources, focusing instead on consolidating their existing territories.

### **3. Increased Indian Autonomy:**

- The policy allowed some Indian rulers to maintain a level of autonomy, fostering a sense of local governance and identity, although always under the overarching influence of the British.

### **4. Perception of British Neutrality:**

- The British were often viewed as neutral parties in regional conflicts, which allowed them to build alliances and gain loyalty from various Indian rulers.

### **5. Consequences for Nationalism:**

- While the policy initially created stability, it also led to a growing sense of nationalism among various Indian groups. The perception of British neutrality could not hide their ultimate aim of consolidating power.

## **Criticisms of the Policy**

### **1. Inconsistent Approach:**

- Critics argued that the policy was inconsistent, as the British would intervene selectively, undermining the notion of genuine neutrality.

## 2. Exploitation of Rivalries:

- While promoting stability, the British often exploited rivalries between states to strengthen their own position, leading to long-term destabilization.

## 3. Limited Long-term Effectiveness:

- As nationalist sentiments grew, the policy became increasingly untenable, as it did not address the underlying issues of discontent and resistance against British rule.

## E) Policy of proud reserve:

This policy emphasized a posture of superiority and aloofness in relations with Indian rulers and subjects. Here's a detailed account of its principles, implementation, and consequences:

### Principles of Proud Reserve

#### 1. Assertion of Superiority:

- The policy was based on the belief in British racial and cultural superiority, asserting that the British were inherently more capable of governance than Indian rulers.

#### 2. Limited Engagement:

- British officials maintained a distance from local politics and social interactions, preferring a formal and detached approach in their dealings with Indian leaders.

#### 3. Maintaining Authority:

- The policy sought to reinforce British authority and dominance without appearing overly interventionist or engaged in local affairs, which could undermine their perceived control.

#### 4. Diplomatic Leverage:

- By maintaining a proud distance, the British aimed to project strength and self-confidence, using this as a diplomatic tool to manage relations with Indian states.

### Implementation of the Policy

#### 1. Formal Interactions:

- British officials interacted with Indian rulers in a formal manner, emphasizing the hierarchical nature of their relationship. Meetings were often conducted with a clear display of British authority.

#### 2. Avoidance of Local Alliances:

- The British avoided forming close personal alliances or friendships with Indian rulers,

instead focusing on maintaining a relationship based on political and military power dynamics.

### **3. Centralized Administration:**

- The British centralized control over territories, sidelining local power structures and reinforcing the idea that ultimate authority resided with British officials.

### **4. Public Perception:**

- The British used propaganda and public displays of strength, such as military parades and ceremonial events, to reinforce their image of superiority and control.

## **Impact of Proud Reserve**

### **1. Perception of British Strength:**

- The policy projected an image of British invulnerability and control, discouraging challenges from Indian rulers who were aware of the consequences of defiance.

### **2. Strained Relationships:**

- While the policy aimed to maintain authority, it often strained relationships with local rulers, who felt marginalized and disrespected by the British attitude of superiority.

### **3. Cultural Alienation:**

- The aloofness fostered a cultural divide between the British and Indian society, leading to a lack of understanding and appreciation for local customs and governance practices.

### **4. Resistance and Resentment:**

- The proud reserve attitude contributed to growing resentment among Indian leaders and populations, ultimately fueling nationalist sentiments and resistance against British rule.

### **5. Mismanagement of Local Affairs:**

- By maintaining a distance from local issues, the British often misjudged political dynamics and failed to address grievances, leading to unrest and dissatisfaction.

## **Criticisms of the Policy**

### **1. Inflexibility:**

- Critics argued that the policy's rigid approach limited the British ability to adapt to changing political realities in India, leading to missed opportunities for collaboration and effective governance.

### **2. Neglect of Local Governance:**

- The proud reserve often resulted in neglect of local governance issues, exacerbating administrative challenges and alienating local populations.

### 3. Reinforcement of Nationalism:

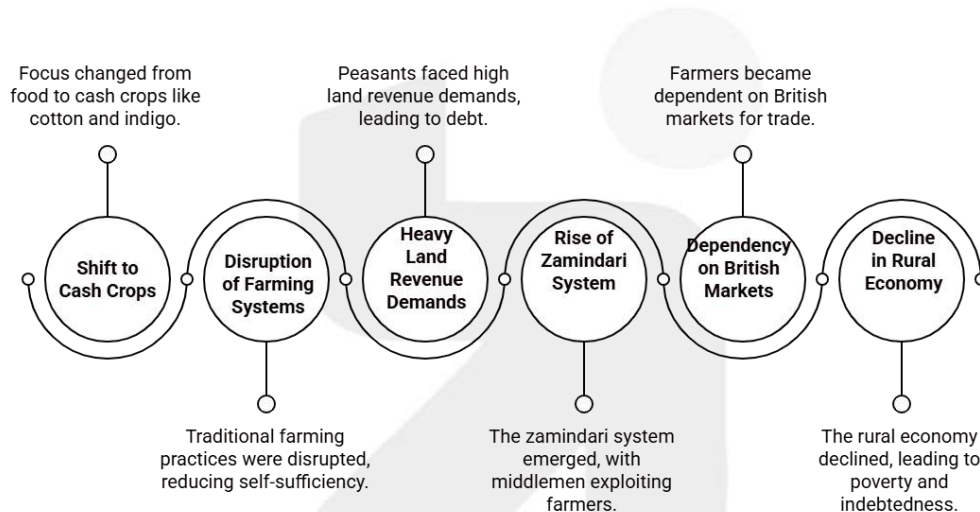
- The perception of British aloofness and superiority contributed to the rise of Indian nationalism, as local leaders and movements began to resist British control and assert their rights.



### A) On agriculture :

The economic impact of British rule on agriculture in India was profound and multifaceted, leading to significant changes in agricultural practices, land ownership structures, and the overall agrarian economy. Here's a detailed account of these impacts:

#### Economic Impact of British Rule on Agriculture



### Land Revenue Systems

- **Zamindari System:** This system appointed landlords (zamindars) as intermediaries responsible for tax collection from peasants. The zamindars were often more interested in maximizing revenue than in the welfare of the farmers, leading to high tax burdens.
- **Ryotwari System:** Implemented in regions like Bombay and Madras, this system required individual farmers (ryots) to pay land revenue directly to the government. Although it granted ownership rights, it imposed high taxes and left farmers vulnerable to eviction.

### Commercialization of Agriculture

- **Shift to Cash Crops:** The British encouraged farmers to grow cash crops (such as indigo, cotton, and opium) for export, often at the expense of food crops. This shift jeopardized food security and led to malnutrition and famine during poor harvests.
- **Market Dependency:** Farmers became dependent on the market for their livelihoods, facing risks from price fluctuations and changing market demands.

### Agricultural Practices and Techniques

- **Introduction of New Crops:** The British introduced new agricultural techniques and crops, but these were primarily for export markets. Traditional farming practices were often

disregarded.

- **Neglect of Traditional Crops:** Indigenous crops and traditional farming practices were neglected, diminishing biodiversity and local resilience in agriculture.

### **Infrastructure Development**

- **Railways and Transportation:** The British built railways primarily to transport raw materials to ports for export. While this improved access to markets, it often favored British economic interests over local farmers.
- **Irrigation Projects:** While some irrigation projects were initiated, they often served British economic goals. The focus was on cash crop production rather than comprehensive agricultural development.

### **Economic Exploitation and Taxation**

- **High Taxation:** The imposition of high land revenue and taxes on agricultural production strained farmers' resources, making it difficult for them to invest in their land or recover from crop failures.
- **Debt Cycle:** Many farmers fell into a cycle of debt due to high taxation and fluctuating crop prices, leading to increased poverty and indebtedness.

### **Impact of Famines**

- **Frequent Famines:** The prioritization of cash crops and the neglect of food production contributed to severe famines, notably the Great Famine of 1876-78, which resulted in millions of deaths.
- **Government Response:** British policies often prioritized export over local food needs, exacerbating the impact of famines when they occurred.

### **Disruption of Traditional Systems**

- **Community and Cooperative Structures:** Traditional cooperative farming systems and community bonds weakened under British policies, as individual ownership and profit motives took precedence.
- **Social Dislocation:** The changes in agricultural practices and land ownership led to significant social disruption, including increased migration to urban areas in search of work.

### **Emergence of Landless Laborers**

- **Rise of Landlessness:** Many small farmers were unable to sustain themselves under the tax burden and lost their land, resulting in a growing class of landless laborers who worked on others' farms under exploitative conditions.
- **Labor Exploitation:** Landless laborers faced low wages and poor working conditions, contributing to widespread rural poverty.

## Economic Consequences

- **Decline of Rural Economy:** The overall rural economy suffered as local agricultural practices were undermined and traditional livelihoods were disrupted, leading to increased poverty and economic instability.
- **Inequality and Land Concentration:** Land ownership became concentrated in the hands of a few zamindars and British landlords, exacerbating social inequalities and economic disparities.

## B) Growth of Poverty:

The economic impact of British rule in India significantly contributed to the growth of poverty among the Indian population. This effect was a result of various policies and practices implemented by the British, which disrupted traditional economies and exacerbated social inequalities. Here's a detailed account of how British rule led to increased poverty in India:

## Exploitation of Agricultural Resources

- **Heavy Land Revenue Taxes:** The British imposed high land revenue taxes, often exceeding 50% of the agricultural produce. This left farmers with little income, driving many into debt and poverty.
- **Commercialization of Agriculture:** The emphasis on cash crops for export, such as cotton and indigo, shifted focus away from food production. This led to food scarcity and malnutrition, particularly during famines.

## Deindustrialization

- **Decline of Traditional Industries:** The British promoted imported British goods, leading to the collapse of indigenous industries like textiles, metalwork, and crafts. Artisans lost their livelihoods, contributing to urban and rural poverty.
- **Unemployment:** The dismantling of traditional crafts created widespread unemployment among skilled workers, forcing them into low-paying labor or agricultural work.

## Disruption of Local Economies

- **Destruction of Local Markets:** British policies favored large-scale production and trade controlled by British interests, undermining local markets and economies. This disrupted traditional trade routes and practices.
- **Dependency on British Goods:** The influx of British manufactured goods created dependency and reduced self-sufficiency, worsening economic vulnerability among local populations.

## Famine and Food Insecurity

- **Frequent Famines:** The British policies, particularly the prioritization of cash crops, led to several devastating famines, such as the Great Famine of 1876-78, which resulted in millions of deaths. These famines were exacerbated by inadequate relief measures.
- **Neglect of Food Production:** With farmers focusing on cash crops, local food production declined, contributing to malnutrition and food shortages.

## Debt and Economic Ruin

- **Cycle of Debt:** Many farmers resorted to borrowing to pay taxes or purchase seeds, leading to a cycle of debt. When crop failures occurred, farmers were unable to repay loans, resulting in further impoverishment.
- **Land Loss:** Failure to pay taxes often led to the loss of land, pushing families into poverty and forcing them into labor on others' farms under exploitative conditions.

## Social Inequality

- **Concentration of Wealth:** British land revenue systems, like the Zamindari system, concentrated land ownership in the hands of a few zamindars and British landlords. This created a wealthy elite while the majority remained impoverished.
- **Exploitation of Labor:** Landless laborers and peasants worked for meager wages, often in harsh conditions. This exacerbated economic disparities and entrenched social hierarchies.

## Urban Poverty

- **Migration to Cities:** Economic distress in rural areas led to increased migration to urban centers in search of work. However, cities were often ill-equipped to handle the influx, leading to overcrowding and poverty in urban slums.
- **Poor Working Conditions:** Migrants faced exploitation in factories and industries, with long hours and low pay contributing to their economic instability.

## Impact on Health and Living Standards

- **Poor Health Outcomes:** Widespread poverty led to malnutrition, disease, and inadequate healthcare, further entrenching the cycle of poverty.
- **Decline in Living Standards:** The overall quality of life deteriorated as access to basic needs, such as food, shelter, and healthcare, diminished.

## Economic Dislocation and Disruption

- **Loss of Traditional Support Systems:** The breakdown of local economies and communities weakened traditional support systems, making it difficult for people to recover from economic shocks.

- **Lack of Investment in Development:** British policies prioritized resource extraction and profit repatriation over local development, leading to stagnation in economic growth and infrastructure investment.

### C) Decline of Village industry

The economic impact of British rule on the decline of village industries in India was profound, leading to significant changes in the traditional economy and livelihoods of rural communities. Here's a detailed account of how British policies and practices contributed to this decline:

#### Introduction of British Manufactured Goods

- **Flood of Imports:** The British government encouraged the import of British manufactured goods, particularly textiles. These goods were often cheaper and of better quality than locally produced items, leading to a decline in demand for traditional village crafts.
- **Displacement of Local Crafts:** Artisans and weavers, who had historically produced textiles and handicrafts, found it increasingly difficult to compete with machine-made products, resulting in the collapse of many traditional industries.

#### Deindustrialization

- **Collapse of Handicrafts:** The systematic promotion of British goods led to the decline of various handicrafts, such as pottery, weaving, and metalwork. Many skilled artisans lost their livelihoods, leading to widespread unemployment in rural areas.
- **Shift in Employment:** The decline in village industries forced many artisans to abandon their traditional crafts and seek work as agricultural laborers or in low-paying jobs, exacerbating poverty.

#### Exploitation of Resources

- **Raw Material Extraction:** The British prioritized the extraction of raw materials for export to Britain, often from rural areas. This focus disrupted local industries that depended on these materials for production, further diminishing the viability of village industries.
- **Indigo Cultivation:** The British promoted indigo cultivation for export, which displaced traditional crops and reduced the availability of resources for local textile production.

#### Economic Policies and Taxes

- **High Taxation:** The imposition of high taxes on production and trade by the British

government put additional financial pressure on village industries. Many artisans struggled to pay taxes, leading to further economic hardship.

- **Monopolistic Practices:** British merchants often established monopolies in key industries, controlling pricing and distribution, which marginalized local producers and artisans.

### Changes in Land Revenue Systems

- **Zamindari System:** This system appointed zamindars (landlords) as intermediaries responsible for tax collection. They prioritized revenue collection over the welfare of farmers and artisans, leading to exploitation and neglect of village industries.
- **Focus on Cash Crops:** The shift toward cash crop agriculture, encouraged by British policies, reduced the land available for traditional crafts and cottage industries, further weakening local economies.

### Transportation and Market Changes

- **Development of Railways:** While the British developed railways for efficient transport of raw materials to ports, this often facilitated the export of these materials rather than supporting local industries. It also made it easier to flood Indian markets with British goods.
- **Market Disruption:** The focus on British trade routes disrupted traditional market structures and local trade networks, making it difficult for village industries to thrive.

### Impact on Social Structures

- **Loss of Skills and Knowledge:** As traditional industries declined, the skills and knowledge associated with these crafts began to disappear. Younger generations were discouraged from learning these trades, leading to a loss of cultural heritage.
- **Increased Poverty and Discontent:** The decline of village industries contributed to rising poverty levels and social unrest, as many artisans and their families struggled to make a living.

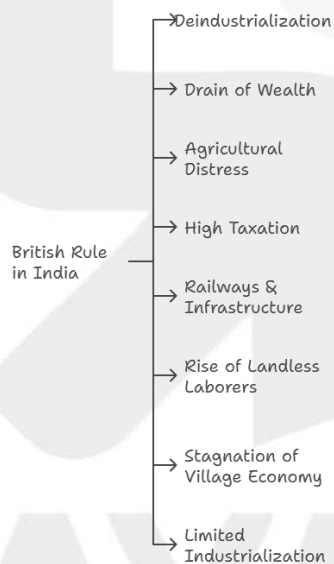
### Emergence of New Economic Classes

- **Rise of a Rural Proletariat:** The decline of village industries contributed to the emergence of a rural labor class, dependent on wages from agriculture or unskilled labor rather than traditional crafts.
- **Wealth Concentration:** Economic policies favored British and Indian elites, leading to increased wealth concentration among a few while the majority of the rural population faced economic hardship.

## Resistance and Response

- **Backlash Against British Goods:** The decline of village industries and the resultant poverty fueled resistance against British rule. Movements advocating for the revival of indigenous crafts emerged as a response to the economic challenges faced by artisans.
- **Swadeshi Movement:** The Swadeshi movement in the early 20th century emphasized the boycott of British goods and the promotion of Indian-made products, highlighting the desire to revive local industries

### Economic Impact of British Rule in India



PRAYAAS

### Introduction

The early uprisings against British rule in India, particularly during the 19th century, were characterized by various common features and had significant impacts on the socio-political landscape of the country. Here's a detailed account of their characteristics and impacts:

### Characteristics of Early Uprisings

#### 1. Diverse Causes:

- **Economic Exploitation:** Many uprisings were driven by economic grievances, including heavy taxation, exploitation of peasants, and the decline of traditional industries.
- **Social and Cultural Factors:** Uprisings were often fueled by social injustices, such as the discontent among landlords, artisans, and farmers who felt marginalized by British policies.

