

HISTORY

Chapter 12: The Making of the National Movement



The Making of the National Movement

Emergence of Nationalism in India

Nationalism is a feeling of love and patriotism for one's own country. By the mid-nineteenth century, the feeling of nationalism began to emerge in the country. People began to realise that India is a country which belongs to its inhabitants and not to the British. Certain traits depicting the traits of nationalism began to emerge. These were

- a. After 1850, political consciousness began to take a concrete form among the Indians. As a result, many political organisations were founded in the 1870s and 1880s. One of the noticeable points was that most of these organisations were set up by English educated professionals like lawyers.
- b. Some of these organisations were the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, the Indian Associations, the Bombay Presidency Association, the Madras Mahajana Sabha and the Indian National Congress.
- c. All these associations believed in the sovereignty of the people and wanted Indians to take decisions regarding the affairs of their own country.

Three Acts which Fuelled Political Discontent among the Indians

National political consciousness began to emerge in the country because of the following reasons:

- In 1878, the Arms Act was passed by the British Government. According to this Act, no Indian could possess weapons without a valid license. However, the Europeans and Anglo Indians were allowed to keep arms without a licence. This caused resentment among the Indians.
- The Vernacular Press Act was passed in 1878 which empowered the Government to confiscate newspapers if they print anything against the British Government.
- The Ilbert bill was passed in 1883 by Lord Ripon. This bill sought to create political equality as now the Europeans or the British citizens could be tried by Indian judges. However, because of vehement protests by the Europeans, the bill was withdrawn. This enraged the Indians, and they began to feel the need for organising themselves.

Foundation of the Indian National Congress and its early Demands

The Indian National Congress (INC) was founded in 1885 by a retired British official, A. O. Hume. The first session of the INC was held at Bombay which was attended by 72 delegates. Some prominent members of the INC at this time were Dada Bhai Naoroji, Pheroz Shah Mehta, W. C.

Bonnerji, Surendra Nath Banerjee and Romesh Chandra Dutt



**W.C. Bonnerji was the first
President of the Indian
National Congress**

Some demands of the Congress in its early years were

- Greater representation of the Indians in legislative bodies
- To form legislative councils in the provinces which had no such political body
- To appoint Indians to higher positions in government offices
- To hold Civil Services exams in India and not just in London
- To separate the judiciary from the executive
- Repeal of the Arms and Vernacular Press Acts

Achievement of the Moderates

- The INC in its early years was dominated by the moderates who believed in changing the policies of the Government by sending petitions to the British Government. They believed in protesting within the constitutional limits of the country.
- The moderates published many articles in newspapers and journals highlighting the increasing poverty of the country under the British rule.
- The Congress in its early years during the period of the moderates created awareness about

the impoverishment of the peasants and food shortages in the country. They demanded reduction in military expenditures and revenues.

- They also raised the difficulties faced by the tribals because of the passing of the Forest Acts and highlighted the plight of the Indian labourers abroad.
- Because the moderates felt that the British Government respect the ideals of freedom and justice, their just demands would be accepted by the Government.

Emergence of Radicals in the Congress

By the end of the 1890s, many people began to realise that radical policies needed to be followed in order to force the Government to accept their demands. Bipin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai were extremists who criticised the moderates for their 'politics of prayers' as the latter believed in raising their demands through petitions and requests. They believed that people should have to fight for gaining 'swaraj' or self-rule.

The Partition of Bengal and its Consequences

- In 1905, Curzon partitioned Bengal into East Bengal and West Bengal. Curzon emphasised that Bengal was a large province and needed to be divided in order to efficiently manage the state. However, people could easily see that Bengal was divided more on religious lines by dividing the province into West Bengal (Hindu majority) and East Bengal (Muslim majority). It was an attempt to split the unity of the people.
- The partition was opposed by moderates and radicals along with the common people. People organised large public meetings, and demonstrations were held at every place. This struggle developed into the Swadeshi movement. This movement assumed different names and shapes in other parts of the country too. It came to be known as Vandematram Movement in the Andhra region.
- The Swadeshi movement opposed the British rule and advocated the use of 'swadeshi' or indigenous goods. The boycott movement also developed which aimed at boycotting British goods.

