

# **GANDHIAN NATIONALISM AFTER 1919**

**SEM-VI**

**MAJOR**

**Paper Title- GANDHIAN HISTORY (1857-1947)**

**UNIT-III**

# Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi



- [Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi](#), born on October 2, 1869, was a prominent leader of the pre-independence era. Mahatma Gandhi drew praise for his contribution round the world so much so that his birth-date is celebrated as 'International Day of Non-Violence'. He took India to a totally new level by employing movements like non-violence, civil disobedience and civil rights during India's freedom struggle with the British. He is best known as '[Father of the Nation](#)' and '*Bapu*'. He led nationwide movements and campaigns for India's independence, eradication of poverty, expanding women's rights, ending untouchability and establishing [Swaraj](#). Gandhiji's birthday is celebrated as a national holiday and a day of non violence and peace. He led and made many campaigns and described *satyagraha* in the true essence. **ALSO READ: [Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti 2 October: 10 Inspirational and Memorable Quotes by Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi](#)**
- [Gandhiji](#), as he was fondly called, was the one who took all the youth and started the challenge of removing Britishers' Salt Tax in the year 1930. Apart from this, he even initiated the important Quit India movement. Gandhiji joined hands with Indian National Congress and brought national issues into limelight. There are still many Gandhians who try to follow his philosophy and ideologies to promote peace and harmony. He and his life was like an open book and his spirit of leading life was just hatsoff. Gandhiji's philosophy was not based on theory but he practiced and preached what he said. **ALSO READ: [Mahatma Gandhi Quotes in Hindi: 20 Inspirational and Memorable Quotes to share on Gandhi Jayanti 2016](#)**
- Many believe that if Gandhiji had wanted to, he could have saved the lives of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru. Among many others who fought for freedom, he was the one who challenged the Britishers and in the process got himself imprisoned for many years. Gandhiji always practised non-violence and led the most simple life. For most of us, *Gandhi Jayanti on October 2* is just a national holiday, but let's brush our history and have a look at why his birthday is celebrated with zeal.

## GANDHIAN NATIONALISM AFTER 1919

### Ideas and Movements

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The year 1919 was a watershed in the modern Indian history, as 4 important developments took place-

(1) Firstly Montagu-Chelmsford reforms were enacted-they didn't grant swaraj but anticipated a period of self-government by Indians.

(2) Secondly,the repressive Rowlatt bill was introduced and the Amritsar massacre occurred at Jallianwala Bagh.

(3) A new course of political action emerged -that of non-violent non-cooperation,and

(4) A new leader, Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa and became a symbol of moral leadership for the entire country.



## The arrival of Gandhi

- (1) Post 1919 Gandhi emerged as the principal architect of Indian independence. At 18, he went to England to study law. Later in 1893 he went to South Africa where he practiced as an Indian lawyer and defended mostly the Indian business community. His experience there proved crucial to his leadership of India's freedom struggle.
- (2) Between 1893 and 1914 he put together his new vision of society-this differed from other nationalist leaders, as it was a critique of modern civilization. He criticized the western obsession with material goods and the competition necessary to secure them. He said industrial development should be avoided as machinery represented sin and put forth a view of a simple life like in his imagined traditional Indian village.
- (3) Thus he harked back to the ancient past by evoking the mythic kingdom of Lord Ram/Ramrajya. To reform society he said one must start from the bottom and it should be a moral not political transformation of society. He did not believe that the end-of freedom-justified the means that might be necessary to achieve it.
- (4) Gandhi's life was not dominated by political activity. There were significant pauses during which Gandhi did constructive work, which was

# Champaran Satyagraha(1917)

Gandhi's first civil disobedience movement was the Champaran satyagraha. Gandhi travelled to Champaran, Bihar, after being persuaded by Rajkumar Shukla, an indigo farmer, to explore the plight of the farmers there. Europeans compelled cultivators in the Champaran district of Bihar to grow indigo, a blue dye, which caused them tremendous agony. They couldn't cultivate the food they needed, and their indigo payments were insufficient.