#### 2. Local Leadership:

- **Regional Leaders:** Early uprisings were typically led by local leaders and not coordinated at a national level. Figures like Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, Nana Rao Pant of Kanpur, and others played crucial roles in mobilizing their communities.
- **Peasant Movements:** Many uprisings saw the involvement of peasants and farmers who were directly affected by British land revenue systems.

#### 3. Culmination of Grievances:

- **Immediate Triggers:** Specific incidents often acted as catalysts for uprisings, such as the introduction of new land revenue systems, the greased cartridges controversy in 1857, and the annexation of Indian states.
- **Widespread Discontent:** A general sense of discontent against British rule, fueled by a combination of economic, social, and political grievances, united various groups.

#### 4. Use of Traditional Symbols:

- **Cultural References:** Many uprisings utilized traditional cultural symbols and narratives to galvanize support. For instance, leaders often invoked religious or historical figures to inspire unity against colonial rule.

#### 5. Violent Confrontations:

- **Armed Resistance:** Many uprisings involved armed resistance against British forces, utilizing traditional weapons and tactics. The 1857 Revolt is a notable example of organized military resistance.
- **Mob Violence:** In some cases, uprisings led to mob violence, targeting British officials, landlords, and symbols of colonial authority.

## 6. Geographical Diversity:

- **Regional Focus:** Uprisings occurred in various regions, reflecting local grievances and conditions. Notable uprisings included the Santal Rebellion (1855-56), the Ulgulan (Great Rebellion) led by Birsa Munda (1899-1900), and the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny.

## Impact of Early Uprisings

### 1. Awareness and Mobilization:

- **Rise of National Consciousness:** The uprisings contributed to a growing awareness of national identity and unity among Indians, laying the groundwork for future movements against British rule.
- **Political Engagement:** They inspired political engagement among various sections of society, including intellectuals and activists who began to articulate demands for rights and reforms.

### 2. British Response and Repression:

- **Increased Repression:** The British response to the uprisings was often harsh, leading to increased military presence and repressive measures, which included executions, imprisonments, and destruction of property.
- **Policy Changes:** In the aftermath of significant uprisings, the British implemented administrative reforms aimed at placating discontent, such as changes in land revenue policies and governance structures.

### 3. Formation of Political Organizations:

- **Emergence of Nationalist Movements:** The discontent and organizational efforts stemming from these uprisings contributed to the formation of political organizations, such as the Indian National Congress in 1885.
- **Collective Mobilization:** These early uprisings provided a framework for collective mobilization against colonial rule, paving the way for more organized and sustained nationalist movements.

### 4. Socio-Economic Changes:

- **Disruption of Rural Economy:** Many uprisings led to significant disruptions in local economies, exacerbating poverty and affecting livelihoods in the affected areas.
- **Shift in Power Dynamics:** Some uprisings altered local power structures, diminishing the influence of traditional elites and landlords who collaborated with the British.

### 5. Legacy of Resistance:

- **Inspirational Legacy:** The uprisings served as a source of inspiration for later movements, including the Indian independence movement of the early 20th century.

Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi drew upon the themes of resistance and unity seen in these early struggles.

- **Cultural Narratives:** They became part of the broader narrative of resistance against colonialism, celebrated in literature, folklore, and nationalist discourse.

## The tribal movements during British rule

These movements, occurring primarily in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were characterized by a struggle for rights, land, and cultural identity. Here's a detailed account of these movements, their characteristics, causes, and impacts.

### Background

1. **Colonial Policies:** British policies often disregarded the rights and traditions of tribal communities. Land revenue systems, deforestation, and forced labor disrupted traditional livelihoods and led to dislocation.
2. **Cultural Disruption:** The imposition of British administrative structures undermined tribal governance systems and customs, contributing to growing discontent.

### Characteristics of Tribal Movements

1. **Localized Resistance:** Most movements were localized, driven by specific grievances related to land rights, exploitation by landlords (zamindars), and colonial authority.
2. **Leadership:** Tribal movements often featured charismatic local leaders who rallied communities. Leaders like Birsa Munda in Chotanagpur and the Bhumij leaders in Bengal played pivotal roles.
3. **Cultural Revival:** Many movements emphasized the revival of tribal identity and culture, often invoking traditional customs and practices as a basis for resistance.
4. **Armed Resistance:** Some movements involved armed struggle against colonial forces, reflecting deep-seated anger and frustration with British exploitation.



## Major Tribal Movements

### 1. Santhal Rebellion (1855-56):

- **Location:** Mainly in present-day Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- **Causes:** Driven by the exploitation of Santhal lands by zamindars, moneylenders, and British authorities.
- **Outcome:** The rebellion aimed to establish a Santhal Raj and led to significant violence; it was eventually suppressed, but it highlighted the plight of tribal communities.

### 2. Munda Rebellion (1899-1900):

- **Leader:** Birsa Munda emerged as a prominent figure advocating for the rights of the Munda people.
- **Causes:** Oppression by landlords, loss of land, and the desire to establish Munda Raj.
- **Outcome:** The rebellion aimed to rid the region of British rule and restore tribal rights. It was suppressed, but Birsa became a symbol of tribal resistance.

### 3. Bhumi Ulgulan (Great Rebellion) (1899-1900):

- **Location:** Primarily in Bengal.
- **Causes:** Similar to the Munda Rebellion, this uprising was against the exploitation by zamindars and the British.
- **Outcome:** The movement sought to reclaim land and rights, resulting in violent confrontations with British forces.

### 4. Kuki Uprising (1917-1919):

- **Location:** Manipur.
- **Causes:** Triggered by land dispossession and resentment against British administrative policies.
- **Outcome:** The uprising was a response to the harsh treatment of the Kuki people, leading to military action from the British.

### 5. Gond Ulgulan (1910):

- **Location:** Central India.
- **Causes:** A reaction against land revenue policies and loss of rights.
- **Outcome:** The uprising sought to reclaim traditional rights and lands but was met with severe repression.

## Causes of Tribal Movements

1. **Land Dispossession:** British land policies led to the loss of tribal lands to outsiders and the introduction of zamindari systems, resulting in economic hardship.
2. **Exploitation by Moneylenders:** Tribal communities often fell into debt due to exploitative

practices by moneylenders, leading to social and economic dislocation.

- 3. Cultural Marginalization:** The imposition of colonial authority undermined tribal customs, governance, and cultural practices, prompting resistance.
- 4. Environmental Changes:** Colonial exploitation of forest resources and introduction of cash crops disrupted traditional livelihoods reliant on the forest.

### Impact of Tribal Movements

- 1. Awareness and Mobilization:** The movements raised awareness of tribal rights and identity, laying the groundwork for later struggles for autonomy and rights.
- 2. Legislative Changes:** Some movements prompted the British to introduce reforms aimed at addressing tribal grievances, although often insufficient and limited.
- 3. Nationalist Movements:** The tribal movements contributed to the broader Indian nationalist struggle, highlighting the intersections between tribal rights and national identity.
- 4. Cultural Legacy:** Leaders like Birsa Munda became symbols of resistance, inspiring future generations and movements advocating for indigenous rights and cultural preservation.
- 5. Continued Struggles:** The legacy of these movements is evident in contemporary tribal activism, as many tribal groups continue to fight for land rights, cultural preservation, and political representation.

### The Revolt of 1857

often referred to as the First War of Indian Independence or the Sepoy Mutiny, was a significant and complex uprising against British colonial rule in India. Here's a detailed account of its causes, events, key figures, and impacts.

#### Background

- 1. British Expansion:** By the mid-19th century, the British East India Company had expanded its control over large parts of India through annexation, diplomacy, and military conquest. The policies of annexation, such as the Doctrine of Lapse, created resentment among local rulers.
- 2. Economic Discontent:** Many Indians faced economic hardships due to oppressive land revenue systems, exploitation by moneylenders, and disruption of traditional industries. Peasants and artisans experienced severe distress, leading to widespread discontent.
- 3. Cultural Insensitivity:** British policies often disregarded Indian customs and traditions, leading to cultural alienation. The introduction of Western education and legal systems created a divide between British authorities and Indian society.

**4. Military Grievances:** The immediate causes of the revolt were rooted in the discontent among sepoys (Indian soldiers) in the British army. Key grievances included:

- Introduction of the **Enfield rifle** with greased cartridges, believed to be made from animal fat (cows and pigs), which was offensive to both Hindu and Muslim sepoys.
- Poor pay and conditions for sepoys compared to British soldiers.
- Lack of opportunities for promotion and the perceived disregard for Indian soldiers.

## Key Events of the Revolt

### 1. Outbreak of Revolt:

- The revolt began on **May 10, 1857**, in Meerut when sepoys mutinied against their officers. They killed British officers and marched to Delhi, rallying support along the way.

### 2. Siege of Delhi:

- After the mutiny in Meerut, the rebels captured Delhi, declaring the aged Mughal Emperor **Bahadur Shah II** as their leader. The British laid siege to Delhi from June to September, and fierce fighting ensued.

### 3. Major Centers of Rebellion:

- **Kanpur:** Led by **Nana Rao Pant**, the rebels captured Kanpur, but a brutal massacre of British residents led to harsh British reprisals.
- **Lucknow:** The revolt was marked by the siege of the Residency in Lucknow, where British and loyal Indian forces held out against the rebels.
- **Jhansi:** **Rani Lakshmibai** emerged as a prominent leader, fiercely resisting British forces and symbolizing the fight for independence.

### 4. Spread of the Uprising:

- The revolt spread to various regions, including Bengal, Awadh, and central India. Various groups, including peasants, zamindars, and local rulers, joined the struggle, each driven by specific grievances.

### 5. British Response:

- The British responded with brutal force, employing a combination of military might and strategic alliances with loyal Indian princes. Retaliatory measures included mass executions, destruction of villages, and widespread violence against suspected rebels.

### 6. Fall of Delhi:

- After several months of intense fighting, British forces recaptured Delhi in September 1857. The Mughal Emperor was captured, tried, and exiled.

### 7. Suppression of the Revolt:

- By early 1858, the revolt was largely suppressed. The British regained control over key

regions, and leaders of the revolt were hunted down and punished.

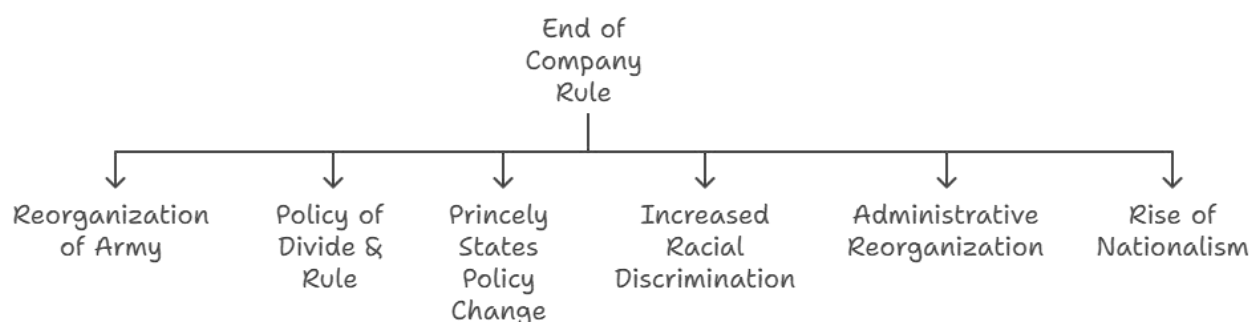
## Key Figures

1. **Mangal Pandey:** A sepoy whose actions at Barrackpore ignited the revolt. He was executed for his role but became a symbol of resistance.
2. **Rani Lakshmibai:** The queen of Jhansi, she became a prominent figure in the revolt, leading her troops against the British until her death in battle.
3. **Nana Rao Pant:** A key leader in Kanpur who initially took charge of the resistance but ultimately faced brutal reprisals from British forces.
4. **Bahadur Shah II:** The last Mughal Emperor, who became a symbolic leader of the uprising but was captured and exiled after the fall of Delhi.

## Impact of the Revolt

1. **End of the East India Company:** The British government dissolved the East India Company in 1858 and assumed direct control over India, marking the beginning of the British Raj.
2. **Reorganization of the Army:** The British restructured the army, reducing the number of Indian soldiers and increasing the number of British troops to prevent future rebellions.
3. **Administrative Reforms:** The British introduced various administrative reforms aimed at placating Indian subjects, including some concessions to Indian landholders and a more systematic approach to governance.
4. **Rise of Nationalism:** The revolt laid the groundwork for future nationalist movements in India, fostering a sense of unity among different groups against colonial rule.
5. **Cultural Legacy:** The events of 1857 became a significant part of Indian historical memory, symbolizing the struggle for independence. Leaders of the later independence movement often invoked the spirit of the 1857 revolt.

### Impact of the 1857 Revolt



## The social and cultural awakening during British rule

The social and cultural awakening during British rule in India, particularly in the 19th and early 20th centuries, was driven by various interconnected causes. This awakening laid the groundwork for later nationalist movements and played a critical role in shaping modern Indian identity. Here's a detailed account of the key causes:

### 1. Colonial Education Policies

- **Western Education:** The British introduced Western-style education, which emphasized science, rationality, and modern ideas. This led to the emergence of a new educated class, known as the **Babus**, who began to question traditional norms and practices.
- **Literary Movements:** The establishment of colleges and universities fostered a literary renaissance. Indian intellectuals like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy**, **Iqbal**, and **Tagore** contributed significantly to literature and thought, encouraging critical discourse.

### 2. Social Reform Movements

- **Reaction to Social Issues:** Social reformers sought to address issues like caste discrimination, child marriage, and sati (the practice of widow immolation). Movements led by figures like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** (Brahmo Samaj) and **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar** (advocacy for women's education) challenged orthodox practices and promoted social justice.
- **Emergence of New Organizations:** The formation of various reform organizations aimed at social change, such as the **Arya Samaj** and **Theosophical Society**, facilitated discussions on reform and modernization.

### 3. Economic Changes

- **Disruption of Traditional Industries:** British economic policies disrupted traditional crafts and industries, leading to economic hardships. This fostered a desire to revive indigenous industries and crafts, which became a part of cultural awakening.
- **Rise of Nationalist Sentiments:** Economic exploitation and the decline of local economies led to a growing sense of nationalism, encouraging people to seek a renewed cultural identity.

### 4. Nationalism and Political Awakening

- **Formation of Political Organizations:** The establishment of organizations like the **Indian National Congress** in 1885 created a platform for political discussion and advocacy. Leaders sought to unify Indians across regional and religious lines, fostering a sense of national identity.

- **Awareness of Rights:** Exposure to ideas of democracy, freedom, and rights through Western political thought inspired Indians to demand greater participation in governance and social reforms.

## 5. Religious and Cultural Movements

- **Revival of Indigenous Cultures:** There was a resurgence of interest in India's rich cultural heritage, including arts, crafts, and classical music. Movements that celebrated Indian traditions, such as the **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan**, encouraged pride in Indian identity.
- **Interfaith Dialogue:** Efforts by reformers to bridge gaps between different religious communities fostered a spirit of unity. Figures like **Swami Vivekananda** promoted the idea of universal brotherhood and spiritual awakening.

## 6. Impact of Global Movements

- **Influence of the Enlightenment:** Enlightenment ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity permeated Indian thought, inspiring reformers and intellectuals to advocate for social change and rational thought.
- **Revolutionary Ideas:** The American and French revolutions provided a model for challenging oppressive systems, influencing Indian leaders to envision a society based on democratic principles.

## 7. Press and Literature

- **Emergence of Indian Journalism:** The proliferation of newspapers and journals in regional languages enabled the dissemination of ideas and news. Publications like **The Hindu** and **Amrit Bazar Patrika** played pivotal roles in mobilizing public opinion and fostering a sense of community.
- **Literary Contributions:** Writers and poets explored themes of identity, nationalism, and social justice, contributing to the cultural renaissance. Notable figures included **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, whose work inspired the nationalist movement.

## 8. The Role of Women

- **Women's Awakening:** The education of women and their participation in social reform movements contributed to a broader cultural awakening. Figures like **Sarojini Naidu** and **Savitribai Phule** emerged as advocates for women's rights and education.
- **Formation of Women's Organizations:** Women's organizations began to form, promoting social issues, education, and health, which further contributed to the awakening.

