

Rise of Nationalism after First World War

Reasons

Increase in custom duties and introduction of income tax due to war loans

Extreme hardships due to increase in price of essential goods.

Forced recruitment in the army.

Shortage of food due to crop failure, famines and epidemics.

Changes in Ways to Nationalism

Satyagraha

- Emphasised the power of truth and the need to search the truth.
- Mahatma Gandhi organised three Satyagrahas:
 - (1) Champaran (1916) Satyagraha against oppressive plantation system.
 - (2) Kheda satyagraha (1917) against tax demand.
 - (3) Ahmedabad satyagraha (1918)

The Rowlatt Act

- Act gave government enormous powers to repress political activities.
- Nationwide hartal was called by Gandhiji on 06th April.
- Local leaders were arrested in Amritsar and Gandhiji was barred from entering Delhi, martial law was imposed in Amritsar.
- A number of people gathered in Jalianwala Bagh to celebrate Baisakhi unaware of the martial law.
- General Dyer ordered open fire on them killing hundreds of people.
- People in India opposed the killings by attacking government offices, police stations etc.

Non-Cooperation Movement

- The movement began in 1921 with the participation of various social groups.
- The main cause was the Khilafat issue which Gandhiji believed to be a platform for Hindu Muslim unity.
- Methods of Non-Cooperation included surrender of government titles, Boycott of civil services, army, police, schools and foreign goods.
- There was opposition within the Congress to Boycott legislative council elections but the issue was resolved in 1920 Congress session.

Different Strands within the Non-Cooperation Movement

The Movement in the Towns

- Students left government schools, officers resigned from office, lawyers gave up their practices, traders and merchants refused to trade in foreign goods.
- The movement slowed down due to high price of Khadi cloth, lack of alternative Indian institutions.

Rebellion in the Countryside

- Awadh peasant movement led by Baba Ram Chandra against landlords demanding high rents and other cesses.
- Led to the formation of Awadh Kisan Sabha.
- Tribal movement in Gudam Hills of Andhra Pradesh against the government forest policy.
- The movement was led by Alluri Sitaram Raju.

Swaraj in the Plantations

- The Inland Emigration act of 1859 restricted the plantation workers to leave the tea gardens without permission.
- Workers defied the authorities, left the plantations.

Withdrawal of Non-cooperation Movement

Gandhiji withdrew the movement as it was turning violent.

Debate within the Congress regarding council entry.

Formation of Swaraj party by C. R. Das and Motilal Nehru within the Congress.

Simon Commission (1927)

Constituted by the Tory government of Britain under the Chairmanship of Sir John Simon.

Was received in India with slogan 'Go back Simon' as it had only English members.

Sought to look into the demands of the nationalists and suggest changes in the constitutional structure of India.

Commission recommended a 'dominion status' for discussing future Constitution of India.

Civil Disobedience Movement (1931)

Immediate event—Gandhiji chose salt as the medium for protesting against the British rule. He sent a letter to the viceroy Irwin stating eleven demands.

Important Aspects of the Movement

Salt March

- Mahatma Gandhi started Salt March from Sabarmati to Dandi with 78 followers.
- Reached Dandi on 6th April 1930 and violated the salt law by manufacturing Salt from Sea.

Spread of the Movement

- Spread to the entire nation.
- Foreign clothes were burnt picketing of Liquor shops.
- Gandhiji was arrested later.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact

- Gandhi-Irwin pact was signed on 5th March 1931.
- Gandhiji agreed to participate in Round Table Conference.
- Government agreed to release the political prisoners.
- Second Round Table Conference held in London (1931) without any result.

Re-launch of the Movement

- Mahatma Gandhi re-launched the movement in 1932, but by 1934 it lost momentum.

Participation of People in the Movement

Rich Peasant Communities

- Patidars of Gujarat and Jats of Uttar Pradesh participated.
- Opposed the high revenue demands of the government.

Poorer Peasantry

- Mainly small tenants that had rented land from landlords.
- Found difficulty in paying rent due to the depression.

Business Class

- Wanted protection against imports of foreign goods.
- Formed the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress (1920) and the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) in 1927.

Industrial Worker Class

- Did not participate in large number except in Nagpur region.

Women

- Participated in protest marches, manufactured salt, picketed foreign cloth and liquor shops.

Failure of Civil Disobedience Movement

Reasons

- Movement called off without the fulfillment of the demand of the rich peasant communities.
- Many rich peasant communities decided not to join after the re-launch of the movement.
- Congress was unwilling to support the 'no rent' campaigns.
- Withdrawal of support by the business class due to various reasons.
- Dalits (untouchables) did not participate.
- Low participation by Industrial workers.
- Muslim organisations and communities sparsely participated in the movement.

Upsurge of Nationalism

- A sense of unity and nationalism inspired by History and fiction, folklore and songs.
- Abanindranath Tagore's image of Bharat Mata and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's song Vande Mataram united many people.
- The tri-colour flag designed by Gandhiji in 1921 became a symbol of defiance.
- Glorious developments in the ancient times instilled pride and united the Indians.