Many people in the country began to feel that 'revolutionary violence' was necessary to overthrow the British rule. The All-India Muslim League was founded in 1906 at Dacca. The league wanted separate electorates for the Muslims. Following the policy of 'Divide and Rule', the Government reserved some seats for the

Muslims. This marked the beginning of communal politics in India. Some important developments also began to take place during this time. The Congress was split in 1907 as the moderates were not in favour of the boycott movement. The Congress however was reunited in 1915. In 1916, the Congress and the Muslim League signed the Lucknow Pact and came together

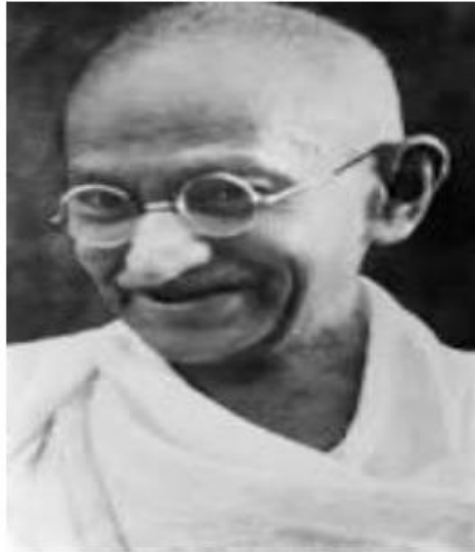
to demand representative government in the country

Indian National Movement Becomes a Mass Movement

By 1920s, the Indian National Movement became a mass movement as it involved not only the English educated elite class but also the peasants, tribals, students, workers, and women. Many industrialists also began to support the Congress. The economic and political situation of the country changed because of the First World War. The British Government increased revenues as defense expenditures of the Government soared. Military expenditures and supply of war goods to Britain increased the prices of almost all commodities in the country. While the common people suffered because of war, business groups profited from the war as the war created demand for various goods such as jute bags, cloth, and rails. Thus, the Indian industrialists began to demand greater opportunities for development.

Arrival of Mahatma Gandhi

- Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915. He had already become a known and respected figure in India because of the Satyagraha campaign launched by him in South Africa.
- He supported local movements at Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad.
- Gandhi gave a call for satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act which was passed by the British. This Act curbed the freedom of speech and expression of the people. Gandhi criticised the Act and called for non-violent protests which also came to be known as Rowlatt Satyagraha.



The Indian national movement became a mass movement after the arrival of Gandhi on the Indian political scene.

The Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movements

- The Khilafat Movement was launched by Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali against the harsh war terms imposed on the Turkish Sultan or the Khalifa. The Khalifa was the religious head of the Muslims.
- The Non-Cooperation Movement started in 1920. As soon as the movement started, thousands of students left government schools and many lawyers like Motilal Nehru, and C. R. Das gave up their membership. People surrendered their titles and boycotted legislatures. Huge bon fires of foreign clothes were organised in many cities.
- The movement was also joined by people belonging to various communities and took various shapes. In the movement, liquor shops were picketed. In 'forest satyagrahas', peasants grazed their cattle in the forests without paying the grazing fees. In Sind, Muslims supported the Khilafat and NonCooperation Movements.
- The Non-Cooperation Movement was withdrawn by Gandhi after the Chauri Chaura incident in 1922 in which 22 policemen were killed by the protestors.

Civil Disobedience Movement

- The Civil Disobedience Movement began in 1930 with the Dandi March. Gandhi marched from Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad to a small village of Dandi in present Navsari district in

Gujarat.

- He undertook the march to break the salt law as it was felt that it was not justified on the part of the British Government to tax salt as it is an essential part of food.
- This march generated patriotic feelings among common masses as salt was used by both rich and poor.
- In the Civil Disobedience Movement, people made salt in defiance of the British rule. Peaceful protests were held at every place. The Government began to brutally crush the revolt and many people were killed.