### Introduction

The socio-religious reform movements during British rule in India emerged as responses to social injustices, cultural stagnation, and colonial influences. These movements sought to address issues such as caste discrimination, gender inequality, and the need for modernization while promoting spiritual and social values. Here's a detailed account of key movements, their leaders, objectives, and impacts:

#### 1. Brahmo Samaj

- **Founder:** Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1772-1833)
- **Establishment:** Founded in 1828, it aimed to reform Hinduism by promoting monotheism and rationalism.
- **Objectives:**
  - Abolition of practices like sati (widow immolation) and child marriage.
  - Promotion of women's rights and education.
  - Encouragement of a more rational interpretation of religious texts.
- **Impact:** The Brahmo Samaj played a crucial role in social reform and laid the groundwork for later movements, influencing other leaders and organizations.

#### 2. Arya Samaj

- **Founder:** Swami Dayananda Saraswati (1824-1883)
- **Establishment:** Founded in 1875, it aimed to revive Vedic traditions and promote social reform.
- **Objectives:**
  - Rejection of idol worship and ritualism.
  - Promotion of education, especially for women.
  - Advocacy for social equality and against caste discrimination.
- **Impact:** The Arya Samaj contributed to the resurgence of Hindu identity and played a significant role in the promotion of education and social justice.

#### 3. Theosophical Society

- **Founders:** Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott
- **Establishment:** Founded in 1875 in the U.S. and later active in India.
- **Objectives:**
  - Promotion of spiritualism and the unity of all religions.
  - Encouragement of Eastern philosophies and Indian culture.
  - Focus on self-improvement and spiritual awakening.

- **Impact:** The society attracted many Indian intellectuals, contributing to the revival of interest in Hindu and Buddhist philosophies.

#### 4. Ramakrishna Mission

- **Founder:** Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)
- **Establishment:** Founded in 1897, inspired by the teachings of Ramakrishna Paramahansa.
- **Objectives:**
  - Promotion of Vedanta and the idea of universal brotherhood.
  - Emphasis on social service and education.
  - Spiritual development alongside social reform.
- **Impact:** The mission emphasized the importance of both spiritual and social upliftment, influencing many Indians and contributing to the national awakening.

#### 5. Satyashodhak Samaj

- **Founder:** Jyotirao Phule (1827-1890)
- **Establishment:** Founded in 1873 in Maharashtra.
- **Objectives:**
  - Advocacy for the rights of lower castes and women.
  - Opposition to caste discrimination and social injustices.
  - Promotion of education for all, especially marginalized communities.
- **Impact:** The movement laid the groundwork for future social justice movements, emphasizing the need for equality and education.

#### 6. Indian National Congress

- **Formation:** Founded in 1885, initially as a platform for political dialogue.
- **Shift to Social Reform:** Under leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and later Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress incorporated social reform into its agenda.
- **Objectives:**
  - Promotion of Hindu-Muslim unity.
  - Emphasis on social justice, education, and women's rights.
- **Impact:** The Congress became a major force for social change, linking socio-religious issues to the struggle for independence.

#### 7. Social Reform Movements in Islam

- **Aligarh Movement:**
  - **Leader:** Sir Syed Ahmed Khan (1817-1898)
  - **Objectives:** Promoted modern education and social reforms among Muslims, emphasizing rationality and scientific thought. Founded the Muhammadan Anglo-

Oriental College in Aligarh.

- **Impact:** The movement laid the foundation for Muslim nationalism and education.

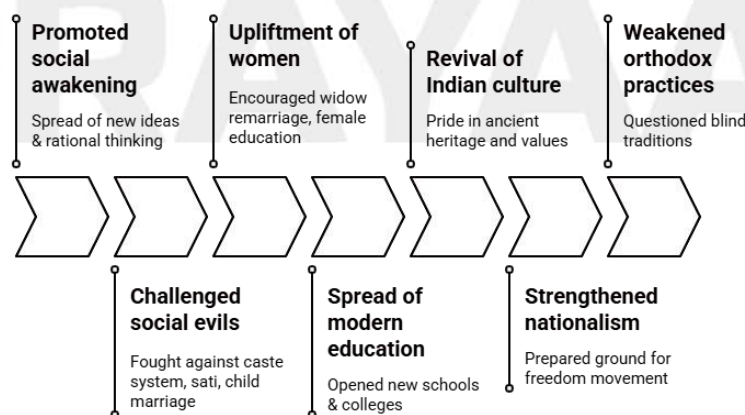
- **Tableeghi Jamaat:**

- **Establishment:** Founded in 1926 by Muhammad Ilyas Kandhlawi.
- **Objectives:** Focused on spiritual revival and personal piety among Muslims, encouraging a return to religious fundamentals.
- **Impact:** While primarily religious, it influenced social values and community cohesion.

## 8. Impact of Socio-Religious Reform Movements

- **Education and Empowerment:** These movements significantly advanced education, particularly for women and marginalized communities, leading to increased social mobility and awareness.
- **Caste and Gender Reforms:** They challenged oppressive social practices, leading to legal reforms and changes in societal attitudes towards caste and gender.
- **Cultural Renaissance:** A renewed interest in Indian culture, philosophy, and languages emerged, contributing to a sense of national identity and pride.
- **Foundation for Nationalism:** The socio-religious awakening laid the groundwork for the broader nationalist movement, linking social justice to the struggle for political independence.

### Socio-Religious Reform Movements: A Path to Modern India



### The lower and backward class movements during British rule

The lower and backward class movements during British rule in India emerged in response to social injustices, economic exploitation, and the oppressive caste system. These movements aimed to address the grievances of marginalized communities, advocating for rights, social equality, and representation. Here's a detailed account of the key movements, their leaders,

objectives, and impacts:

## 1. Historical Context

- **Caste System:** The rigid caste hierarchy in India severely marginalized lower castes, often referred to as "untouchables" or "Dalits." This social stratification led to widespread discrimination and economic deprivation.
- **Colonial Policies:** British rule exacerbated existing inequalities through exploitative economic policies and the introduction of Western concepts of governance, which often ignored the needs and rights of lower and backward classes.

## 2. Key Leaders and Movements

### a. B.R. Ambedkar and the Dalit Movement

- **Background:** Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891-1956), an influential social reformer, was born into a Mahar family, one of the lowest castes.
- **Objectives:**
  - To eradicate caste discrimination and untouchability.
  - To promote education, political rights, and social justice for Dalits.
  - To advocate for the constitutional rights of marginalized communities.
- **Activities:** Ambedkar founded the **Scheduled Castes Federation** in 1942 and organized movements for political representation. His famous speech at the **Round Table Conference** in London highlighted the plight of Dalits.
- **Impact:** Ambedkar's efforts culminated in the inclusion of provisions for social justice in the Indian Constitution, which he drafted. His work inspired future generations to advocate for Dalit rights and dignity.

### b. Jyotirao Phule and the Satyashodhak Samaj

- **Background:** Jyotirao Phule (1827-1890) was a social reformer who championed the rights of the lower castes and women.
- **Objectives:**
  - To challenge the caste system and advocate for social equality.
  - To promote education for women and lower castes.
- **Activities:** Phule founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj** (Society of Truth Seekers) in 1873, which worked towards the upliftment of marginalized communities.
- **Impact:** Phule's writings and activism laid the foundation for social reform in Maharashtra and inspired future movements advocating for lower castes' rights.

### c. Ramasamy Periyar and the Self-Respect Movement

- **Background:** E.V. Ramasamy, popularly known as Periyar (1879-1973), was a social reformer in Tamil Nadu.

- **Objectives:**
  - To promote rationalism and self-respect among lower castes.
  - To challenge Brahminical dominance and caste oppression.
- **Activities:** Periyar founded the **Self-Respect Movement** in 1925, which aimed to uplift the status of non-Brahmin communities and encourage them to embrace their identity.
- **Impact:** The movement significantly influenced social reform in Tamil Nadu, leading to political mobilization among backward classes and the eventual formation of the **Dravidian movement**.

#### d. Ad-Dharma Movement

- **Background:** Founded by the **Ad-Dharma Sabha** in the early 20th century, this movement aimed to unify Dalits and other marginalized groups in Punjab and Haryana.
- **Objectives:**
  - To promote self-identity and socio-political rights for Dalits.
  - To fight against caste discrimination and advocate for social justice.
- **Activities:** The movement organized rallies, conferences, and educational initiatives to uplift Dalit communities.
- **Impact:** It contributed to the growing awareness and activism among Dalits in North India.

### 3. Role of Political Movements

- **Indian National Congress:** While initially focused on broader nationalist issues, the Congress gradually began to address social injustices, especially under leaders like Gandhi, who advocated for the upliftment of untouchables, referring to them as "Harijans" (children of God).
- **Scheduled Castes Federation:** Established by Ambedkar, it sought political representation for Dalits and was instrumental in voicing their demands during the struggle for independence.

### 4. Legislative Changes and Reforms

- **Government of India Act (1919):** Introduced limited reforms, allowing some representation for lower castes in legislative councils.
- **Poona Pact (1932):** An agreement between Ambedkar and Gandhi that provided reserved seats for Dalits in legislative bodies, addressing the issue of separate electorates.
- **Indian Constitution (1950):** Enshrined rights for marginalized communities, including provisions for affirmative action, reservation in education and employment, and the abolition of untouchability.

## 5. Impact of Lower and Backward Class Movements

- **Social Awareness:** These movements raised awareness about caste discrimination and the rights of marginalized communities, fostering a sense of identity and pride among lower castes.
- **Political Representation:** They laid the foundation for political mobilization, leading to increased representation of lower castes in governance and public life.
- **Cultural Renaissance:** The movements encouraged the revival of cultural identity among lower castes, challenging negative stereotypes and promoting dignity.
- **Legacy:** The work of leaders like Ambedkar continues to inspire contemporary Dalit movements and broader social justice initiatives in India.

### Impact of Lower and Backward Class Movements



### Sikh movement

The Sikh movement during British rule in India, particularly from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, was marked by significant social, political, and religious transformations. This period saw the emergence of new Sikh identities, the rise of reform movements, and active political engagement, ultimately influencing the struggle for Indian independence. Here's a detailed account of the Sikh movement during this period:

#### 1. Historical Context

- **Colonial Impact:** The British annexation of Punjab in 1849 followed the Anglo-Sikh wars, disrupting traditional power structures and administration within the Sikh community. This created a sense of discontent and a desire for reform.
- **Religious Identity:** The colonial era saw an increased awareness of Sikh identity, leading

to a quest for social and religious reforms.

## 2. Religious Reform Movements

### a. Singh Sabha Movement

- **Formation:** Established in the late 19th century, primarily in Amritsar in 1873.
- **Objectives:**
  - To promote Sikh identity and education.
  - To counteract the influence of Brahminical practices and the conversion of Sikhs to Christianity.
  - To reform Sikh religious practices by returning to the original teachings of Guru Nanak and subsequent Gurus.
- **Key Figures:** Leaders like **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**, **Sardar Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha**, and **Giani Ditt Singh** played crucial roles.
- **Activities:**
  - Establishment of educational institutions and printing presses to disseminate Sikh literature.
  - Organization of seminars and discussions to engage the community in reform efforts.
- **Impact:** Strengthened Sikh identity, promoted education, and reinvigorated interest in Sikh scriptures.

### b. Nanakshahi Calendar

- **Introduction:** Adopted in 1929 to standardize Sikh festivals and dates based on the lunar calendar used by other communities.
- **Significance:** This calendar helped solidify a distinct Sikh identity separate from Hindu practices.

## 3. Political Mobilization

### a. Sikh Participation in the National Movement

- **Involvement:** Sikhs actively participated in the Indian National Congress and other nationalist movements. Prominent Sikh leaders, like **Lala Lajpat Rai**, played key roles.
- **Demand for Representation:** The Sikhs sought political representation and rights in the face of growing Hindu-Muslim unity in politics, especially after the formation of the All-India Muslim League in 1906.

### b. Gurdwara Reform Movement

- **Background:** Issues like mismanagement and corruption in gurdwaras (Sikh temples) led to public discontent.
- **Formation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC):** Established

in 1920 to oversee gurdwara management and advocate for Sikh rights.

- **Key Events:** The **Gurdwara Act of 1925** was passed, which reformed gurdwara management and sought to eliminate corrupt practices.
- **Impact:** The movement enhanced Sikh unity and mobilization around religious and political issues.

#### 4. Sikh Identity and Culture

- **Reaffirmation of Identity:** The Sikh movement emphasized the distinctiveness of Sikh beliefs, practices, and values, particularly in contrast to Hinduism and Islam.
- **Promotion of Punjabi Language and Literature:** The revival of Punjabi language and literature was encouraged, fostering a sense of cultural pride and unity among Sikhs.
- **Role of Literature:** Writers and poets, such as **Bhagat Singh**, articulated the aspirations and struggles of the Sikh community, inspiring a new generation of activists.

#### 5. The Role of the Akali Movement

- **Emergence:** The Akali movement emerged in the early 20th century as a political and religious campaign advocating for Sikh rights.
- **Objectives:**
  - To secure greater representation for Sikhs in political affairs and ensure control over their religious institutions.
  - To fight against British and Hindu dominance in Punjab.
- **Key Events:** The **Shahid (Martyr) Movement** in the 1920s aimed to protect Sikh interests and promote self-rule.
- **Impact:** The Akali movement significantly influenced Sikh political consciousness and led to increased activism within the community.

#### 6. Response to Partition and Independence

- **Impact of Partition (1947):** The partition of India led to significant violence and mass migrations, with many Sikhs fleeing to India from what became Pakistan. The partition severely affected the Sikh population, resulting in loss of life and property.
- **Political Reorganization:** Post-independence, Sikhs were involved in reshaping Punjab's political landscape, leading to the reorganization of states based on linguistic lines.

#### 7. Legacy of the Sikh Movement

- **Cultural Identity:** The movement played a crucial role in consolidating Sikh identity, fostering unity, and reinforcing the community's distinct cultural heritage.
- **Political Awareness:** It laid the foundation for future political mobilization and representation for Sikhs in independent India.
- **Social Change:** The reform movements contributed to social changes within the

community, emphasizing education, gender equality, and social justice.

## The Islamic reform movements during British rule

The Islamic reform movements during British rule in India emerged in response to colonial challenges, socio-economic changes, and internal issues within the Muslim community. These movements aimed to address religious, social, and political concerns, striving for a revival of Islamic values while adapting to modernity. Here's a detailed account of key movements, their leaders, objectives, and impacts:

### 1. Historical Context

- **Colonial Rule:** The British annexation of India and subsequent socio-political changes led to a sense of crisis among Muslims. The loss of political power and identity prompted calls for reform.
- **Socio-Economic Changes:** Rapid urbanization, changes in land ownership, and the decline of traditional industries affected the Muslim community, necessitating a response.

### 2. Key Islamic Reform Movements

#### a. Aligarh Movement

- **Leader:** Sir Syed Ahmed Khan (1817-1898)
- **Objectives:**
  - To promote modern education among Muslims and encourage rational interpretation of Islam.
  - To bridge the gap between traditional Islamic teachings and modern science and knowledge.
- **Activities:**
  - Established the **Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College** in Aligarh in 1875, which later became Aligarh Muslim University.
  - Launched publications like the **Tehzeeb-e-Niswan** (The Women's Culture) to raise awareness about education and women's rights.
- **Impact:** The movement led to a significant educational awakening among Muslims, fostering a new class of educated professionals. It emphasized the importance of modern education and social reform.

#### b. Deobandi Movement

- **Founders:** Established in 1866 by a group of scholars including **Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi** and **Rashid Ahmad Gangohi** at the **Darul Uloom Deoband**.
- **Objectives:**

- To promote a return to traditional Islamic scholarship and practice, countering Western influences.
- To provide a framework for Islamic education based on the Quran and Hadith.
- **Activities:**
  - Established madrasas (Islamic schools) to educate students in Islamic theology, jurisprudence, and ethics.
  - Emphasized social reform, including opposition to superstitions and un-Islamic practices.
- **Impact:** The Deobandi movement has had a lasting influence on Islamic education and thought in India, fostering a revival of traditional scholarship and providing a counter-narrative to colonial modernity.

### c. Barelvi Movement

- **Leader:** Ahmad Raza Khan (1856-1921)
- **Objectives:**
  - To promote a revival of Sufism and emphasize the love for the Prophet Muhammad.
  - To counter the Deobandi emphasis on strict textualism and jurisprudence.
- **Activities:**
  - Established the **Barelvi School of Thought**, which highlighted the importance of spiritual experience and devotion.
  - Organized public events, such as **Milad-un-Nabi** (celebration of the Prophet's birth), to foster communal unity and devotion.
- **Impact:** The Barelvi movement contributed to a resurgence of popular Sufi practices and strengthened the emotional and devotional aspects of Islam in India.

