

MIND MAP

➤ The Idea of Satyagraha

In 1916 he travelled to Champaran in Bihar to inspire the peasants to struggle against the oppressive plantation system. Then in 1917, he organised a satyagraha to support the peasants of the Kheda district of Gujarat.

➤ The Rowlatt Act

Gandhiji in 1919 decided to launch a nationwide satyagraha against the proposed Rowlatt Act (1919). On 13th April the infamous Jallianwalla Bagh incident took place. At the Calcutta session of the Congress in September 1920, he convinced other leaders of the need to start a non-cooperation movement in support of Khilafat as well as for swaraj.

The First World War, Khilafat and Non-cooperation

➤ Why Non-cooperation?

Gandhiji believed, if Indians refused to cooperate, British rule in India would collapse within a year, and swaraj would come. At the Congress session at Nagpur in December 1920, a compromise was worked out and the Non-cooperation programme was adopted.

Nationalism in India

Differing Strands within the Movement

➤ Rebellion in the Countryside

In Awadh, peasants were led by Baba Ramchandra – a sanyasi who had earlier been to Fiji as an indentured labourer.

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➤ Appointment of Simon Commission

In February 1922, Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non- cooperation Movement. Tory government in Britain constituted a Statutory Commission under Sir John Simon. Simon Commission arrived in India in 1928.

➤ The Salt March and the Civil Disobedience Movement

Mahatma Gandhi started salt march accompanied by 78 of his trusted volunteers. On 6 April he reached Dandi, and ceremonially violated the law, manufacturing salt by boiling sea water.

Towards Civil Disobedience

Nationalism in India

The Sense of Collective Belonging

Ideas of nationalism developed through a movement to revive Indian folklore. In Madras, Natesa Sastri published a massive four-volume collection of Tamil folk tales, The Folklore of Southern India.

➤ How Participants saw the Movement

In the countryside, rich peasant communities were deeply disappointed when the movement was called off in 1931 without the revenue rates being revised.

➤ The Limits of Civil Disobedience

Dr B.R. Ambedkar clashed with Mahatma Gandhi at the second Round Table Conference by demanding separate electorates for dalits. Some of the Muslim political organisations in India were also lukewarm in their response to the Civil Disobedience Movement.

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