The Government of India Act, 1935, gave some degree of autonomy to the provinces. It announced elections to the provincial legislatures in 1937. The Congress formed the Government in 7 out of 11 provinces. In the Second World War, the Congress demanded independence in exchange for their support to the Britain in the war. When the Government refused, the Congress ministries resigned. One important development during this period was the formation of the Indian National Army (INA) by Subhas Chandra Bose. He left Calcutta and went to Singapore and founded the 'Azad Hind Fauj' or the 'Indian National Army' to liberate the country from the British rule.

Quit India Movement

- Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement in 1942 and stated that the British should quit India.
- Gandhi asked people to 'do or die' in an effort to drive the British out of the country. Many leaders along with Gandhi were jailed the next day.
- People belonging to every community joined the movement. Symbols of the British rule such as the post, telephone lines and telegraph were attacked all over the country. People set up their own governments in many areas.
- The British severely repressed the movement. By 1943, thousands of people were killed and many more were jailed.

Towards Independence and Partition

While people were fighting against the British to liberate the country, the Muslim League moved a resolution demanding 'Independent States' for the Muslims inhabiting the northwestern and eastern regions of the country. Many reasons were responsible for the League's demand for a separate Muslim state. These were

- By 1930s, the League began to view the Hindus and the Muslims not as separate communities

but as separate nations.

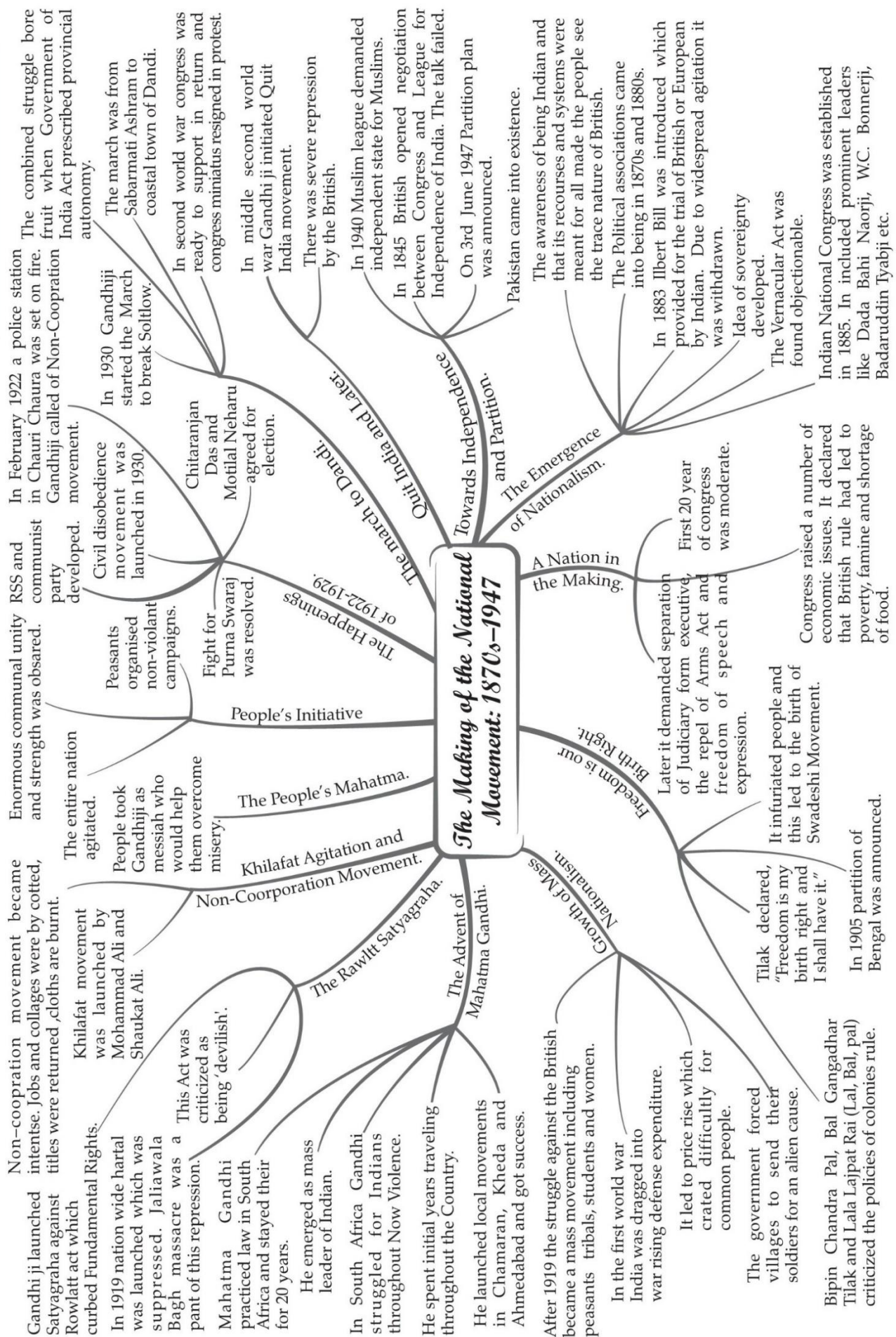
- When the Congress formed the Government in seven out of eleven provinces in the 1937 elections, the League began to feel that the Muslims were a minority in the country and will always have to play a second role in the country or may even not get adequate representation.
- The Congress rejection of the League's proposals to jointly form the Government in the United Provinces in 1937 also annoyed the latter.
- The failure of the Congress to mobilise Muslim masses in India helped the league in widening its social base.