## 3. Socio-Religious Reforms

### a. The All-India Muslim League

- **Formation:** Established in 1906 to represent Muslim interests in British India.
- **Objectives:**
  - To safeguard the political rights of Muslims and advocate for their representation in governance.
  - To promote social reform and unity among Muslims.
- **Activities:** Played a pivotal role in the demand for a separate nation for Muslims, leading to the formation of Pakistan in 1947.
- **Impact:** The League became the principal political party representing Muslims in India, influencing the course of Indian politics and the eventual partition.

## b. Sociocultural Reforms

- **Women's Education:** Reformers like Begum Roquiah Sakhawat Hossain advocated for women's education and rights, emphasizing the importance of female empowerment in Islamic society.
- **Opposition to Social Evils:** Various reformers addressed issues such as child marriage, polygamy, and the status of women, pushing for reforms within Islamic jurisprudence.

## 4. Intellectual Revival

- **Modernist Scholars:** Scholars like **Ibn-i-Khaldun** and **Syed Amir Ali** sought to reinterpret Islamic teachings in light of contemporary issues, promoting a rational approach to Islam.
- **Literary Contributions:** The period saw the rise of influential Muslim writers and poets who addressed social and political themes, contributing to a broader intellectual renaissance.

## 5. Response to Political Changes

- **Muslim Participation in the Freedom Struggle:** Many reformers aligned themselves with the broader nationalist movement, advocating for rights and representation for Muslims within a united India.
- **Communal Relations:** Some movements aimed to foster Hindu-Muslim unity, while others focused on asserting a distinct Muslim identity in response to communal tensions.

## 6. Legacy of the Islamic Reform Movements

- **Educational Awakening:** The emphasis on modern education led to the establishment of numerous educational institutions that continue to influence Muslim education today.
- **Cultural Identity:** The movements contributed to a renewed sense of Muslim identity and solidarity, influencing political mobilization during the independence struggle.
- **Continuing Influence:** The ideologies and frameworks established by these movements continue to shape contemporary Islamic thought and practice in India and beyond.

## The peasant movements

The peasant movements during British rule in India were significant responses to agrarian distress, oppressive taxation, and exploitative land tenure systems. These movements arose from the grievances of the rural population and sought to address issues related to land rights, economic exploitation, and social justice. Here's a detailed account of key peasant movements, their leaders, objectives, and impacts:

## 1. Historical Context

- **Colonial Land Revenue Policies:** The British introduced various land revenue systems (e.g., Zamindari, Ryotwari, and Mahalwari) that often led to increased taxation and exploitation of peasants.
- **Economic Distress:** Natural disasters, such as famines, coupled with heavy taxation and the commercialization of agriculture, resulted in widespread poverty and indebtedness among peasants.

## 2. Key Peasant Movements

### a. Champaran Movement (1917)

- **Location:** Champaran district, Bihar.
- **Leader:** Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Objectives:**
  - To address the grievances of indigo farmers forced to grow indigo under oppressive conditions imposed by British planters.
- **Activities:**
  - Gandhi organized protests, gathered data on peasant hardships, and led a civil disobedience campaign.
- **Impact:** The movement resulted in an inquiry into the farmers' grievances and led to reforms in the indigo industry, marking Gandhi's first significant involvement in Indian politics.

### b. Kheda Satyagraha (1918)

- **Location:** Kheda district, Gujarat.
- **Leader:** Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Objectives:**
  - To demand relief from taxes due to crop failure and famine conditions.
- **Activities:**
  - Gandhi organized peasants to refuse to pay taxes, appealing to the government for relief.
- **Impact:** The government eventually suspended tax collection and provided relief to the affected farmers, strengthening Gandhi's influence among the rural populace.

### c. The Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)

- **Location:** Bardoli district, Gujarat.
- **Leader:** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- **Objectives:**
  - To protest against the increased land revenue assessment by the British

government.

- **Activities:**
  - Farmers refused to pay the increased taxes, and Patel led organized protests and campaigns.
- **Impact:** The government eventually withdrew the tax increase, and the movement solidified Patel's reputation as a leader of the Indian National Congress.

#### d. The Tebhaga Movement (1946-47)

- **Location:** Bengal, particularly in the districts of Dinajpur and Malda.
- **Leaders:** Led by the Bengal Kisan Sabha and leftist leaders like **Manik Bandopadhyay**.
- **Objectives:**
  - To demand a fair share of crop yields (one-third instead of the half demanded by landlords) for sharecroppers.
- **Activities:**
  - Organized strikes, protests, and resistance against landlord oppression.
- **Impact:** Although met with severe repression, the movement highlighted the plight of sharecroppers and inspired future agrarian struggles.

### 3. Other Notable Movements

#### a. The Mappila Rebellion (1921)

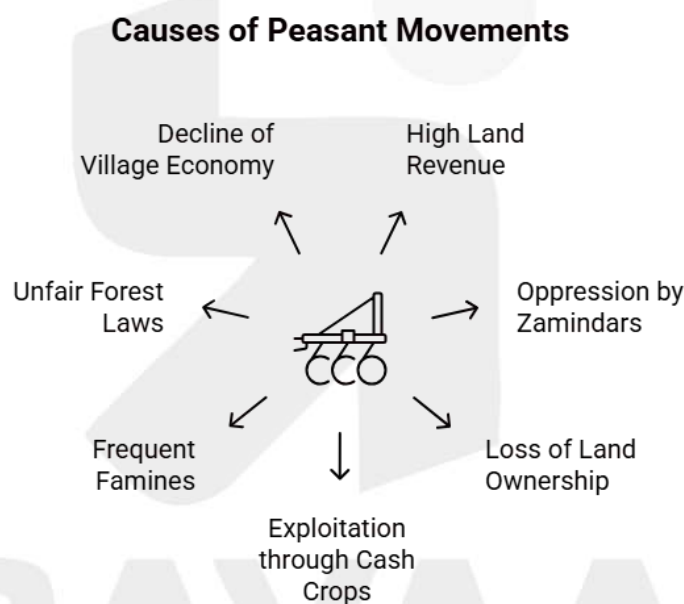
- **Location:** Malabar region, Kerala.
- **Background:** A combination of agrarian discontent and religious identity among Mappila Muslims against oppressive landlords.
- **Impact:** The rebellion involved violent confrontations with colonial authorities, leading to widespread casualties and repression, but it also highlighted the issues of agrarian distress.

#### b. The Guntur Peasant Movement (1950s)

- **Location:** Andhra Pradesh.
- **Leaders:** Influenced by the Communist Party.
- **Objectives:**
  - To demand fair wages and better working conditions for agricultural laborers.
- **Activities:** Organized strikes and protests against landlord exploitation.
- **Impact:** Contributed to the rise of leftist movements in rural India, advocating for the rights of agricultural workers.

### 4. Underlying Causes of Peasant Movements

- **Economic Exploitation:** High taxes, exorbitant rents, and oppressive land tenure systems.
- **Landlord Oppression:** Abuse and exploitation by landlords and zamindars, leading to widespread discontent.
- **Natural Calamities:** Famine, floods, and crop failures exacerbated the plight of peasants.
- **Political Awareness:** The growing influence of nationalist leaders and movements encouraged peasants to organize and demand their rights.



## 5. Impact of Peasant Movements

- **Social Awareness:** The movements helped raise awareness among peasants about their rights and social justice, leading to greater political consciousness.
- **Political Mobilization:** Many peasant leaders later became significant figures in the larger struggle for independence, integrating agrarian issues into the national movement.
- **Legislative Reforms:** Some movements resulted in policy changes and reforms, such as relief from oppressive taxation and improvements in land rights.
- **Legacy:** The struggles of the peasants contributed to the broader narrative of resistance against colonial rule and laid the groundwork for future agrarian reforms in independent India.

## The trade union movement during British rule in India

The trade union movement during British rule in India emerged as a response to the harsh working conditions faced by laborers in various industries, including textiles, railways, and mines. This movement sought to organize workers, improve their rights, and advocate for better working conditions and wages. Here's a detailed account of the key developments, leaders, objectives, and impacts of the trade union movement in India during this period:

### 1. Historical Context

- **Industrialization:** The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw a rise in industrialization in India, particularly in textiles, jute, and coal mining. This led to the migration of workers from rural areas to urban centers.
- **Working Conditions:** Industrial workers faced long hours, low wages, unsafe working conditions, and lack of job security. Exploitative practices by employers were rampant.

### 2. Early Developments

- **Pre-Union Movements:** The early efforts at worker organization can be traced back to the 19th century, with workers starting to form associations and clubs. However, these were often informal and lacked a unified structure.
- **First Organized Movements:** The first significant trade union was the **Madras Labour Union**, formed in 1918 by **B.P. Wadia**. This marked the beginning of organized labor movements in India.

### 3. Formation of Trade Unions

#### a. The Trade Union Act of 1926

- **Legislation:** This act provided legal recognition to trade unions and laid down the framework for their registration and functioning.
- **Impact:** The act encouraged the formation of trade unions across various sectors, enabling workers to organize formally and seek collective bargaining.

#### b. Notable Trade Unions

- **All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC):** Established in 1920, AITUC was the first national trade union center in India, aimed at uniting various trade unions under a single platform.
  - **Key Figures:** Leaders like **Lala Lajpat Rai**, **S.A. Dange**, and **N.M. Joshi** played prominent roles.
- **Hindu Mazdoor Sabha (HMS):** Formed in 1952, it represented a significant section of the labor movement, focusing on workers' rights.

### 4. Key Movements and Strikes

- **Bombay Textile Strike (1928):** A major strike involving over 100,000 workers demanding

better wages and working conditions. The strike faced severe repression but highlighted the strength of organized labor.

- **The Royal Commission on Labour (1931):** Established to investigate labor conditions, leading to some policy recommendations but little immediate change.

## 5. Role of Political Movements

- **Connection to Nationalism:** The trade union movement was closely linked to the broader nationalist movement. Many trade union leaders were also prominent figures in the Indian National Congress.
- **Gandhian Influence:** Mahatma Gandhi's emphasis on labor rights and nonviolent resistance influenced many trade union leaders and movements.

## 6. Challenges Faced by Trade Unions

- **Repression:** British authorities often cracked down on strikes and protests, using police action and legal measures to suppress labor movements.
- **Divisions:** The trade union movement was often fragmented along political lines, with various unions aligning with different political parties, which weakened collective bargaining efforts.

## 7. Impact of the Trade Union Movement

- **Awareness and Mobilization:** The movement raised awareness among workers about their rights and the need for collective action. It empowered laborers to organize and demand better conditions.
- **Legislative Changes:** The efforts of trade unions contributed to the introduction of labor laws post-independence, including those related to minimum wages, working conditions, and the right to organize.
- **Legacy:** The trade union movement laid the groundwork for labor rights activism in independent India, influencing policies and the labor landscape for decades to come.

**Causes for the Rise of the National Movement in India****1. Colonial Oppression:**

- The exploitative policies of the British government, including heavy taxation and land revenue systems, led to widespread economic distress among peasants and farmers.
- The repressive laws and actions, such as the Rowlatt Act (1919), sparked anger and resentment among the Indian populace.

**2. Economic Exploitation:**

- The British colonial economy prioritized the interests of British industries, leading to deindustrialization in India and the decline of traditional crafts.
- The drain of wealth theory, proposed by leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, highlighted how British policies siphoned off resources from India to Britain.

**3. Social Reforms and Awakening:**

- Social reform movements in the 19th century, such as those led by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Swami Vivekananda, raised awareness about social injustices and fostered a sense of unity among Indians.
- The promotion of education and literacy contributed to a growing political consciousness among the middle class.

**4. Cultural Revival:**

- The revival of Indian culture, literature, and heritage during the late 19th century created a sense of pride and identity among Indians.
- Organizations like the Indian National Congress (founded in 1885) provided a platform for political engagement and discussions on rights and self-governance.

**5. Impact of World Events:**

- The First World War (1914-1918) drained British resources and heightened discontent among Indian soldiers and civilians due to economic hardships.
- The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia (1917) inspired anti-imperialist sentiments globally, influencing Indian leaders and intellectuals.

**6. Formation of Political Organizations:**

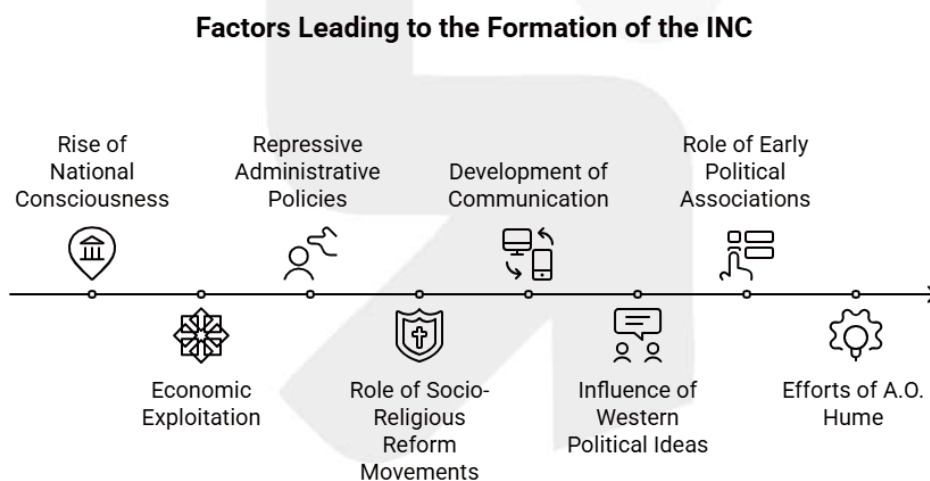
- The establishment of various political organizations, including the Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League, provided structured avenues for political demands and activism.
- The Lucknow Pact (1916) between Congress and the Muslim League represented a united front against British rule.

## 7. Emergence of Mass Movements:

- Events like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919) galvanized public outrage and mobilized diverse sections of society into the national movement.
- Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi introduced non-violent resistance and mass mobilization strategies, making the movement more inclusive.

## Factors Responsible for the Formation of the Indian National Congress (INC)

The Indian National Congress (INC), founded in 1885, emerged as a significant political force in India's struggle for independence. Several factors contributed to its formation:



### 1. Colonial Exploitation

- **Economic Policies:** The British colonial administration imposed exploitative economic policies that adversely affected Indian industries and agriculture. Heavy taxation, the drain of wealth, and deindustrialization fueled resentment among the Indian populace.
- **Demand for Representation:** Growing dissatisfaction with British policies led educated Indians to seek a platform to voice their concerns and demand political representation in governance.

### 2. Social and Educational Reforms

- **Rising Middle Class:** The late 19th century saw the emergence of a educated middle class, largely influenced by Western education. This class became increasingly aware of political issues and aspired for greater participation in governance.
- **Social Reform Movements:** Influential social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar promoted modern education and social awareness, laying the groundwork for political mobilization.

### 3. Need for a Unified Platform

- **Diverse Interests:** Various regional, caste, and religious groups in India faced unique challenges. The formation of the INC provided a platform for diverse interests to come together and collectively address common grievances against British rule.
- **Nationalism:** A growing sense of nationalism, fueled by cultural revival and pride in Indian heritage, encouraged various groups to unite for political action.

### 4. Influence of British Liberalism

- **Political Aspirations:** The British liberal tradition, which emphasized constitutionalism and civil rights, influenced Indian leaders. They sought to use similar frameworks to push for reforms and greater autonomy within the British Raj.
- **Participation in Constitutional Reforms:** Earlier organizations, such as the Indian National Association (established in 1876), had already begun advocating for reforms, and the INC built upon these efforts.

### 5. Role of Prominent Leaders

- **Allan Octavian Hume:** A retired British civil servant, Hume played a crucial role in the founding of the INC. He envisioned the Congress as a platform to channel the political aspirations of Indians into constructive dialogue with the British government.
- **Early Leaders:** Influential figures like Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Bal Gangadhar Tilak brought their own ideologies and strategies to the INC, helping to shape its objectives and approach.

### 6. Impact of International Events

- **Global Nationalist Movements:** The rise of nationalist movements globally, such as those in Europe and the Americas, inspired Indian leaders to seek self-determination and independence from colonial rule.
- **First War of Independence (1857):** Although it was suppressed, the rebellion raised awareness about the need for a united front against British rule and highlighted the potential for collective action.

### 7. Frustration with Existing Political Mechanisms

- **Limited Reforms:** The Indian Councils Act of 1861 and subsequent reforms did not adequately address Indian demands for representation and autonomy, leading to frustration and a call for more organized political action.
- **Lack of Representation:** The absence of significant Indian representation in legislative councils prompted leaders to establish a political organization that could advocate for Indian rights.

