

CLASS NOTES

Class: X

Topic: NATIONALISM IN INDIA, CN/JT/01

Subject: HISTORY

Q. How is the rise of European nationalism different from that of the rise of Indian Nationalism ?

Nationalism in Europe came to be associated with the formation of nation-states. It also meant a change in people's understanding of who they were, and what defined their identity and sense of belonging.

New symbols and icons, new songs and ideas forged new links and redefined the boundaries of communities.

- **In India** and as in many other colonies, the growth of modern nationalism is intimately connected to the anti-colonial movement.
- People began discovering their unity in the process of their struggle with colonialism.
- The sense of being oppressed under colonialism provided a shared bond that tied many different groups together.

But each class and group felt the effects of colonialism differently, their experiences were varied, and their notions of freedom were not always the same.

Q. What were the economic and political situation created in India after the First world war.

- It led to a huge increase in defence expenditure which was financed by war loans and increasing taxes: customs duties were raised and income tax introduced.
- Through the war years prices increased – doubling between 1913 and 1918 – leading to extreme hardship for the common people.
- Villages were called upon to supply soldiers, and the forced recruitment in rural areas caused widespread anger.
- Then in 1918-19 and 1920-21, crops failed in many parts of India, resulting in acute shortages of food.
- This was accompanied by an influenza epidemic. According to the census of 1921, 12 to 13 million people perished as a result of famines and the epidemic.

Q. What does the idea of satyagraha emphasised?

- The idea of satyagraha emphasised the power of truth and the need to search for truth. It suggested that if the cause was true, if the struggle was against injustice, then physical force was not necessary to fight the oppressor.
- Without seeking vengeance or being aggressive, a satyagrahi could win the battle through non-violence. This could be done by appealing to the conscience of the oppressor.
- People – including the oppressors – had to be persuaded to see the truth, instead of being forced to accept truth through the use of violence.

By this struggle, truth was bound to ultimately triumph. Mahatma Gandhi believed that this dharma of non-violence could unite all Indians.

Q. Explain the three places where Gandhiji launched Satyagraha successfully after returning from South Africa in 1915.

1. In 1917 he travelled to Champaran in Bihar to inspire the peasants to struggle against the oppressive plantation system.
2. Then in 1918, he organised a satyagraha to support the peasants of the Kheda district of Gujarat. Affected by crop failure and a plague epidemic, the peasants of Kheda could not pay the revenue, and were demanding that revenue collection be relaxed.
3. In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi went to Ahmedabad to organise a satyagraha movement amongst cotton mill workers.

Q. Why did Gandhiji decide to launch a nationwide Satyagraha against the proposed Rowlatt Act 1919 Explain any three reasons.

Gandhiji decided to launch a nationwide Satyagraha against the proposed Rowlatt Act, 1919 due to the following three reasons:

- a. The Rowlatt Act was passed hurriedly by the Imperial Legislative Council despite the opposition by the Indian members.
- b. The Rowlatt Act gave enormous power to the government for repressing the political activities.
- c. According to this Act, the government can detain the political prisoners without trial for a period of two years.

Q. Explain the impact of Jallianwalla Bagh incident on the people.

On 10th April 1919, fire was opened by the police in Amritsar on a peaceful procession and Martial law was imposed.

On 13th April 1919, huge crowd had gathered in the Jallianwalla Bagh.

The crowd had two different objectives. Some of them gathered to protest the new repressive measures of the government whereas others gathered to attend the annual Baisakhi fair.

Those who came from outside city were not aware of the* martial law. General Dyer entered in the ground, closed the exit points and opened fire in which hundreds of innocent people were killed.

This was basically done to create a feeling of terror in the minds of Satyagrahis.

This infamous incident resulted in strikes, clashes with the police and the government buildings were attacked.

This reaction of Indians was brutally suppressed by the government as the Satyagrahis were forced to rub their nose on the ground, crawl on streets and do salute to all the Sahibs. People were beaten up and villages were bombed.

Q. Why was the khilafat committee formed ?

The First World War had ended with the defeat of Ottoman Turkey. And there were rumours that a harsh

peace treaty was going to be imposed on the Ottoman emperor – the spiritual head of the Islamic world (the Khalifa).

To defend the Khalifa’s temporal powers, a Khilafat Committee was formed in Bombay in March 1919.

A young generation of Muslim leaders like the brothers Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, began discussing with Mahatma Gandhi about the possibility of a united mass action on the issue.

Gandhiji saw this as an opportunity to bring Muslims under the umbrella of a unified national movement.

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.

Q. Why did Gandhiji decided Non-co-operation as the first tool of movement ?

In his famous book **Hind Swaraj (1909)** Mahatma Gandhi declared that British rule was established in India with the cooperation of Indians, and had survived only because of this cooperation.

If Indians refused to cooperate, British rule in India would collapse within a year, and swaraj would come.

Q. What are the three fold stages of Non-co-operation movement proposed by Gandhiji ?

- ⦿ It should begin with the surrender of titles that the government awarded.
- ⦿ Boycott of civil services, army, police, courts and legislative councils, schools, and foreign goods.
- ⦿ Then, in case the government used repression, a full civil disobedience campaign would be launched.