Elections to the provinces were held in 1946. The League performed extremely well in the seats which were reserved for the Muslims. It thus pressed for a separate state of Pakistan.

- In 1946, a three-member committee was sent by the British Government to India to examine the demand of the League and to suggest a suitable political framework for an independent India.
- The Cabinet Mission Plan suggested against the partition though it suggested some degree of autonomy for the Muslim majority areas. However, some of its proposals on independence were rejected by both the Congress and the League.
- After the failure of the Cabinet Mission Plan, the League organised large-scale movements to demand the formation of a separate state for Muslims.
- It declared 16 August 1946 as 'Direct Action Day' in which riots broke out in many parts of the country including Calcutta which resulted in the death of thousands of people. By 1947, most northern parts of the country were engulfed in violence

India attained independence on 15 August 1947. This joyous occasion was accompanied by violence which took place in several parts of the country. Many people were killed during partition. Women had to face brutalities during the partition. Millions of people had to flee their homes. They became refugees and had to live a painful and hard life. Independence of India was thus marred by partition of the country, and innumerable miseries were inflicted upon the people of both sides

MIND MAP : LEARNING MADE SIMPLE CHAPTER-11



Important Questions

Multiple Choice Questions-

Question 1. The capacity to act independently without outside interference is termed as.

- (a) Socialist
- (b) Democratic
- (c) Publicist
- (d) Sovereign

Question 2. The Arms Act was passed in:

- (a) 1880
- (b) 1878
- (c) 1875
- (d) 1883

Question 3. 'Poverty and Un-British rule in India' Book was written

- (a) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) W.C. Bonnerji
- (d) R.C. Dutt

Question 4. Marathi Newspaper that was edited by Tilak was:

- (a) Kesari
- (b) Amrita Bazar Patrika
- (c) The Hindhu
- (d) Hind Kesari

Question 5. Founder of Khudai Khidmatgars:

- (a) Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
- (b) Mohd. Ali Jinnah
- (c) C. Rajagopala Chari
- (d) Shaukat Ali Khan

Question 6. Where did the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was formed?

- (a) Bombay
- (b) Kanpur
- (c) Delhi

(d) Allahabad

Question 7. Where did the First Session of the Indian National Congress was held?

(a) Calcutta

(b) Bombay

(c) Madras

(d) New Delhi

Question 8. In which year the Vernacular Press Act was passed?

(a) 1876

(b) 1877

(c) 1878

(d) 1879

Question 9. In 1905, Bengal was partitioned by Which Viceroy?