## Safety Valve Theory and the Formation of the Indian National Congress (INC)

The **Safety Valve Theory** is a concept used to explain the formation of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885. Proposed by some historians, this theory suggests that the British government established the INC as a means to channel and contain growing nationalist sentiments and discontent among the Indian populace. Here's a detailed account of the theory and its implications:

### 1. Context of Colonial Rule

- **Growing Discontent:** By the late 19th century, there was increasing dissatisfaction among Indians regarding British colonial policies. Economic exploitation, social injustices, and political exclusion led to widespread unrest.
- **Demand for Representation:** Educated Indians were becoming increasingly aware of their political rights and sought platforms to express their grievances.

### 2. Formation of the INC as a Response

- **British Strategy:** The British authorities recognized the need to manage this growing discontent. The formation of the INC was viewed as a way to provide an outlet for these sentiments without threatening the colonial order.
- **Political Engagement:** By allowing Indians to form a political organization, the British aimed to engage them in a controlled political dialogue, thereby reducing the potential for unrest or violent uprisings.

### 3. Characteristics of the INC as a Safety Valve

- **Moderate Approach:** The early INC adopted a moderate approach, seeking reforms through petitions and discussions rather than radical actions. This was aligned with the British interest in maintaining stability.
- **Platform for Grievances:** The INC served as a platform where educated Indians could voice their concerns about British policies, thereby providing a sense of participation in governance while preventing more extreme forms of protest.

### 4. Involvement of British Officials

- **Allan Octavian Hume's Role:** Hume, a retired British civil servant, was instrumental in the formation of the INC. He believed that a political party could help channel the aspirations of Indians into constructive dialogue rather than revolution.
- **Perception of Control:** By promoting the INC, the British believed they could keep the nationalist movement in check, ensuring that demands remained within a framework acceptable to colonial authorities.

### 5. Limitations of the Safety Valve Theory

- **Underestimation of Nationalist Sentiments:** Critics of the theory argue that it

underestimates the genuine desire for independence among Indians. The INC quickly evolved beyond a mere safety valve into a significant political force advocating for self-rule.

- **Rise of Extremism:** The emergence of more radical factions within the INC, particularly under leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, challenged the notion that the party would simply contain nationalist aspirations.

## 6. Transition from Safety Valve to National Movement

- **Shift in Strategy:** As the INC grew in strength and popularity, it began adopting more assertive strategies, leading to mass movements such as the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- **Broader Participation:** The INC expanded its base, incorporating various social groups and regions, transforming from a limited platform for elite political dialogue to a mass movement for independence.

## The Moderate Phase of the Indian Freedom Struggle

The Moderate Phase of the Indian freedom struggle refers to the initial period of the nationalist movement from the formation of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885 until around 1905. This phase was characterized by a cautious and reformist approach to achieving political rights and self-governance.

### 1. Background and Formation of INC

- **Establishment:** The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 by a group of educated Indians, including Allan Octavian Hume, with the aim of creating a platform for political dialogue with the British government.
- **Objectives:** Early leaders sought to promote political awareness, engage in constitutional reforms, and address the grievances of Indians through petitions and discussions.

### 2. Key Leaders

- **Moderate Leaders:** Prominent leaders during this phase included Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and W.C. Bonnerjee. They believed in gradual reform and constitutional methods to achieve political rights.
- **Influence of Liberal Thought:** Many moderate leaders were influenced by British liberal ideas and aimed to reform the system from within rather than seek immediate independence.

### 3. Characteristics of the Moderate Phase

- **Methodology:** The approach was characterized by petitions, resolutions, and dialogue

with the British authorities. The INC focused on constitutional reforms and sought to represent Indian interests through peaceful means.

- **Demand for Reforms:** Key demands included:
  - Increased representation of Indians in legislative councils.
  - Reduction of oppressive policies and taxation.
  - Educational reforms and improvements in the socio-economic conditions of Indians.

#### 4. Major Events and Developments

- **Early Sessions:** The early sessions of the INC were marked by moderate resolutions and demands for reforms. For example, the 1906 session in Calcutta passed resolutions demanding self-government and civil rights.
- **Formation of the Indian National Congress's Objectives:** The INC gradually began articulating a vision for greater autonomy, culminating in the call for self-rule.

#### 5. Challenges and Criticism

- **Limited Impact:** The moderate approach often faced challenges due to the British government's reluctance to implement significant reforms. The INC's petitions were frequently ignored.
- **Emergence of Extremism:** The frustration with the slow pace of reforms led to the rise of extremist leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who advocated for a more direct and aggressive approach to achieving independence.

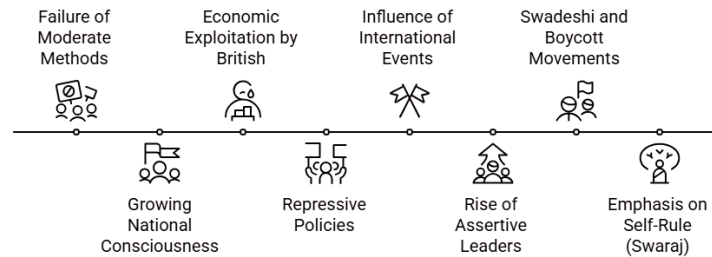
#### 6. Transition to the Extremist Phase

- **Partition of Bengal (1905):** The British decision to partition Bengal for administrative reasons but widely perceived as a strategy to divide Hindus and Muslims galvanized nationalist sentiments. This act of colonial policy led to widespread protests and a shift in strategies within the INC.
- **Split in the INC:** The discontent with moderate leadership culminated in the split of the INC in 1907, with moderates and extremists diverging in their approaches. This marked a significant transition from a primarily moderate phase to a more radical phase of the freedom struggle.

### The Rise of Extremism in the Indian Freedom Struggle

This phase primarily emerged in the early 20th century, roughly between 1905 and 1920.

## Rise of Extremism in the Indian Freedom Struggle



### 1. Context and Background

- **Discontent with Moderates:** The failure of the Indian National Congress (INC) to achieve significant political concessions through moderate methods led to growing frustration among sections of the Indian population, particularly the youth and the more radical leaders.
- **Partition of Bengal (1905):** The British decision to partition Bengal was a critical catalyst for the rise of extremism. This move was seen as an attempt to divide Hindus and Muslims, fostering communal tensions and widespread anger.

### 2. Key Leaders of Extremism

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** Often referred to as the "Father of Indian Nationalism," Tilak advocated for direct action and believed that self-rule (Swaraj) was the birthright of every Indian. His rallying cry, "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it," inspired many.
- **Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal:** Along with Tilak, these leaders were central figures in the extremist wing of the INC. They emphasized the need for more radical methods to challenge British authority.

### 3. Characteristics of Extremism

- **Militant Tactics:** Extremists believed in adopting more confrontational tactics, including boycotts of British goods (Swadeshi Movement), non-cooperation, and even revolutionary activities.
- **Mass Mobilization:** The extremist leaders sought to involve the masses in the struggle, organizing rallies, protests, and cultural events that fostered national identity and unity.
- **Cultural Revival:** There was a significant emphasis on reviving Indian culture, heritage, and pride. Extremist leaders encouraged the use of Indian languages and promoted traditional crafts and industries.

### 4. Major Events and Movements

- **Swadeshi Movement (1905):** Following the partition of Bengal, the Swadeshi Movement called for the boycott of British goods and the promotion of indigenous industries. This

movement mobilized large sections of society, particularly the middle class and students.

- **Revolutionary Activities:** A faction of extremists began engaging in revolutionary activities, including acts of violence against colonial officials, as seen in the actions of groups like the Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar.

## 5. Government Response

- **Repression:** The British responded to the rise of extremism with harsh measures, including arrests, censorship, and suppression of protests. Key leaders, including Tilak, were imprisoned, further galvanizing nationalist sentiments.
- **Lal Bal Pal Trio:** The emergence of the Lal Bal Pal trio (Tilak, Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal) led to a more organized and militant national movement, challenging British authority more openly.

## 6. Decline of Extremism

- **Split in the INC (1907):** The increasing radicalism and differing ideologies within the INC eventually led to a split between moderates and extremists, as seen during the Surat session of the Congress in 1907.
- **Changing Dynamics:** The subsequent events, including the First World War and the arrival of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, shifted the focus of the freedom struggle towards mass mobilization through non-violent means, ultimately leading to a decline in extremist activities.

## The Partition of Bengal (1905)

Here's a detailed account of the partition, its causes, consequences, and its role in the freedom struggle.

### 1. Background and Context

- **Bengal's Size and Diversity:** Bengal was the largest province in British India, both geographically and in terms of population. It had a diverse population that included various religious and ethnic groups.
- **Administrative Challenges:** The British colonial administration faced challenges in managing such a large and populous region, which led to discussions about administrative efficiency.

### 2. Causes of the Partition

- **Administrative Reasons:** The British government cited the need for better administrative efficiency and governance as the primary reason for the partition. They argued that the division would facilitate more effective management.
- **Political Strategy:** Many historians argue that the real motive behind the partition was

to divide and rule. The British aimed to weaken the growing nationalist sentiments by creating communal divisions, particularly between Hindus and Muslims.

- **Nationalist Movements:** The rise of nationalist movements in Bengal, especially through the activities of the Indian National Congress and the Swadeshi Movement, alarmed the British. The partition was seen as a way to undermine this unity.

### 3. Details of the Partition

- **Announcement:** The partition was announced by Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, on July 19, 1905, and took effect on October 16, 1905. Bengal was divided into:
  - **West Bengal:** Predominantly Hindu population, remaining with a larger administrative structure.
  - **East Bengal:** Predominantly Muslim population, which was created as a separate province.

### 4. Reactions to the Partition

- **Immediate Backlash:** The partition provoked widespread protests and opposition from the Indian public, particularly among the Hindus, who viewed it as an attempt to sow discord between communities.
- **Swadeshi Movement:** In response to the partition, the Swadeshi Movement gained momentum, advocating for the boycott of British goods and the promotion of Indian products. It marked a significant shift in the nationalist movement towards more assertive and unified action.
- **Cultural Revival:** The partition also stimulated a revival of Indian culture and nationalism, leading to the establishment of various cultural organizations, literature, and educational institutions aimed at fostering national pride.

### 5. Consequences of the Partition

- **Increased Communal Tensions:** The partition exacerbated communal tensions between Hindus and Muslims, setting a precedent for future divisions.
- **Mobilization of Nationalist Sentiments:** The widespread protests against the partition led to increased political mobilization and activism, uniting people across different backgrounds against British rule.
- **Reversal of the Partition:** Due to the intense pressure from the nationalist movements, the British government reversed the partition in 1911. However, the damage to communal relations had already been done, and the legacy of the partition continued to influence Indian politics.

### 6. Legacy

- **Impact on the Nationalist Movement:** The partition played a crucial role in

transforming the INC from a moderate body seeking reforms to a mass movement demanding independence.

- **Prelude to Future Divisions:** The events surrounding the partition of Bengal foreshadowed later communal divisions that culminated in the partition of India in 1947.

## The Swadeshi Movement: Detailed Account and Significance

The **Swadeshi Movement** was a pivotal part of the Indian freedom struggle, aimed at promoting indigenous goods and fostering national pride in response to British colonial policies. It emerged in the early 20th century, particularly in the context of the Partition of Bengal in 1905.

### 1. Background

- **Partition of Bengal (1905):** The British decision to partition Bengal on communal lines ignited widespread resentment among Indians. It was seen as an attempt to divide Hindus and Muslims and weaken the nationalist movement.
- **Call for Boycott:** In reaction, leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Lala Lajpat Rai called for a boycott of British goods and the promotion of Indian products as a means to resist colonial rule.

### 2. Key Features of the Swadeshi Movement

- **Economic Boycott:** The movement emphasized the boycott of British goods, leading to the promotion of indigenous industries. This included spinning khadi (hand-spun cloth) and supporting local artisans and manufacturers.
- **Cultural Revival:** The movement was not just economic; it also aimed to revive Indian culture, heritage, and pride. Events were organized to celebrate Indian customs, festivals, and traditions.
- **Political Mobilization:** The Swadeshi Movement catalyzed political consciousness among various sections of society, including students, women, and the rural populace. It encouraged active participation in the struggle for independence.

### 3. Major Events and Activities

- **Boycott of British Goods:** Various campaigns were launched to discourage the purchase of British products. Public demonstrations and rallies were organized, where participants publicly burned foreign goods.
- **Promotion of Khadi:** Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi later popularized khadi, but its roots can be traced back to the Swadeshi Movement, where it was promoted as a symbol of self-reliance and national pride.
- **Establishment of Swadeshi Enterprises:** Many small-scale industries and cooperative societies were established to produce goods that were previously imported from Britain.

This included textiles, handicrafts, and other local products.

#### 4. Significance of the Swadeshi Movement

- **National Unity:** The movement fostered a sense of unity among Indians across different regions and communities, emphasizing collective action against colonial rule.
- **Political Awakening:** It marked a shift in the Indian nationalist movement from moderate demands for reform to a more radical approach seeking self-rule (Swaraj). It mobilized a significant section of the population for the independence struggle.
- **Economic Self-Sufficiency:** The movement laid the foundation for the idea of economic self-sufficiency and self-reliance, which became crucial themes in later phases of the freedom struggle.
- **Cultural Identity:** It played a key role in the cultural renaissance of India, promoting pride in Indian heritage and traditions, which helped counter British narratives of superiority.

#### 5. Challenges and Decline

- **Government Repression:** The British government responded to the movement with repressive measures, including arrests and violence against protesters.
- **Internal Divisions:** Over time, differences emerged within the nationalist movement regarding the approach to achieving independence, leading to a decline in the movement's intensity by the early 1910s.

### The Surat Split (1907): Detailed Account and Impact on the Freedom Movement

The **Surat Split** refers to the division within the Indian National Congress (INC) during its session in Surat in December 1907. This split marked a significant turning point in the Indian freedom struggle, leading to the emergence of distinct ideologies within the nationalist movement.

#### 1. Background Context

- **Moderate vs. Extremist Leadership:** By the early 1900s, the INC had developed two factions:
  - **Moderates:** Led by figures like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Dadabhai Naoroji, who advocated for constitutional reforms and dialogue with the British.
  - **Extremists:** Led by leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal, who favored more direct and confrontational methods, including boycotts and protests against British policies.
- **Growing Tensions:** The differences between the two factions intensified over various issues, particularly the approach to the Swadeshi Movement and the response to the

partition of Bengal. The moderates sought a more conciliatory approach, while the extremists called for active resistance.

## 2. The Split at Surat

- **INC Session in Surat (1907):** The split became evident during the INC session held in Surat. Disagreements over leadership positions and the approach to the freedom struggle led to heated debates and conflicts between the two factions.
- **Outcome:** The session ended in chaos, with the extremists being sidelined. The moderates gained control over the INC, leading to the formal split between the two groups.

## 3. Impact of the Surat Split

- **Fragmentation of the Nationalist Movement:** The split weakened the INC's unity, making it difficult to present a cohesive front against British rule. The division created a temporary setback for the nationalist movement.
- **Rise of Alternative Nationalist Organizations:** In the wake of the split, many extremists left the INC to form new organizations or joined existing ones, such as the **Ghadar Party** and the **Anushilan Samiti**, which focused on revolutionary activities.
- **Radicalization of the Movement:** The split contributed to the radicalization of the freedom struggle. Extremist leaders continued to advocate for direct action, fostering a sense of urgency among the youth. This laid the groundwork for future mass movements.
- **Temporary Withdrawal of Extremists:** The extremists remained largely marginalized within the INC until the emergence of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, who eventually reconciled different factions and brought about a more unified approach to the independence struggle.
- **Impact on British Policies:** The divisions within the INC prompted the British to adopt a more repressive stance, believing that they could more easily control a fragmented nationalist movement.

## 4. Long-term Consequences

- **Emergence of New Strategies:** The Surat Split led to the exploration of various strategies within the nationalist movement, ultimately paving the way for the later adoption of mass mobilization techniques during movements like the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920) and the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930).
- **Evolution of Leadership:** The split signified the evolving nature of leadership within the INC. Over time, leaders like Gandhi emerged, advocating for a non-violent and mass-

based approach that eventually reconciled the differences between moderates and extremists.

## Formation of the All India Muslim League

The **All India Muslim League** was established in 1906 and played a pivotal role in the political landscape of British India, particularly in representing the interests of Muslims and advocating for their rights during the struggle for independence. Here's a detailed account of its formation, objectives, and impact.

### 1. Background Context

- **Growing Political Consciousness:** By the early 20th century, the political landscape in India was evolving. The Indian National Congress (INC) was gaining momentum as a platform for nationalist aspirations, but many Muslims felt underrepresented.
- **Concerns Over Representation:** The partition of Bengal in 1905 and subsequent developments raised concerns among Muslims regarding their political representation and rights within a predominantly Hindu nationalist movement.

