

CHAPTER -2 NATIONALISM IN INDIA

HISTORY

Chapter 2 Nationalism in India

Q1. What do you mean by the term 'Satyagrah'?

Ans.

- The idea of satyagrah emphasized the power of truth
- If the cause is true violence is not required.
- A satyagrahi could win the battle through non – violence.
- Mahatma Gandhi believed that Satyagrah could unite all Indian against Britisher.

Q2. Describe the reaction of the people to Jallianwala Bagh massacre. How did the British respond?

Ans.

- As the news spread, crowds took to streets in many north Indian towns.
- The government responded with brutal repression.
- They humiliated and terrorised people, Satyagrahis were forced to rub their noses on the ground.
- They were forced to crawl on the streets, and do salaam (salute) to all sahibs.
- People were flogged and villages (around Gujranwala in Punjab) were bombed.

Q3. What were the views of Gandhiji on lower caste?

Ans.

- Mahatma Gandhi was against the practice of untouchability.
- Gandhi organised satyagraha to secure the entry of the dalits into temples, and access to public wells, tanks, roads and schools
- He himself cleaned toilets to dignify the work of the 'bhangi' (the sweepers),
- He tried persuading upper castes to change their heart and give up

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'the sin of untouchability'. He even wrote articles in journals criticising the caste system.

Q4. What were the decisions taken in the Lahore session of the congress in 1929?

Ans.

- In December 1929, under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru the Lahore Congress formalised the demand of Purna Swaraj or complete independence was taken up.
- It was also decided that the Congress would boycott the Round Table Conference being held in London.
- It was declared that 26 January 1930, would be celebrated as the independence day of India.

Q5. Why did the non-cooperation movement gradually slowed down in cities?

Ans.

- Khadi cloth was expensive than mass produced mill cloth which poor people could buy.
- Alternative Indian institutions were slow to come up. As a result the non-cooperating Indians ultimately had to go back to British institutions.
- As a result, the students started attending government schools again and lawyers joined back in government courts.

Q6. Who organised the depressed classes association and with what aim?

Ans.

- Depressed Classes Association was formed by Dr B .R Ambedkar in 1930.
- It demanded separate electorates for Dalits that would choose dalit members for legislative councils.
- It also demanded reserved seats in the educational institutions.
- The aim was political empowerment of Dalits which would solve their social disabilities.

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Q7. How did the plantation workers understand the idea of ‘Swaraj’? Explain.

Ans.

- For the plantation workers of Assam, “Swaraj” meant freedom to move freely in and out of the confined space in which they all were enclosed and also to be able to keep the link with their native village intact.
- Under the Inland Emigration Act of 1859, plantation workers were not allowed to leave their tea gardens without permission, which they were rarely given.
- When they heard of the Non-cooperation Movement, thousands of workers defied authorities, left the plantations and headed home.
- They believed that Gandhi Raj was coming and everyone would be given land in their own village.

Q8. Explain the circumstances under which Gandhiji decided to call off the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1931.

Ans.

- Political leaders like Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan were arrested. More than one lakh people were arrested.
- Angry crowds demonstrated in the streets of Peshawar facing police firing.
- Government responded with brutal repression and peaceful satyagrahis were arrested. Women and children were beaten up.
- Industrial workers in Sholapur attacked police posts, law courts and railway stations.

Q9. Explain any three problems faced by the peasants of Awadh.

Ans:

- Talukdars and landlords demanded high rents and a variety of other taxes from the peasants.
- Peasants had to do begar and work at the landlords’ farms without any payment.

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- As tenants they had no security of tenure and were being regularly evicted so that they could acquire no right over the leased land.

Q10 Explain any three effects of the Non-cooperation Movement on the economy of India.

Ans.

- Foreign goods were boycotted, liquor shops were picketed and foreign cloth was burnt.
- The import of foreign cloth halved between 1921-1922. Its value dropped from ₹ 102 crore to ₹ 57 crore.
- Many merchants and traders refused to trade in foreign goods or finance foreign trade.
- The production of Indian textile mills and handlooms went up.

Q11. Who had designed the ‘swaraj flag’ by 1921? Explain the main features of this ‘swaraj flag’.

Ans.

- Mahatma Gandhi designed the ‘Swaraj Flag’ by 1921.
- It was tricolour— Red, Green and White.
- It had a spinning wheel in the centre which represents the Gandhian idea of self-help.
- Carrying the flag during marches had become a symbol of defiance and a sense of collective belonging.

Q12. How did cultural processes help in creating a sense of collective belongingness in India?

Ans.

- **Use of figures or images:** The identity of India came to be visually associated with the image of Bharat Mata. Devotion to the mother figure came to be seen as an evidence of one’s nationalism.
- **Revival of Indian folklore:** Nationalists started recording and using folklores and tales, which they believed, gave a true picture of traditional culture that had been corrupted and damaged by outside forces. So preservation of these became a way to discover one’s

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national identity' and restore a sense of pride in one's past.

- **Use of icons and symbols:** During swadeshi movement in Bengal tricolour flag was designed. In 1921 Gandhiji designed swaraj flag . Carrying the tricolour flag and holding it aloft during marches became a symbol of defiance and promoted a sense of collective belonging.
- **Reinterpretation of history:** Indians began looking into the past to rediscover the glorious developments in ancient times in the field of art, science, mathematics, religion and culture, etc. This glorious time was followed by a history of decline when India got colonized.

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