

Chapter-11 The Making of the National Movement: 1870s-1947

- Important Dates:-

- i. *The Arms Act was passed in 1878, disallowing Indians from possessing arms.*
- ii. *The need for an all-India organization of educated Indians has been felt since 1880.*
- iii. *The Indian National Congress was established when 72 delegates from all over the country met at Bombay in December 1885.*
- iv. *In 1905 viceroy Curzon partitioned Bengal.*
- v. *A group of Muslim landlords and nawabs formed the All India Muslim League at Decca in 1906.*
- vi. *The Congress splitted in 1907.*
- vii. *The two groups reunited in December 1915.*
- viii. *In 1917 there was a revolution in Russia.*
- ix. *Gandhiji aged 46, arrived in India in 1915 from South Africa.*
- x. *In 1919 Gandhiji gave a call for a Satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act that the British had just passed.*
- xi. *Gandhiji asked the Indian people to observe 6 April 1919 as a day of non-violent opposition to this act, as a day of "humiliation and prayer" and hartal (strike).*
- xii. *In April 1919 there were a number of demonstrations and hartals in the country and the government used brutal measures to suppress them.*
- xiii. *In 1920 the British imposed a harsh treaty on the Turkish Sultan or Khalifa.*
- xiv. *In non-cooperation Movement gained momentum through 1921-22.*
- xv. *People lit public bonfires of foreign cloth. The imports of foreign cloth fell drastically between 1920 and 1922.*
- xvi. *Mahatma Gandhi abruptly called off the Non-cooperative Movement when in February 1922.*

- xvii. *The decade closed with the Congress resolving to fight for Purna Swaraj (Complete independence) in 1929 under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru.*
 - xviii. *"Independence Day" was observed on 26th January 1930 all over the country.*
 - xix. *In September 1939, after two years of congress rule in the provinces. The second World War broke out.*
 - xx. *In 1940, the Muslim League had moved a resolution demanding "Independent states" for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of the country.*
 - xxi. *In January 1941, Gandhiji secretly left his Calcutta home, went to Singapore via Germany.*
 - xxii. *The Congress failure to mobilize the Muslim masses in the 1930s allowed the League to widen its social support.*
 - xxiii. *Muslim League announced 16 August 1946 as "Direct Action Day".*
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- Question & Answer

1. *Why were people dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s? Some people were dissatisfied with British government in the 1870s and 1880s as the government tried to suppress the Indians. The Arms Act in 1878, the Vernacular Act in the same year which gave the government the right to confiscate assets of newspapers, and the withdrawal of the Ilbert Bill made the Indians enraged.*

2. *Who did the Indian National Congress wish to speak for? The Indian National Congress spoke for all the people of India, especially for the peasants, labourers, common people, not just professional groups, zamindars or industries.*

3. *What economic impact did the first world war have on India?*

The first World War altered the economic situation in India. It led to a huge rise in the defense expenditure of the Government of India, thus leading to a sharp rise in prices which created great difficulties for the common people. At the same time business groups gained profits from the war since the import from other countries fell dramatically.

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

The Muslim League resolution of 1940 asked for Independent states for Muslims in the North-Western and Eastern part of the country.

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

Moderates were the nationalists who wanted to develop a public awareness about the unjust nature of British rule. They proposed to struggle against the British by expressing the demands of equality and justice and make the Government aware of the feelings of the Indians.

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

To fight for freedom, Radicals were in favour of and advocated mass mobilization and boycott of British institutions and goods. Some Radicals also suggested the use of revolutionary violence to drive the British out. Whereas, the Moderates were apposed to the use of boycott since they felt that it involved the use of force. Moderates wanted to fight against the British non violently by peaceful protests and by writing to the Government about the issues and demand for equality

7. Discuss the various forms that the non-cooperation movement took in different parts of India. How did the people understand Gandhiji?

The various forms that the non-cooperation movement took in India were that many students felt the government controlled school and colleges, many reputed lawyers gave up their practices and British titles were surrendered and boycotted. Public lit public confires of foreign clothes. Common people carried non-cooperation movement in various forms such as picketing, forest satyagrahas etc. People thought of Gandhiji as a massiah who had come to free people from British.

8. Why did Gandhiji chose to break the salt law?

The British imposed heavy taxes on salt. Gandhiji wanted to break the salt law because he thought that tax on salt was sinful as it is such an important item of our food.

9. Discuss those developments of the 1937-1947 period that led to the creation of Pakistan?

First starting with 1937 the developments that led to the creation of Pakistan were the 1937 provincial elections which convinced the League that Muslims were in minority and may even go unrepresented in the country. The Congress's failure in that time to mobilise Muslims also added to the cause. After the second World War, the Independence talks between the British, the Congress and the Muslim League failed. And after the failure of cabinet mission, partition now became more or less evivable.