### 2. Founding of the Muslim League

- **Initial Meeting:** The All India Muslim League was founded on December 30, 1906, during a session of the **Muslim Educational Conference** in Dhaka (now Dhaka, Bangladesh).
- **Key Figures:** The formation was spearheaded by leaders such as Nawab Salimullah Khan of Dhaka, who played a crucial role in rallying support among Muslims. Other prominent figures included Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who would later become a key leader of the League.

### 3. Objectives of the Muslim League

- **Political Representation:** The primary goal of the Muslim League was to secure political rights and representation for Muslims in India. This included advocating for separate electorates and ensuring that Muslim interests were considered in any constitutional reforms.
- **Protection of Muslim Identity:** The League aimed to protect the social, cultural, and religious identity of Muslims in India, emphasizing the need for a distinct political voice that addressed their specific concerns.
- **Promotion of Education and Social Welfare:** In addition to political aims, the League sought to promote education and social welfare among Muslims, encouraging economic development and modernization.

### 4. Activities and Early Challenges

- **Initial Phase:** In its early years, the League focused on organizing Muslim communities,

holding conferences, and raising awareness about political rights. However, it struggled to gain significant traction compared to the INC.

- **Alliance with the British:** The League initially maintained a cooperative stance with the British government, seeking to work within the colonial framework to achieve its objectives.

## 5. Rise in Influence

- **Lucknow Pact (1916):** The Muslim League's influence grew significantly when it allied with the INC to demand self-governance from the British through the **Lucknow Pact**. This agreement aimed for joint representation and mutual cooperation between Hindus and Muslims.
- **Growing Communal Tensions:** As communal tensions rose in the late 1920s and 1930s, the Muslim League began to increasingly assert the need for a separate political identity for Muslims, leading to a shift in its objectives.

## 6. Demand for Pakistan

- **Two-Nation Theory:** The League, under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, began to articulate the "Two-Nation Theory," arguing that Hindus and Muslims were distinct nations with separate interests.
- **Resolution of 1940:** The Lahore Resolution, passed in March 1940, formally demanded the creation of independent states for Muslims in the northwestern and eastern zones of India, marking a decisive turn in the League's agenda.

## 7. Impact on the Freedom Movement

- **Political Polarization:** The formation of the Muslim League and its subsequent demands contributed to the political polarization of the Indian independence movement. It underscored the communal divide between Hindus and Muslims.
- **Role in Partition:** The League's advocacy for separate Muslim states ultimately culminated in the partition of India in 1947, leading to the creation of Pakistan.

## The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919)

The **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms** were a series of constitutional reforms introduced in British India through the Government of India Act 1919. These reforms were significant in the evolution of India's political landscape and set the stage for further demands for self-governance. Here's a detailed account of the reforms, their features, and their impact.

### 1. Background Context

- **World War I Impact:** The First World War (1914-1918) had significant effects on India, including economic hardships and increased political unrest. The Indian populace

contributed to the war effort, leading to heightened expectations for political concessions post-war.

- **Indian National Congress:** The INC had been increasingly vocal about demands for greater self-governance. The British promised reforms in response to Indian contributions during the war.

## 2. Key Figures

- **Edwin Montagu:** The Secretary of State for India, who advocated for reforms aimed at increasing Indian participation in governance.
- **Lord Chelmsford:** The Viceroy of India at the time, who worked alongside Montagu to formulate the proposed changes.

## 3. Main Features of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms

- **Dyarchy in Provinces:** One of the most notable features was the introduction of dyarchy (dual governance) in the provinces. Responsibilities were divided between elected Indian ministers and British officials:
  - **Provincial Subjects:** Certain subjects (like health, education, and agriculture) were transferred to Indian ministers.
  - **Reserved Subjects:** Key areas such as law and order, finance, and revenue remained under British control.
- **Expansion of Legislative Councils:** The reforms expanded the legislative councils at both the central and provincial levels:
  - **Central Legislative Council:** Increased from 60 to 104 members, with a larger number of elected Indian representatives.
  - **Provincial Legislative Councils:** More elected members were introduced, although the majority still lay with appointed officials.
- **Franchise Expansion:** The reforms aimed to extend the franchise, allowing a larger number of Indians to participate in elections. However, the electorate was still limited and excluded large segments of the population.
- **Provincial Autonomy:** The reforms aimed at granting more autonomy to provinces, allowing for a degree of self-governance while still under British oversight.

## 4. Limitations of the Reforms

- **Ineffective Dyarchy:** The dyarchy system was criticized for being ineffective. The division of responsibilities often led to conflicts between Indian ministers and British officials, causing administrative inefficiencies.
- **Limited Franchise:** Despite expanding the electorate, the reforms still restricted voting rights to a minority of educated Indians, leaving out a vast majority.

- **Lack of Real Power:** Many Indian leaders felt that the reforms did not go far enough in granting real power or addressing the aspirations of the Indian populace for self-governance.

## 5. Impact on the Freedom Movement

- **Increased Political Awareness:** The reforms led to greater political mobilization among Indians, with increased participation in legislative processes and political discourse.
- **Growth of Nationalist Sentiment:** The perceived inadequacies of the reforms fueled nationalist sentiments and demands for complete independence, laying the groundwork for future movements.
- **Emergence of New Leaders:** The political landscape saw the rise of new leaders and parties that would eventually challenge British authority more vigorously.
- **Rowlatt Act Response:** The discontent with the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms contributed to widespread protests against the Rowlatt Act in 1919, which aimed at suppressing dissent and increasing colonial control.

## Impact of the First World War on the Indian Freedom Struggle

The **First World War (1914-1918)** had significant repercussions for the Indian freedom struggle, reshaping political dynamics, increasing public discontent, and accelerating demands for self-governance. Here's a detailed account of the war's impact on the Indian nationalist movement.

### 1. Economic Consequences

- **War Expenditure:** The British government significantly increased taxes and borrowed extensively to fund the war effort. This led to economic strain on the Indian populace, resulting in increased prices of essential goods and widespread inflation.
- **Food Shortages:** The war disrupted agricultural production and distribution, leading to severe food shortages. The resultant famines, particularly the 1918 influenza pandemic, caused widespread suffering and loss of life.
- **Labor Unrest:** Economic hardships sparked labor unrest and strikes, as workers demanded better wages and working conditions. This unrest was crucial in mobilizing the working class and fostering a sense of solidarity among different groups.

### 2. Political Awakening

- **Increased Political Participation:** Many Indians felt a heightened sense of political awareness and engagement due to their contributions to the war effort, leading to demands for greater political representation and rights.
- **Formation of New Groups:** The war led to the formation of various political organizations that aimed to represent the interests of different communities, including

the **Home Rule**

**League** led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant, which advocated for self-governance.

### 3. Expectations of Reforms

- **Promises of Political Concessions:** The British government, in an attempt to secure Indian support for the war, promised political reforms after the war. However, the vague nature of these promises led to growing skepticism and disappointment among Indian leaders.
- **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919):** The discontentment with the limited reforms introduced after the war, which fell short of expectations, fueled further agitation for self-rule.

### 4. Rise of Nationalist Movements

- **Anti-Colonial Sentiments:** The economic and social consequences of the war intensified anti-colonial sentiments. Many Indians began to view the British as oppressors rather than allies, leading to increased support for nationalist movements.
- **Role of Leaders:** Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, who returned to India from South Africa in 1915, capitalized on the growing discontent. Gandhi advocated for non-violent resistance and mobilized masses through campaigns like the **Champaran Satyagraha** (1917) and the **Kheda Satyagraha** (1918).

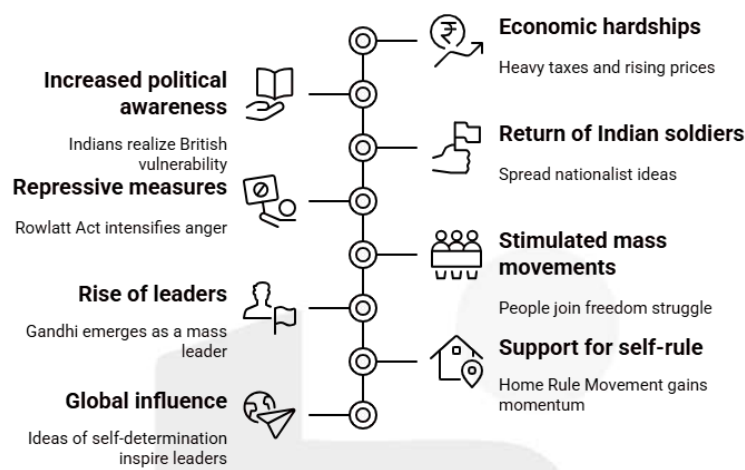
### 5. Communal Tensions

- **Rowlatt Act (1919):** In response to the growing unrest, the British passed the Rowlatt Act, which allowed for repressive measures against dissent. This act was met with widespread protests and violence, including the tragic **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** in Amritsar in April 1919, which further fueled resentment against British rule.
- **Formation of the Muslim League:** The war period also saw the Muslim League consolidating its position, emphasizing the need to safeguard Muslim interests in the face of growing Hindu nationalism.

### 6. Increased Organization and Mobilization

- **Emergence of New Leadership:** The war period saw the emergence of a new generation of leaders, including Gandhi, who would play a crucial role in the mass mobilization of Indians against colonial rule.
- **Nationalist Unity:** The period witnessed attempts at unifying various factions within the nationalist movement, culminating in alliances like the **Lucknow Pact** (1916) between the INC and the Muslim League.

## Key Events Shaping India's Freedom Struggle Post-WWI



### Lucknow Pact

The **Lucknow Pact** was a significant agreement reached in December 1916 between the Indian National Congress (INC) and the All India Muslim League. It marked a crucial moment in the Indian freedom struggle, promoting Hindu-Muslim unity and shaping the political landscape of the time. Here's a detailed account of the Lucknow Pact, its background, provisions, and impact.

#### 1. Background Context

- **Growing Political Awareness:** By the early 20th century, there was an increasing demand for self-governance and political representation among Indians, driven by economic hardships and discontent with British rule.
- **Communal Tensions:** Despite shared goals of independence, tensions existed between Hindus and Muslims. The INC, predominantly Hindu, and the Muslim League were initially seen as representing separate interests.
- **Need for Unity:** Leaders from both factions recognized the need for cooperation to present a united front against colonial rule, particularly in light of the political concessions promised by the British government after World War I.

#### 2. Key Figures

- **Mahatma Gandhi:** Although not directly involved in the negotiations, his return to India and advocacy for unity influenced the political climate.
- **Muhammad Ali Jinnah:** A prominent leader of the Muslim League, Jinnah played a vital role in advocating for the rights of Muslims and facilitating dialogue between the two groups.

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** A key figure in the INC, he pushed for collaboration with the Muslim League.

### 3. Provisions of the Lucknow Pact

- **Self-Government:** The pact demanded substantial constitutional reforms, including greater self-governance for India.
- **Separate Electorates:** It accepted separate electorates for Muslims, ensuring that Muslim candidates would be elected by Muslim voters. This was seen as necessary to protect Muslim political interests.
- **Increased Representation:** The pact called for increased representation of Indians in legislative councils, advocating for a greater number of elected representatives.
- **Shared Goals:** Both parties emphasized the necessity of cooperation to achieve a common goal of self-rule, marking a significant step towards Hindu-Muslim unity.

### 4. Impact of the Lucknow Pact

- **Strengthened Alliances:** The pact solidified the alliance between the INC and the Muslim League, fostering a spirit of collaboration that was crucial in the fight for independence.
- **Increased Political Mobilization:** It led to greater political mobilization among both communities, encouraging participation in the national movement.
- **British Response:** The British government was alarmed by the unity displayed in the Lucknow Pact and was compelled to consider Indian demands more seriously.
- **Foundation for Future Demands:** The pact laid the groundwork for future demands for constitutional reforms, including the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919.

### 5. Challenges and Limitations

- **Internal Discontent:** Despite the initial success of the Lucknow Pact, internal divisions remained. Some factions within the INC and the Muslim League were wary of compromising on issues important to their respective communities.
- **Failure to Sustain Unity:** The unity forged during the Lucknow Pact did not endure long-term, as subsequent events, including the rise of communal politics and the eventual demand for Pakistan, led to increasing polarization.

## The Home Rule Movement

The **Home Rule Movement** was a significant political movement in early 20th-century India aimed at achieving self-governance within the British Empire. It was a response to the growing discontent with colonial rule and marked a pivotal phase in the Indian independence struggle.

### 1. Background Context

- **Growing Nationalism:** The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw a surge in nationalist sentiments across India. Various socio-political movements were emerging, demanding

greater political rights and representation for Indians.

- **Economic Hardships:** Economic exploitation, widespread poverty, and famine during British rule created widespread discontent. The First World War further exacerbated these issues, increasing the demand for political concessions.

## 2. Key Figures

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** Often regarded as the "Father of the Home Rule Movement," Tilak was instrumental in popularizing the idea of self-rule. He sought to mobilize public opinion around the demand for Home Rule.
- **Annie Besant:** A prominent British social reformer and a strong supporter of Indian nationalism, she joined the movement and became its leading figure alongside Tilak, advocating for Home Rule through her organizational skills and public speeches.

## 3. Features of the Home Rule Movement

- **Demand for Self-Governance:** The primary objective was to secure Home Rule for India, akin to the self-governing dominions within the British Empire, such as Australia and Canada.
- **Formation of Home Rule Leagues:** Two main leagues were formed:
  - **Indian Home Rule League:** Established by Tilak in 1916, it focused on mobilizing public support across India.
  - **All India Home Rule League:** Founded by Annie Besant, this league aimed at promoting self-rule through education, public meetings, and campaigns.
- **Mass Mobilization:** The movement employed various strategies to garner public support, including organizing rallies, distributing pamphlets, and engaging in public debates. Tilak and Besant toured extensively to promote the cause.
- **Political Education:** The leagues emphasized educating the Indian populace about their rights and the need for self-governance, encouraging political awareness among the masses.

## 4. Impact of the Home Rule Movement

- **Increased Political Consciousness:** The movement played a crucial role in raising political consciousness among Indians, especially the middle class, and mobilizing support for the nationalist movement.
- **Strengthening of the Indian National Congress:** The ideas and demands of the Home Rule Movement influenced the INC, leading to increased cooperation between different factions within the Congress.
- **Formation of New Alliances:** The movement laid the groundwork for future collaborations between various nationalist groups, including the Muslim League.

- **Response from the British Government:** The movement's popularity and the pressure it exerted led to the British government's consideration of constitutional reforms, culminating in the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919.

## 5. Challenges and Decline

- **Internal Divisions:** The movement faced challenges in maintaining unity, particularly with the rise of different ideologies within the Congress and between Hindus and Muslims.
- **British Repression:** The government responded to the growing agitation with repression, including arrests and censorship of newspapers.
- **Shift in Focus:** Post-World War I, the movement's momentum declined as new leaders emerged, and the focus shifted towards more radical methods of protest, leading to the rise of figures like Mahatma Gandhi.

## The Gandhian Era (1915-1947): Detailed Account

The **Gandhian Era** refers to the period in Indian history from Mahatma Gandhi's return to India in 1915 until India's independence in 1947. This era was marked by Gandhi's unique approach to political activism, which emphasized non-violent resistance and mass mobilization against British colonial rule. Here's a detailed account of the Gandhian Era, highlighting key movements, philosophies, and impacts.

### 1. Background Context

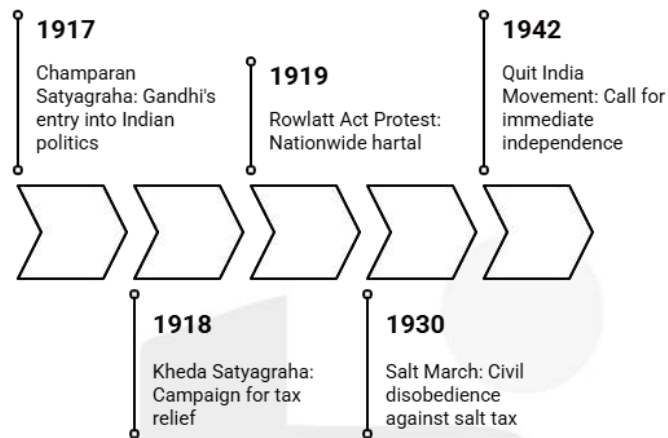
- **Return from South Africa:** Gandhi returned to India in 1915 after successfully advocating for the rights of Indians in South Africa. His experiences there shaped his philosophy of non-violent resistance (Satyagraha).
- **Rising Nationalism:** The early 20th century saw a surge in nationalist sentiments in India, with increasing demands for self-governance and political rights.