(a) Lord Lytton

(b) Lord Dufferin

(c) Lord Curzon

(d) Lord Repon

Question 10. Under whose president ship Congress adopted the aim of Purna Swaraj?

(a) Subhash Chandra Bose

(b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

(c) Mahatma Gandhi

(d) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

Question 11. When did the Chauri Chaura Incident took place?

(a) 1950

(b) 1940

(c) 1932

(d) 1922

Question 12. When did the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was formed?

(a) 1945

(b) 1978

(c) 1932

(d) 1928

Question 13. When was the Rowlett Act passed in India?

(a) 1925

(b) 1940

(c) 1909

(d) 1919

Question 14. When did Congress adopted the aim of Purna Swaraj?

(a) 1956

(b) 1940

(c) 1935

(d) 1929

Question 15. Which League was formed at Dacca in 1906?

(a) Hindu league

(b) Congress league

(c) Muslim league

(d) None of these

Very Short:

1. What is the literal meaning of sarvajanik?

2. Who was A.O. Hume? What role did he play in the history of India?

3. Who was the Viceroy of India at the time of the partition of Bengal

4. What was the Swadeshi Movement known as in deltaic Andhra?

5. Name the three leading members of the Radical group.

6. Why did Mahatma Gandhi along with other Indians establish the Natal Congress in South Africa?

7. Name three places where Gandhiji started local movements.

8. Why did Rabindranath Tagore renounce his knighthood?

9. Who were the leaders of the Khilafat agitation?

10. What does 'Punjab wrongs' refer to?

11. Who was Chitta Ranjan Das?

Short Questions:

1. What was Rowlatt Act?

2. Why did the nationalist leader oppose Rowlett Act?

3. What were the effects of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre?

4. What were the aims of NCM and Khilafat Movement?

5. Who were the revolutionaries?
6. When and why was the Non –cooperation Movement withdrawn?
7. How did the British try to control the Quit India Movement?
8. Mention the people who participated in the Dandi March and what was the British response towards this movement?

Long Questions:

1. What caused the partition of Bengal in 1905?
2. What were the consequences of the partition of Bengal?
3. What was the Khilafat agitation?
4. Why were the early years of the Indian National Congress referred to as the moderate phase?
5. What were the economic issues that were raised by the Indian National Congress in its moderate phase?
6. Why was Bengal partitioned?

Answer Key:

MCQ:

1. (d) Sovereign
2. (b) 1878
3. (a) Dadabhai Naoroji
4. (a) Kesari
5. (a) Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
6. (c) Delhi
7. (b) Bombay
8. (b) 1878
9. (c) Lord Curzon
- 10.(d) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- 11.(d) 1922
- 12.(d) 1928
- 13.(d) 1919
- 14.(d) 1929
- 15.(c) Muslim league

Very Short Answer:

1. The literal meaning of sarvajanik is 'of or for all the people'. It is made of two words – sarva = all + janik = of the people.
2. A.O. Hume was a retired British official. He played an important role in bringing Indians from the various regions together.
3. At that time Lord Curzon was the Viceroy of India.
4. In deltaic Andhra the Swadeshi Movement was known as the Vandemataram Movement.
5. Bipin Chandra Pal, Balgangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai.
6. He did so in order to fight against racial discrimination in South Africa.
7. Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad.
8. Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood to express the pain and anger of the country following the Jallianwala Bagh atrocities.
9. The leaders of the Khilafat agitation were Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali.
10. It refers to Jallianwalla Bagh massacre that occurred on 13 April, 1919 in Amritsar on Baisakhi day.
11. He was a lawyer from East Bengal and was active in the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Short Answer:

Ans: 1. Rowlatt Act was introduced by the British in 1919.

According to this act, any Indian could be arrested without trial in the court of law. The act curbed fundamental rights such as the freedom of expression and strengthened police powers.

Ans: 2. Mahatma Gandhi, Mohanmad Ali Jinnah and others felt that the government had no right to restrict people's basic freedoms. They criticized the Act as "devilish" and tyrannical

Ans: 3. On learning about the massacre, Rabindranath Tagore expressed the pain and anger of the country by renouncing his knighthood. During the Rowlatt Satyagraha the participants tried to ensure that Hindus and Muslims were united in the fight against British rule.