## Result of Champaran Satyagraha

The government subsequently appointed a commission to investigate the cultivators' claims. Gandhi accepted to serve on the committee after being asked. As a result, the Champaran Agrarian Bill was passed within a few months. The cultivators and land tenants were greatly relieved.

## **Rowlatt Act Satyagraha (1919)**

In March 1919, the Rowlatt Act, also known as the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, was approved. With this bill, the Imperial Legislative Council gave the British government the authority to arrest anyone accused of terrorism. It also authorised Britishers to detain people for up to two years without trial. In addition, the police have been given permission to search any location without a warrant.

In April 1919, Gandhi launched a nationwide Satyagraha movement against the act. It received a massive response with people already suffering from poor socio-economic conditions, coming out in support from all across the country.

## **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)**

The non-cooperation movement was a nationwide movement launched on September 04, 1920 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The movement was launched in the wake of a series of events like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the passing of the Rowlatt Act.

The movement was able to accrue the sympathy of the masses and established Gandhiji as the leader of the resistance. It was active for only two short years and was dissolved due to the Chauri Chaura incident.

## Khilafat Issue (1919 – 1925)

While incidents like the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre ignited the spirit of nationalism among Indians, Satyagraha movements were still limited to big cities and towns. Gandhi realised the need for a more broad-based movement. He was convinced that freedom is possible only if Hindus and Muslims get united on a common platform. The Khilafat issue or Khilafat movement allowed him to do it. The first world war, which left the socio-economic condition of India devastated, had also annihilated nations worldwide. Among those empires included Ottoman Turkey, which witnessed a terrible defeat.

There were rumours about Britishers imposing a harsh treaty – Treaty of Sèvres on the Ottoman emperor, who was the Islamic world's spiritual head, the Khalifa. A Khilafat Committee was formed in then called Bombay in March 1919 by Indian Muslims to defend their Khalifa. Mohammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali joined hands with prominent Muslim leaders like Sheikh Shaukat Ali Siddiqui, Pir Ghulam Mujaddid Sarhandi, and Dr. Hakim Ajmal Khan and built the India Khilafat Committee. The aim was to create political unity among Muslims and use their influence to protect the Khalifa.

## Disobedience Movement (1930)

The Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as the Simon Commission, is recognised as a catalyst for the civil disobedience movement. It was set to debate constitutional reform in India, which was carried out without a single Indian member, prompting a great protest. But before it arrived in India, the Congress was rife with internal debate and had two choices:

- Liberals like Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das wanted to contest the provincial elections and oppose the British within the Councils (set up by the Government of India Act, 1919).
- Revolutionaries like Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose urged mass agitation and complete independence.

The commission's arrival and the worsening economic condition with the onset of the worldwide economic depression propelled the demands of the revolutionaries, resulting in the civil disobedience movement.



# Quit India Movement

Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement on August 08, 1942, at Mumbai's Gowalia Tank Maidan.

- On August 08, the Indian National Congress signed the 'Quit India Resolution' and elected Mahatma Gandhi as the movement leader
- The 'Quit India Resolution' stated the following as the provisions of the movement- an immediate end to British rule, declaration of a free India that can defend itself against imperialism and fascism, the formation of an interim government in the event of British withdrawal, and the initiation of a civil disobedience movement
- The movement birthed the following slogans-
  - 'Quit India' by Yusuf Meherally. Meherally was elected as the Mayor of Bombay in 1942 and was a prominent socialist and trade unionist
  - 'Do or Die' was coined by Mahatma Gandhi during his speech on 8th August
- During his speech at August Kranti Maidan, Gandhiji instructed various sectors of the society to do the following-
  - Gandhi instructed government servants to proclaim their loyalty to the INC
  - He instructed the soldiers in the army to refrain from shooting at compatriots
  - He instructed peasants to pay the agreed-upon rent to only those anti-government zamindars
  - He instructed the people from princely states to only support anti-government leaders and wish to declare their sovereign as part of the Indian nation