### 2. Key Philosophies

- **Satyagraha:** Gandhi's principle of Satyagraha, or "truth force," emphasized non-violent resistance and civil disobedience. He believed that moral force could bring about social and political change.
- **Ahimsa:** The concept of non-violence (ahimsa) was central to Gandhi's philosophy, advocating for peaceful protest and respect for all life.
- **Self-reliance (Swadeshi):** Gandhi promoted economic self-sufficiency and the use of Indian-made products, particularly through the spinning of khadi (handspun cloth).

### 3. Key Movements and Events

## Key Movements and Events during the Gandhian Period



- **Champanan Satyagraha (1917):** Gandhi led his first major protest in Champanan, Bihar, against oppressive plantation practices affecting farmers. This marked his entry into Indian politics and set the tone for future movements.
- **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):** In Kheda, Gujarat, Gandhi organized a campaign for farmers affected by crop failure and high taxes, demanding tax relief. The movement succeeded in gaining concessions from the government.
- **Rowlatt Act Protest (1919):** The introduction of the repressive Rowlatt Act led to widespread protests. Gandhi called for a nationwide hartal (strike), emphasizing non-cooperation. This culminated in the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** in Amritsar, which intensified anti-British sentiments.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922):** Gandhi launched this movement to resist British rule through non-violent means, urging Indians to boycott British institutions, goods, and honors. The movement gained massive support but was suspended after the violent incident at Chauri Chaura in 1922.
- **Salt March (Dandi March, 1930):** In response to the salt tax imposed by the British, Gandhi led a 240-mile march to the sea to produce salt, symbolizing resistance to unjust laws. This act of civil disobedience galvanized national and international support for the independence movement.
- **Quit India Movement (1942):** Gandhi called for an immediate end to British rule in India during World War II. The movement saw widespread participation but faced severe repression. Gandhi and other leaders were arrested, but the movement significantly raised anti-colonial sentiments.

#### 4. Gandhi's Approach to Social Issues

- **Communal Harmony:** Gandhi emphasized Hindu-Muslim unity, advocating for communal harmony and working against social evils such as untouchability.
- **Empowerment of Women:** Gandhi encouraged women's participation in the freedom struggle and addressed issues such as child marriage and widow remarriage.
- **Economic Self-reliance:** He promoted the use of khadi and encouraged rural development, aiming to uplift the rural economy.

#### 5. Challenges and Criticisms

- **Internal Disagreements:** Gandhi's methods were sometimes criticized by leaders who favored more radical approaches, such as Subhas Chandra Bose and the revolutionary factions.
- **Partition of India:** Gandhi's vision for a united India faced challenges with the rise of communal politics, ultimately leading to the partition of India in 1947, which he opposed but could not prevent.

#### 6. Legacy and Impact

- **Global Influence:** Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence inspired civil rights movements around the world, influencing leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.
- **Role in Independence:** Gandhi played a crucial role in mobilizing the masses for the freedom struggle, making the fight for independence a collective endeavor rather than an elitist one.
- **Cultural and Social Change:** His emphasis on social reform, particularly in addressing caste issues and promoting gender equality, had a lasting impact on Indian society.

### Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922)

The Non-Cooperation Movement was a pivotal phase in the Indian independence struggle, led by Mahatma Gandhi and aimed at resisting British rule through non-violent means. This movement marked a significant shift in the nature of the Indian nationalist movement and mobilized millions of Indians across the country. Here's a detailed account of the Non-Cooperation Movement, its origins, objectives, key events, and outcomes.

#### 1. Background Context

- **Impact of World War I:** The First World War (1914-1918) exacerbated economic hardships in India, leading to inflation and food shortages. The British government's repressive measures, such as the Rowlatt Act (1919), fueled discontent.

- **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:** The massacre in Amritsar in April 1919 heightened anger against British rule and galvanized public sentiment for a more unified and assertive national movement.
- **Gandhi's Return to India:** Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915, bringing with him the philosophy of Satyagraha, which emphasized non-violent resistance.

## 2. Objectives of the Movement

- **Complete Independence:** The movement aimed to achieve complete self-rule (Swaraj) for India, rejecting British authority.
- **Boycott of British Institutions:** Indians were urged to withdraw from British educational institutions, courts, and government jobs, and to boycott British goods.
- **Promotion of Indian Self-Reliance:** The movement encouraged the use of indigenous products, particularly khadi, to promote economic self-sufficiency.

## 3. Key Events and Activities

- **Launch of the Movement:** The Non-Cooperation Movement was officially launched in September 1920, following the British government's failure to address Indian demands for greater autonomy and reforms.
- **Mass Mobilization:** Gandhi called for a nationwide campaign to mobilize support. He urged students to boycott schools and colleges, lawyers to resign from courts, and government servants to resign from their posts.
- **Swadeshi Movement:** The movement reignited the Swadeshi spirit, with a focus on using and promoting Indian-made goods, particularly khadi.
- **Satyagraha Campaigns:** Throughout the movement, various local satyagraha campaigns were organized, with communities engaging in non-violent protests against British rule.

## 4. Key Developments

- **Widespread Participation:** The movement witnessed participation from diverse sections of society, including students, peasants, women, and the middle class. It united people across regions and communities.
- **Repression by British Authorities:** The British government responded with repression, including arrests of leaders and activists, censorship of the press, and violent crackdowns on protests.
- **Chauri Chaura Incident:** The movement faced a significant setback after the violent incident at Chauri Chaura in February 1922, where a police station was attacked by a mob, resulting in the deaths of policemen. Gandhi decided to suspend the movement to

maintain the principle of non-violence.

## 5. Outcomes and Impact

- **Suspension of the Movement:** In February 1922, Gandhi officially suspended the Non-Cooperation Movement, stating that it had deviated from its non-violent principles.
- **Political Awakening:** The movement marked a turning point in Indian politics, as it brought millions into the nationalist fold and made the struggle for independence a mass movement.
- **Strengthening of the Indian National Congress:** The movement revitalized the INC and established Gandhi as a key leader in the independence struggle, enhancing his influence within the party.
- **Legacy of Non-Violence:** The movement reinforced the effectiveness of non-violent resistance as a strategy in the fight against colonial rule, setting a precedent for future struggles.

## 6. Challenges and Criticisms

- **Internal Discontent:** The suspension of the movement led to discontent among many supporters who felt let down by the decision.
- **Rise of Extremism:** Some factions within the nationalist movement began to advocate for more radical methods of protest, leading to divisions within the INC.
- **Communal Tensions:** The movement also highlighted communal tensions, as various groups interpreted the calls for unity and independence differently.

## Civil Disobedience Movement

The **Civil Disobedience Movement** was a major phase of the Indian independence struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi, aimed at resisting British colonial rule through non-violent means. This movement marked a significant escalation in the fight for independence and mobilized vast sections of the Indian population. Here's a detailed account of the Civil Disobedience Movement, its origins, objectives, key events, and outcomes.

### 1. Background Context

- **Impact of the Great Depression:** The global economic downturn in the late 1920s led to widespread unemployment and economic distress in India, exacerbating public discontent with British rule.
- **Round Table Conferences:** The failure of the Round Table Conferences (1930-1932) to yield satisfactory political concessions fueled the demand for a more aggressive approach to achieve self-rule.

- **Continuing Unrest:** The growing political awareness and discontent among various sections of Indian society set the stage for a mass movement.

## 2. Objectives of the Movement

- **Complete Independence:** The movement sought to achieve complete self-rule (Swaraj) for India, rejecting British authority.
- **Non-Payment of Taxes:** One of the primary goals was to refuse compliance with unjust laws and taxes imposed by the British government, particularly the salt tax.
- **Mobilization of Masses:** The movement aimed to involve large segments of the population, including peasants, workers, and women, in the struggle for independence.

## 3. Key Events and Activities

- **Salt March (Dandi March, 1930):** The movement was formally launched on March 12, 1930, when Gandhi led a 240-mile march from Sabarmati Ashram to the coastal village of Dandi to produce salt from seawater, defying the British salt laws. This act of civil disobedience became a symbol of resistance against British rule.
- **Nationwide Civil Disobedience:** Following the Salt March, Gandhi called upon Indians to refuse to pay taxes, boycott British goods, and withdraw from British institutions. The movement witnessed widespread participation across the country.
- **Mass Protests:** Local leaders organized protests, strikes, and demonstrations against British rule. The movement saw a significant rise in nationalist sentiment and participation from various social groups, including women and students.

## 4. Government Response

- **Repression and Arrests:** The British government responded with severe repression, including mass arrests of protestors and leaders. Gandhi, along with many prominent Congress leaders, was arrested in May 1930.
- **Violent Suppression:** Police brutality against protestors, including the use of lathi charges and arrests, led to increased anger and resentment towards British authorities.

## 5. Rejuvenation of the Movement

- **Gandhi's Release and Revival:** After a period of intense repression, Gandhi was released from prison in January 1931. He continued to lead the movement, and the Indian National Congress resumed civil disobedience.
- **Negotiations and the Gandhi-Irwin Pact:** In March 1931, Gandhi negotiated with the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, leading to the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which allowed for the release of political prisoners and permitted peaceful protests. This temporarily suspended the movement.

## 6. Resumption and Challenges

- **Resumption of Civil Disobedience:** The movement resumed in 1932 after the British government's failure to address Indian demands in the Government of India Act of 1935.
- **Second Phase of the Movement:** The second phase faced challenges as communal tensions escalated, particularly between Hindus and Muslims, leading to divisions within the nationalist movement.

## 7. Outcomes and Impact

- **Political Awakening:** The Civil Disobedience Movement significantly raised political awareness and united diverse sections of Indian society in the fight for independence.
- **Constitutional Reforms:** The movement contributed to the British government's decision to introduce constitutional reforms in India, leading to the Government of India Act of 1935.
- **Strengthening of the INC:** The movement solidified the Indian National Congress as the principal political party representing Indian aspirations and led to Gandhi's emergence as a central figure in the struggle for independence.

## 8. Legacy

- **Non-Violent Resistance:** The Civil Disobedience Movement reinforced the philosophy of non-violent resistance as a legitimate strategy in the struggle against colonial rule.
- **Inspiration for Future Movements:** The techniques and strategies employed during the Civil Disobedience Movement inspired subsequent movements, including the Quit India Movement of 1942.

## Round Table Conferences (1930-1932)

The Round Table Conferences were a series of three meetings held in London between 1930 and 1932, aimed at discussing constitutional reforms in India and addressing the demands for greater self-governance. These conferences were significant in shaping the political landscape of India in the lead-up to independence. Here's a detailed account of the conferences, their context, key participants, discussions, and outcomes.

### 1. Background Context

- **Political Discontent:** The period leading up to the conferences was marked by increasing discontent among Indians regarding British rule, fueled by movements like the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- **Demand for Constitutional Reform:** The Indian National Congress (INC) and other political parties were advocating for significant reforms and greater Indian representation in governance.

- **Failure of Previous Reforms:** The Government of India Act of 1919 had been insufficient in addressing Indian aspirations, leading to calls for a new framework for governance.

## 2. Initiation of the Conferences

- **British Initiative:** The British government, facing growing unrest, initiated the Round Table Conferences to negotiate and consider reforms. The first conference was convened in November 1930.
- **Objectives:** The primary objective was to discuss the future constitutional framework for India, including issues of self-governance, communal representation, and the role of different political factions.

## 3. Key Participants

- **Indian National Congress (INC):** The INC, led by Mahatma Gandhi, initially participated in the discussions, advocating for complete self-rule.
- **Other Political Parties:** Representatives from various groups were included, such as the All India Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha, and the Sikh community.
- **British Officials:** The British delegation included key figures such as the Secretary of State for India, Lord Irwin, and various officials from the British government.

## 4. Major Conferences and Discussions

- **First Round Table Conference (1930):**
  - **Duration:** November 1930 to January 1931.
  - **Outcome:** Gandhi represented the INC but faced criticism from the British for not being the sole representative of Indian opinion. The conference ended without any agreement, as the INC had been boycotting the conference due to the government's repressive measures.
- **Second Round Table Conference (1931):**
  - **Duration:** September to December 1931.
  - **Key Developments:** Gandhi attended this conference after the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which had led to the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement. Discussions focused on constitutional reforms, but significant disagreements remained, particularly concerning communal representation.
  - **Outcome:** No consensus was reached. The INC sought complete dominion status, while the British proposed a limited form of self-governance.
- **Third Round Table Conference (1932):**
  - **Duration:** November 1932 to December 1932.
  - **Key Developments:** The INC did not attend this conference, having withdrawn after

the British government's decision to introduce separate electorates for Muslims, Sikhs, and other communities through the Communal Award.

- **Outcome:** The British proposed further reforms through the Government of India Act of 1935, but the lack of INC participation limited the effectiveness of the discussions.

## 5. Key Issues Discussed

- **Communal Representation:** The representation of various religious and ethnic communities in legislative bodies was a major point of contention. The British proposal for separate electorates was met with opposition from the INC.
- **Self-Governance:** The demand for greater self-governance and the status of India as a dominion within the British Empire were central themes.
- **Future Constitutional Framework:** Discussions included the structure of government, powers of provinces versus the center, and the role of different political factions.

## 6. Outcomes and Consequences

- **Government of India Act, 1935:** The discussions at the Round Table Conferences ultimately led to the Government of India Act of 1935, which introduced significant reforms, including provincial autonomy and the establishment of a federal structure.
- **Increased Political Polarization:** The conferences highlighted the divisions among various political groups, particularly between the INC and the Muslim League, deepening communal tensions.
- **Legacy:** The Round Table Conferences are seen as a crucial step in the constitutional development of India, reflecting the complexities of negotiating independence in a multi-communal society.

## Similarities and Differences between Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar

Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar were two of the most influential figures in the Indian struggle for independence and social reform. While they shared common goals of uplifting society and achieving justice, their ideologies and approaches differed significantly. Here's a detailed account of their similarities and differences.

### Similarities

#### 1. Commitment to Social Justice:

- Both Gandhi and Ambedkar were committed to the idea of social justice and sought to improve the condition of marginalized sections of society, particularly the untouchables (Dalits).

#### 2. Political Activism:

- Both leaders actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle and were involved in

significant movements and negotiations aimed at achieving independence from British rule.

### 3. **Education and Awareness:**

- Both emphasized the importance of education for empowerment. Gandhi promoted basic education for all, while Ambedkar advocated for higher education, especially for the oppressed classes.

### 4. **Critique of the Caste System:**

- Both criticized the caste system, although their approaches to addressing it differed. Gandhi sought reform from within Hinduism, while Ambedkar called for a complete abolition of the caste system.

### 5. **Role in Constituent Assembly:**

- Both played significant roles in shaping modern India. Ambedkar was the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, while Gandhi's principles of non-violence and social equality influenced its framework.

## **Differences**

### 1. **Approach to Caste:**

- **Gandhi:** Advocated for the upliftment of the "Harijans" (children of God), believing in reforming Hindu society from within. He promoted concepts like "Sarvodaya" (welfare for all) and "Harijan Sevak Sangh" for their welfare.
- **Ambedkar:** Viewed the caste system as inherently oppressive and argued for its complete abolition. He believed that true liberation for Dalits could only be achieved through conversion to Buddhism or other religions.

### 2. **Views on Religion:**

- **Gandhi:** A devout Hindu, he emphasized the moral and spiritual dimensions of religion and sought to integrate his beliefs into the broader struggle for freedom.
- **Ambedkar:** Criticized Hinduism as a tool of oppression for Dalits. He argued for secularism and promoted Buddhism as a means of social and spiritual liberation.

### 3. **Philosophical Foundations:**

- **Gandhi:** Rooted his philosophy in non-violence (Ahimsa) and truth (Satya). He believed that moral force could bring about social change.
- **Ambedkar:** Advocated for a rational and scientific approach to social issues. His emphasis was on political rights, social equality, and legal reforms as means for achieving justice.

#### 4. **Political Strategies:**

- **Gandhi:** Emphasized non-violent resistance and civil disobedience, seeking to unite all Indians against colonial rule through peaceful means.
- **Ambedkar:** Focused on legal and political frameworks to secure rights for Dalits, including separate electorates and reservations in education and employment.

#### 5. **Attitude towards the Indian National Congress:**

- **Gandhi:** Worked within the framework of the Indian National Congress, believing in a united struggle against British rule.
- **Ambedkar:** Often criticized the Congress for its inability to adequately address Dalit rights and concerns. He felt that the Congress primarily represented the interests of the upper castes.

### **Similarities and Differences between Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose**

Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose were two prominent leaders in the Indian struggle for independence, each playing a crucial role but with differing ideologies and approaches. Here's a detailed account of their similarities and differences.

