

The Making of the National Movement: 1870s-1947

Q1. Why were people dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s?

Answer. People were dissatisfied with British rule for the following reasons:

- (a) The British were controlling India's resources.
- (b) The British were in control of the lives of their people, and until this control was over, India could not be for the Indians.
- (c) The Arms Act was passed in 1878, the act prohibiting Indians from holding arms.
- (d) The Vernacular Press Act of 1878, the act was intended to silence those who were critics of the government.
- (e) In 1818, the government tried to bring an Ilbert bill. The Bill provided for the trial of British or European persons by Indians, and demanded equality between British and Indian judges in the country.

Q2. Who did the Indian National Congress wish to speak for?

Answer. The Indian National Congress aspired to speak to all the people of India, irrespective of class, color caste, creed, language or gender. It states that India, its resources and systems did not belong to any one class or community of India, but belonged to all different communities of India.

Q3. What economic impact did the First World War have on India?

Answer. The First World War led to a huge increase in the defense expenditure of the Government of India. The government in turn increased taxes on personal income and business profits. The rise in military spending and the demand for war supplies led to a sharp rise in prices, causing great difficulties for the common people. On the other hand, trading groups made spectacular gains from the war. The war created demand for industrial goods such as jute bags, textiles and rail and caused a decline in imports from other countries in India.

Q4. What did the Muslim League resolution of 1940 ask for?

Answer. In 1940, the Muslim League passed a resolution demanding "independent states" for Muslims in the northwest and eastern regions of the country. The proposal did not mention partition or Pakistan.

Q5. Who were the Moderates? How did they propose to struggle against British rule?

Answer. In the first twenty years of its existence, Congress was "liberal" in its objectives and methods. Congress leaders of this period were called Moderates. They proposed a struggle against British rule in a non-violent manner, called the fundamentalist "politics of petitions". They wanted to develop public awareness of the unjust nature of British rule. He criticized British rule in his speeches and sent representatives to different parts of the country to raise public opinion. He felt that the British had respect for the ideals of freedom and justice, and therefore we would accept the proper demands of Indians.

Q6. How was the politics of the Radicals within the Congress different from that of the Moderates?

Answer. The Radicals were in opposition to the "politics of prayer" pursued by moderates within the Congress. They explored more radical objectives and methods. He emphasized the importance of self-reliance and creative works. He argued that people should rely on their own strength, not the "good" intentions of the government (as was the stated policy of moderates). They believed that people would have to fight for Swaraj.

Q7. Discuss the various forms that the Non-Cooperation Movement took in different parts of India. How did people understand Gandhiji?

Answer. The places in the country showed different reactions, given below:

- (a) In Kheda, Gujarat, Patidar farmers launched a non-violent campaign against the high land Revenue demand of British.
- (b) In coastal Andhra and interior Tamil Nadu, liquor shops were chosen.
- (c) In Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district, tribals and poor farmers staged "jungle satyagrahs", sometimes sending their cattle into the forests without fodder charges.
- (d) Muslim traders and farmers in Sindh (now in Pakistan) were very excited
Call of the Khilafat.
- (e) In Bengal too, the Khilafat-non-cooperation coalition gave enormous communal unity and Strengthening the national movement.
- (f) National Movement. In Punjab, the Akali movement of the Sikhs demanded the removal of the corrupt. Mahants - supported by the British - from their gurdwaras.

People perceived Gandhiji as a kind of messiah, someone who could help him overcome them Grief and poverty. Gandhiji wanted class unity, not class struggle, yet the peasants could think that he would help them in their fight against the landlords, and the agricultural laborers believed that they would provide them with land. Many times, common people owe their achievement to Gandhiji.

Q8. Why did Gandhiji choose to break the salt law?

Answer. The Salt March concerned a general desire for freedom of a specific grievance shared by each individual and thus did not divide the rich and the poor. Therefore, in 1930, Gandhiji announced that he would lead a march to break the salt law.

Q9. Discuss those developments of the 1937-47 period that led to the creation of Pakistan.

Answer. The construction of Pakistan due to the events of 1937-47 is given below:

- (a) A Two-Nation Theory - Initially the Muslim League never mentioned Pakistan as a nation Muslims, however, from the 1930s onwards, began to demand a separate country for Muslims.
- (b) Provincial Elections of 1937 - Elections were a decisive factor for the Muslim League which decided that Muslims were a minority in India and would have to form a separate nation for them.
Representation in politics.
- (c) A quarrel between the Congress and the Muslim League - When the Congress declined the Muslim League's offer for a joint Congress-League government in the United Provinces, the League decided to participate forever.
- (d) Failed talks - No discussion was successful where both Congress and Muslims were
The league comes to the conclusion of one nation only. The British also opened at the end of World War II. Negotiations with both Congress and the League, however, went in vain.
- (e) Provincial Elections of 1946 - Muslim League's landslide victory for seats
The Muslims gave the assurance of creating a separate nation.
- (f) Mass Movement - The failure of the Cabinet Mission 1946 led to large scale movements led by the Muslim League.
- (g) Partition was finalized and Pakistan was born.