Ans: 4. The aims of NCM and Khilafat movement were: -

- They demanded for Swaraj.
- They wanted to reduce the 'wrongs' against Punjab and Turkey.

Ans: 5. The revolutionaries were a small group of people who suggested that the use of violence to make a radical change within the society would be necessary to overthrow British rule.

Ans: 6. Mahatma Gandhi was against violent movements. He abruptly called off the Non – Cooperation Movement when in February 1922 a crowd of peasants set fire to a police station in Chauri Chaura.

Ans: 7. 1. The first response of the British was severe repression.

2. By the end of 1943 over 90,000 people were arrested and around 1000 killed in police firing.

3. In many areas' orders were given to machine –gun crowds from airplanes. The rebellion, however, ultimately brought the Raj to its knees.

Ans: 8. The people who participated in the Dandi March were: Peasants, tribals and women participated in large number. The British response towards this movement was – the government tried to crush the movement through brutal action against peaceful satyagrahis. Thousands were sent to jail.

Long Answer:

Ans: 1. At the time of partition Bengal was the biggest province of British India which comprised Bihar and parts of Orissa. The British argued for dividing Bengal for reasons of administrative convenience. But it was a totally false argument. In fact, the partition of Bengal was closely tied to the interests of British officials and businessmen. The British also wanted to curtail the influence of Bengali politicians and split the Bengali people. It was therefore, instead of removing the non-Bengali areas from the province, they separated East Bengal and merged it with Assam.

Ans: 2. (a) The partition of Bengal enraged people all over the country. Both the Moderates and the Radicals in the Congress opposed this action of the British.

(b) Public meetings and demonstrations began to be organised. Novel methods of mass protest were also developed. They struggled against the partition of Bengal came to be known as Swadeshi Movement. In Bengal this movement was the strongest. In other regions such as in deltaic Andhra the movement was called the Vandemataram Movements.

Ans: 3. In the year 1920 the British imposed a harsh treaty on the Turkish Sultan, known as Khalifa. It enraged people. Indian Muslims wanted that the Khalifa be allowed to retain control over Muslim sacred places in the erstwhile Ottoman empire. The leaders of the Khilafat agitation Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, now wished to start a full-fledged Non-Cooperation Movement. They got support from Mahatma Gandhi who urged the Congress to campaign against "Punjab wrongs", the Khilafat wrong and demand swaraj.

Ans: 4. 1. The Congress in the first twenty years was "moderate" in its objectives and methods.

2. During this period it demanded a greater voice for Indians in the government and in administration.

3. It wanted the Legislative Councils to be made more representative, given more power,

and introduced in provinces where none existed.

4. It demanded that Indians be placed in high positions in the government. For this purpose it called for civil service examinations to be held in

5. India as well, not just in London.

6. The demand for Indianisation of the administration was part of a movement against racism, since most important jobs at the time were

7. monopolised by white officials and the British generally assumed that Indians could not be given positions of responsibility.

8. Other demands included the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the repeal of the Arms Act and the freedom of speech and expression

Ans: 5. • The early Congress also raised a number of economic issues:

- It declared that British rule had led to poverty and famines: increase in the land revenue had impoverished peasants and zamindars, and exports of grains to Europe had created food shortage.

- The Congress demanded reduction of revenue, cut in military expenditure, and more funds for irrigation.

Ans: 6. • In 1905 Viceroy Curzon partitioned Bengal. At that time Bengal was the biggest province of British India and included Bihar and parts of Orissa.

- The British argued for dividing Bengal for reasons of administrative convenience.

- "Administrative convenience" was closely tied to the interests of British officials and businessmen.

- Even so, instead of removing the non-Bengali areas from the province the government separated East Bengal and merged it with Assam.

- Perhaps the main British motives were to curtail the influence of Bengali politicians and to split the Bengali people.

- They wanted to divide Hindus from Muslims.