#### **Similarities**

##### **1. Commitment to Indian Independence:**

- Both Gandhi and Bose were deeply committed to the cause of India's freedom from British rule and dedicated their lives to this struggle.

##### **2. Leadership in the Indian National Congress (INC):**

- Both leaders were active members of the INC at different points in time, contributing to the party's strategies and initiatives against colonial rule.

##### **3. Mobilization of the Masses:**

- Both sought to engage the masses in the independence movement. Gandhi utilized non-violent civil disobedience, while Bose focused on rallying support for armed struggle.

##### **4. Influence of Nationalism:**

- Both were influenced by the spirit of nationalism and sought to inspire pride in Indian identity among the populace, albeit through different methods.

##### **5. Critique of British Rule:**

- Both leaders were vocal critics of British colonial policies and advocated for the rights and dignity of Indians.

#### **Differences**

##### **1. Philosophy and Approach:**

- **Gandhi:** Advocated for non-violent resistance (Satyagraha) and believed in peaceful methods to achieve independence. He emphasized moral and ethical principles in the struggle.
  - **Bose:** Believed in the necessity of armed struggle and was willing to use military means to achieve independence. He saw revolution as a legitimate path to freedom.
- 2. Role of the Masses:**
- **Gandhi:** Emphasized mass mobilization through non-violent means, focusing on campaigns like the Salt March and the Quit India Movement.
  - **Bose:** Focused on organizing a disciplined military force, the Indian National Army (INA), to fight against British rule.
- 3. Views on Cooperation with Other Countries:**
- **Gandhi:** Advocated for self-reliance and often critiqued the idea of seeking support from foreign powers.
  - **Bose:** Sought international alliances and assistance, notably approaching Germany and Japan during World War II to gain support for the Indian independence movement.
- 4. Nationalism and Ideology:**
- **Gandhi:** His vision of nationalism was inclusive, emphasizing Hindu-Muslim unity and a non-violent approach to social change.
  - **Bose:** His form of nationalism was more militant and focused on the urgency of armed struggle. He sometimes emphasized Hindu identity in the context of nationalism.
- 5. Leadership Style:**
- **Gandhi:** Adopted a consultative and democratic approach, often encouraging dialogue and consensus within the INC.
  - **Bose:** Took a more authoritative approach, especially when leading the INA, prioritizing decisive action over consensus.
- 6. Legacy and Influence:**
- **Gandhi:** Left a legacy centered on non-violence and ethical governance, influencing global movements for civil rights and freedom.
  - **Bose:** Remembered as a revolutionary leader who inspired armed resistance and emphasized the importance of national sovereignty.

### Third Phase of Indian National Movement (1935- 1947)

Third phase of Indian National Movement began with passing of the Government of India Act, 1935 and this phase lasted till 1947.

## Government of India Act, 1935

- The Government of India Act was passed by the British Parliament in August 1935. It was the longest act enacted by the British Parliament at that time. It was divided into two separate acts namely, the Government of India Act 1935 and the Government of Burma Act 1935.

### Objective

- This act ended the system of dyarchy introduced by the GOI Act 1919 and provided for the establishment of a Federation of India to be made up of provinces of British India and some or all of the Princely states.
- However, the federation was never formed because it lacked the required number of princely states.
- The Government of India Act of 1935 called for the formation of an Indian Federation made up of the Governor's Provinces and Chief Commissioner's Provinces in British India, as well as any Indian States that voluntarily joined it.
- The primary objective was to provide Indians with the responsible government they needed.
- With the help of this Act, an effort was made for the first time to unite and link the princely states of India to the country's constitutional framework. The Act did not, however, contain a preamble

### Key Provisions of Government of India Act.

1. **All India Federation-** the Act established an All-India Federation, which included both British Indian Provinces and the Indian States. The Instrument of Accession specified the conditions under which a state might join the federation.
2. **Provincial Autonomy-** One redeeming feature of the new Act was that it marked the beginning of Provincial Autonomy. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. Furthermore, the Act established responsible governments in provinces, which compelled the governor to act on the advice of ministers who were accountable to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939. This, however, does not mean that the Act of 1935 established a full-fledged responsible Government in the Provinces.
3. **Division of Subjects-** The approach to forming the federation and implementing provincial autonomy paved the way for the division of subjects between the Centre and the Provinces.

**The division of subjects that were given by the Government of India Act, 1919 was revised, and added some more subjects in it by this Act of 1935 and included three lists.**

- a. Federal List

- b. Provincial List
  - c. Concurrent List
4. **Dyarchy at Centre- the Act of 1935 abolished dyarchy** at the Provincial level and introduced it at the Centre. There were two categories of federal subjects i.e. Reserved Subjects and Transferred Subjects. The Governor-General remained overall in charge of both the Reserved and Transferred subjects.
  5. **Bicameral Legislature-** Under the Government of India Act, 1935, the Central Legislature was bicameral, consisting of the Federal Assembly and Council of States.
  6. **Retention of Communal Electorate-** It further extended the principle of communal representation by **providing separate electorates for depressed classes** (scheduled castes), women, and labour (workers).
  7. **Federal Court-** The Government of India Act, 1935 provided for the **establishment of a Federal Court** which would interpret the Act and adjudicate disputes relating to federal matters. The Act established a **Federal Court with one Chief Justice** and no more than eighty-six judges. To resolve conflicts between the Centre and member Units, the **Federal Court** was given exclusive **original jurisdiction**.
  8. **Reorganization of Provinces-** This Act also did some kind of restructuring or reorganization of the provinces. A province was separated from Bombay and named Sindh. Another thing that was done was the split of Bihar and Orissa to become separate individual provinces of Bihar and Orissa. So this Act formed two new provinces and these are Sindh and Orissa.
  9. **Supremacy of Parliament-** The 1935 Act was very rigid. It could not be changed or amended by any Indian legislature, whether federal or temporary.
  10. **Abolition of the Indian Council of the Secretary-**of State the Government of India Act 1935 abolished the Council of the Secretary of State for India, which was created in 1858.

### **Cripps Mission, 1942**

In March 1942, a mission headed by Stafford Cripps was sent to India with Constitutional proposals to seek Indian support for the war. Following were the reasons for sending Cripps Mission to India:

- The Cripps mission's primary goals were to win Indian cooperation and gain backing for the British War (Second World War).
- First of all, Japan had recently joined the conflict, and the Allies had been concerned by its early success. Completely overrun were the Philippines, Indonesia, Indo-China, and Malaysia. Singapore had already fallen and Burma was about to fall apart completely. India was

vulnerable to a Japanese attack as well. The constitutional dispute that complicated the war effort was something the British administration intended to resolve.

- Second, during their tour to India in February 1942, George Marshall and Madame Chiang Kai Shek realized the value of India in the fight against Japan in the Eastern zone. They also believed that only an India that was willing could accomplish that efficiently. They, therefore, urged the British government to accept India's official proposal.
- Thirdly, there was a rising sentiment, especially among British Allies, that India's proposals should be acknowledged by Britain in order for it to successfully participate in the war effort.

### **Significance of Cripps Mission**

- A solid plan was made for framing the constituent assembly.
- The provinces were free to form separate unions and constitutions.
- For the first time, sole responsibility for framing the constitution was given to Indian hands.
- Indian Union was free to either maintain the relationship or withdraw from the Commonwealth.
- In the administration during the interim period, a large number of Indians were given positions.

### **Failure of Cripps Mission**

The Cripps Mission was a big failure. The Congress Working Committee 11th April, 1942 rejected the Cripps Mission. Reasons for its failure were:

- The Congress objected to dominion status and demanded full transfer of powers.
- Right of Provinces to secede was not favourable for the Indian Union to come up.
- Retention of Governor-General supremacy No immediate transfer of power
- Nehru and Maulana Azad were the official negotiators for the Congress. The Muslim League objected to idea of a single Indian Union.
- Muslim League did not like the machinery for the creation of a Constituent Assembly.
- Pakistan not being explicitly offered also disappointed Muslim League leaders.
- An important reason for the failure of the negotiations was the incapacity of Cripps to bargain and negotiate. He had been told not to go beyond the Draft Declaration.
- Winston Churchill, Amery (the Secretary of State), Linlithgow (the Viceroy) and Wavell (the Commander-in-Chief), did not want Cripps to succeed. They constantly opposed his efforts to accommodate Indian opinion.

## Quit India Movement, 1942

- The Quit India Movement, also known as the August Movement or August Kranti, was a rallying call issued by Mahatma Gandhi from the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai on August 8, 1942. It was a part of Mahatma Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement, which aimed to end British rule in India.
- After the Failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji formulated a resolution and put forward a call for withdrawal of British and Non-Violent, non-cooperation movement against Japanese invasion.
- The idea of a struggle was accepted at the CWC meeting in Wardha on July 14, 1942. The Congress Working Committee met in Wardha in July 1942 and decided to give Gandhi command of the nonviolent mass movement. The resolution is commonly known as the 'Quit India' resolution.
- Mahatma Gandhi began the Quit India movement at Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai, popularly known as August Kranti Maidan.
- The slogans of the movement were "Quit India" and "Bharat Chodo." Gandhi gave the people the mantra, "Do or die."
- It was supposed to be a peaceful, nonviolent movement to persuade the British to grant India independence, according to the Congress doctrine.

## Reasons for Quit India Movement

- The Second World Conflict had begun in 1939, and Japan, as one of the Axis Powers opposing the British in the war, was gaining ground on India's north-eastern frontiers.
- The British had abandoned their colonies in Southeast Asia, leaving its people to fend for themselves. The Indian public, who had misgivings about the British ability to defend India from Axis assault, was not impressed by this move.
- Gandhi also stated that if the British were to leave India, Japan would have no cause to invade the country.
- Hearing about British military defeats, and wartime hardships such as high prices for key necessities fuelled animosity of the British government.
- The INC called for a major civil disobedience movement when the Cripps Mission failed to provide any type of constitutional solution to India's challenges.

## Who were the Participants of Quit India Movement?

- Youth the students of school and colleges, remained in the forefront.
- Women especially school and college girls, actively participated, and included Aruna Asaf Ali, Sucheta Kriplani and Usha Mehta.

- Also Workers organized strikes at various places.
- Muslims helped by giving shelter to underground activists. There were no communal clashes during the movement.
- Communist did not join the movement; in the wake of Russia being attacked by Nazi Germany, the communists began to support the British war against Germany and the Imperialist War became the People's War.
- Also Muslim League opposed the movement fearing that if the British Left India at that time, the Minorities would be oppressed by the Hindus.

### **Significance of Quit India Movement**

- The campaign continued without the command of Mahatma Gandhi or any other leader, who were all imprisoned when it began.
- People from all walks of life turned out in large numbers.
- Students, workers, and peasants were the movement's backbone, while the upper classes and bureaucracy remained mostly loyal.
- Loyalty to the government has deteriorated significantly.
- This also demonstrated the depths to which nationalism had progressed.
- The movement established the fact that it was no longer possible to rule India without the consent of the Indian people.
- Although a certain degree of the popular initiative had been sanctioned by the leadership itself, subject to the limitations of the instructions, the element of spontaneity was higher than before.
- Furthermore, Congress had spent a long time ideologically, politically, and organizationally prepared for the struggle.
- Following the uprising among the masses, the British began to seriously consider the topic of Indian independence.
- In the 1940s, it changed the nature of political negotiations with the British Empire, paving the path for India's independence.
- The movement was significant in that it put the demand for independence on the immediate agenda of the national movement. There could be no India after Quit India.

### **Important Events, Plans, Proposals for Independence**

#### **1. Rajagopalachari Formula (March 1944)**

- C Rajagopalachari proposed a formula for Congress and Muslim League cooperation. It was a tacit acceptance of the League's demands for Pakistan and Gandhi supported the formula.

- Main points of CR formula-
  - Muslim League to endorse Congress demand for the independence.
  - The league was to cooperate with the Congress in forming a Provisional government at centre.
  - It was to be decided by plebiscite for the Muslim majority areas, whether or not to form a separate sovereign state.
  - In case of partition, agreement to be made jointly for safeguarding defence, commerce, communications etc.
  - Jinnah wanted the Congress to accept the Two Nation Theory demand.
  - He wanted only Muslims to vote in plebiscite in the Muslim majority areas.

## **2. Desai-Liaqat Pact, 1945**

- Bhulabhai Desai who was the leader of Congress Party in Central Legislative Assembly with deputy leader of Muslim League in the Assembly came up with a proposal for the formation of interim government at the centre.
- Major features were as follows:
  - An equal number of representatives for both the Muslim league and the Congress in the Central Executive and 20% seats were to be reserved for minorities
  - No final settlement could be reached with this proposal also.

## **3. Wavell Plan**

- The elections in England necessitated a sincere effort on reaching a solution. A conference was convened by the Viceroy Lord Wavell, at Shimla in June 1945
- The Main proposals of Wavell plan were as follows
  - With the exception of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief all other members in the executive council are to be Indians.
  - Both Hindus and Muslims were to have equal representation. . The reconstructed council was to function as an interim government.
  - Governor-General was to exercise his veto on the advice of ministers.
  - Congress objected to the plan as it reduced the Congress as a pure caste Hindu Party.
  - Muslim League wanted all Muslim members to be league nominees.

## **4. Cabinet Mission Plan ( March 1946)**

- The Cabinet Mission 1946 was an initiative formulated by Clement Attlee, the then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Cabinet Mission was sent to India in February 1946. The sole purpose of the Cabinet Mission was to find out the ways and means for the peaceful transfer of power to India. The then Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell did not involve himself much in the Cabinet Mission 1946.

- The Cabinet Mission was sent to India in 1946 with the following objectives:
  - To formulate ways for the transfer of power to the Indians in a peaceful manner.
  - To grant independence and thereby preserve India's unity.
  - To formulate machinery for framing the Constitution.

### **5. Composition of Constituent Assembly**

- The proposed Constituent Assembly was to consist of 292 members from British India and 93 from the Indian States.
- The British India members were to be divided into 210 General, 78 Muslims and 4 Sikh seats.
- In the preliminary meeting, the assembly was to elect not only a chairman and other office bearers but also an Advisory Committee.

### **6. D-Day ( Direct Action Day, 16 August, 1946)**

- This happened, when the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, invited the Congress to form an interim government, still hoping that details could be worked out later.
- Nehru formed a cabinet, which included two Muslims, but Jinnah was convinced that the Hindus could not be trusted to treat the Muslims fairly. He called for a day of Direct Action in support of a separate Pakistan.
- The League decided that 16th August, 1946 would be observed as Direct Action Day throughout the country.
- Thus, began India's bloodiest year of civil war since, the mutiny nearly a century earlier.
- The Hindu-Muslim rioting and killing that started in Calcutta sent deadly sparks of fear to every corner of the subcontinent, as all civilised restraint seemed to have disappeared.

### **Indian Independence Act, 1947**

The legislation was drafted by the Labour Government of Clement Attlee. It is based totally on the Mountbatten Plan or the 3rd June Plan which was formulated after the leaders of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League agreed to the suggestions of the Viceroy Lord Mountbatten.

### **Provisions of Act are as follows**

- The British authorities left India on the fifteenth of August 1947.
- India will be divided into two sovereign provinces of India and Pakistan and each of those states turns sovereign on this very day.
- The powers formerly exercised through the British authorities in India could be transferred

to each of those states.

- Punjab and Bengal will be divided and their boundary will be separated by a boundary commission headed by Mr. Redcliff.
- The Office of the Secretary of State for India will be abrogated.
- Provision was made for the Governor-General for every territory, who was to be named by the Queen of England on the exhortation of the Dominion government. He was not to act in his individual judgment or circumspection however will act just as the constitutional head of the state.
- Each Domain must have a sovereign legislature to set the rules. No legislation passed by the British Parliament will automatically apply to India.
- Both countries will have their own Constituent Assembly, which will also act as a legislative body.
- Until a Constitution is formulated by a Constituent Assembly in any dominion, it will work as closely as possible with the 1935 Act.
- Provincial governors will act as constitutional heads of the provinces.
- Reserving the post of Secretary of State should be discontinued. Government personnel wishing to resign after the transfer of power to both dominions must do so.
- British domination of the states and tribal territories of India will end on August 15, 1947. In this case, power will be transferred not to dominions, but to leave to the states to decide whether they want to participate in India or Pakistan.
- From now on, the relationship of the British government with India will be managed through the Office of Commonwealth Affairs.
- The King of England renounced the title of King and Emperor of India.
- Pakistani territories include East Bengal, West Pakistan, Sindh, and British Baluchistan.
- In the event that the NWFP decides to join Pakistan in a referendum, this territory will also join Pakistan.



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