



SNBP International & Senior Secondary School, Chikhali, Pune.

**Affiliation No. 1130703
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NOTES

SUBJECT: History (SST)

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L-8. The making of the national movement

Question 1: Why were people dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s?

Solution:The dissatisfaction with British rule intensified in the 1870s and 1880s. The main reason was the two Acts was passed by the British.

The Arms Act, 1878, The Vernacular Press Act, 1878

The Arms Act disallowed Indians from possessing arms and the Vernacular Press Act allowed the government to confiscate the assets of newspapers including their printing presses if the newspapers published anything that was found “objectionable”.

Question 2: Who did the Indian National Congress wish to speak for?

Solution: Indian National Congress wished to speak for all the people of India, irrespective of class, colour, caste, creed, language, or gender. It stated that India, its resources and systems were not of any one class or community of India, but of all the different communities of India.

Question 3:What economic impact did the First World War have on India?

Solution:The First World War changed the economic and political situation in India. There was a huge rise in the defence expenditure of the Government of India. The government increased taxes on individuals and businesses. The price of all commodities increased putting the common man into a lot of hardship. There was a great demand for industrial goods due to the war and this resulted in the decline of European goods being imported into India. This in turn gave the Indian industrialists a chance to expand their production.

Question 4: What did the Muslim League re Solution of 1940 ask for?

Solution: In 1940 the Muslim League passed a Solution demanding “Independent States” for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of the country. The re Solution did not mention partition or Pakistan.

Question 5: Who were the Moderates? How did they propose to struggle against British rule?

Solution:They proposed to struggle against the British in a non- violent manner, which the Radicals called the “politics of prayers”. The Moderate leaders wanted to develop public awareness about the unjust nature of British rule. They published newspapers, wrote articles, and showed how British rule was leading to the economic ruin of the country. They criticised British rule in their speeches and sent representatives to different parts of the country to mobilise public opinion. They felt that the British had respect for the ideals of freedom and justice, and so they would accept the just demands of Indians. What was necessary, therefore, was to express these demands, and make the government aware of the feelings of Indians. The Moderate leaders wanted to develop public awareness about the unjust nature of British rule. They published newspapers, wrote articles, and showed how British rule was leading to the economic ruin of the country. They criticised British rule in their speeches and sent representatives to different parts of the country to mobilise public opinion. They felt that the British had respect for the ideals of freedom and justice, and so they would accept the just demands of Indians. What was necessary, therefore, was to express these demands, and make the government aware of the feelings of Indians.

Question 6: How was the politics of the Radicals within the Congress different from that of the Moderates?

Solution: In Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab, many leaders adapted more radical means to gain freedom from the British. They were Bepin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai

Bepin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai were known as the Triumvirate or the three militant patriots of the Congresses – “Lal Bal Pal”. The trio was responsible for initiating the first popular upsurge against British colonial policy in the 1905 partition of Bengal, before the advent of Gandhi into Indian politics. Bepin Chandra Pal was also the founder of the nationalistic journal *Bande Mataram*. They argued that people must rely on their own strength, not on the “good” intentions of the government. They felt that the people must fight for Swaraj.

Question 7: Discuss the various forms that the Non-Cooperation Movement took in different parts of India. How did the people understand Gandhiji?

Solution: During 1921 and 1922 the Non-Cooperation Movement gained impetus. Thousands of students left government Legislatures were boycotted.

People publicly burnt foreign cloth. The Non-Cooperation Movement was only a precedent to the large scale revolt against the British that was yet to come. Slowly people from all walks of life joined in the movement for Swaraj. Some took the route of non-violence as advocated by Gandhiji, while others protested in their own way.

The Patidar peasants who belonged to Gujarat organised non-violent campaigns against the high land revenue demanded by the British. In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, liquor shops were attacked and the tribals and poor peasants of Guntur, in Andhra Pradesh, staged forest satyagrahas, for the British did not allow them to use the forests for grazing their cattle. In Sind, Muslim traders and peasants supported the Khilafat call, while in Bengal the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation alliance gave enormous communal unity and strength to the national movement. In Punjab, the Akali agitation of the Sikhs wanted the corrupt mahants who supported by the British removed from the Gurdwaras. In Assam, tea garden demanded a big increase in their wages. They left the British-owned plantations amidst declarations that they were following Gandhiji’s wish. Many Indians regarded Gandhiji as a saviour, who would free India from the clutches of the British and help them overcome their misery and poverty. The peasants hoped that Gandhiji would help them in their fight against zamindars. Agricultural labourers believed he would provide them land. The peasants of Pratapgarh in the Uttar Pradesh managed to stop illegal eviction of tenants; but they felt it was Gandhiji who had won this demand for them. Many a time peasants used Gandhi’s name and indulged in un-Gandhian activities.

Question 8: Why did Gandhiji choose to break the salt law?

Solution: The British introduced a law stating that the Government had control over the manufacture and sale of salt. It also imposed a tax on the sale of salt. Mahatma Gandhi and other national leaders felt that it was wrong to impose tax on salt which was an essential commodity for food. The leaders decided to oppose this tax.

In 1930, Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to break the salt law. The Salt March was related to the desire for freedom felt by everyone, the rich and the poor alike. Gandhiji and his followers marched for over 240 miles from Sabarmati to the coastal town of Dandi where they broke the government law by gathering natural salt found on the seashore, and boiled sea water to produce salt.