

## Social Science

(History) (Chapter – 8) (The Making of the National Movement: 1870s-1947)  
(Class – 8)

### Let's recall

#### Question 1:

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

##### Answer 1:

Some of the reasons for dissatisfaction with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s are as follows:

- The Arms Act was passed in 1878. This Act disallowed Indians from possessing arms.
- The Vernacular Press Act was passed in 1878. This Act empowered the government to confiscate the assets of newspapers including their printing presses, if the newspaper published anything “objectionable”.
- The government tried to introduce the Ilbert Bill in 1883. The bill made provisions for trial of British or European persons by Indians. Thus, the Ilbert Bill sought equality between British and Indian judges in the country. But the whites opposed the Bill and forced the government to withdraw it.

#### Question 2:

Who did the Indian National Congress wish to speak for?

##### Answer 2:

In spite of being a body of the educated elite, the Congress also talked about the common people.

#### Question 3:

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

##### Answer 3:

The First World War changed the economic and political situation in India. There was a sharp price rise which increased the problems of the common people.

The business groups reaped huge profits because the war increased the demand for all kinds of goods. Reduced imports meant that the new demand was being met by the Indian business houses. The business groups now began to demand more opportunities for development.

#### Question 4:

What did the Muslim League resolution of 1940 ask for?

##### Answer 4:

In the 1940, the Muslim League moved a resolution to demand “Independent States” for the Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of the country.

### Let's discuss

#### Question 5:

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

##### Answer 5:

In its first twenty years, the Congress was “moderate” in its objectives and methods. The Congress leaders of this period were called the Moderates. During this period, the main demand of Congress was about getting a greater voice for Indians in the government and administration.

### Question 6:

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

#### Answer 6:

They criticized the Moderates for their “policy of prayers”. They argued that people should not believe on the so called good intentions of the government and must fight for Swaraj. They wanted to explore radical methods to ensure freedom.

### Question 7:

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

#### Answer 7:

The Non-Cooperation Movement remained non-violent at most of the places. But some people interpreted the message of Mahatma Gandhi in their own ways; mostly to suit their local grievances.

- The Patidar peasants of Kheda (Gujarat) organized non-violent campaigns against the high land revenue demand.
- Liquor shops were picketed in coastal Andhra and interior Tamil Nadu.
- The tribals and poor peasants in Guntur district (Andhra Pradesh) staged a number of forest satyagrahas; to protest against the new forest laws.
- The Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement gave enormous support in Sind and Bengal.
- In Punjab, the Akali agitation of the Sikhs demanded to remove the corrupt mahants from gurdwaras.
- In Assam, the tea garden labourers demanded a big hike in their wages. They shouted the slogan, “Gandhi Maharaj ki jai”. In many folk songs of Assam; Gandhiji was referred to as “Gandhi Raja”.

### Question 8:

Why did Gandhiji choose to break the salt law?

#### Answer 8:

Mahatma Gandhi and other nationalist leaders argued that salt was an essential item of our food and hence it was wrong to impose a tax on salt. Moreover, the issue of salt affected all; the rich and poor; alike. Hence, Gandhiji choose to break the salt law.

### Question 9:

Discuss those developments of the 1937-47 period that led to the creation of Pakistan.

#### Answer 9:

After the 1937 provincial elections, Congress refused to form a coalition government with the League in United Provinces. This irked the League leaders. The Muslim League passed a resolution in 1940 to demand independent states for the Muslims in the north-west and eastern India. The Cabinet Mission came to Delhi in 1946. Its aim was suggesting some framework for the independent nation. It suggested loose confederation and some degree of autonomy for the Muslim-majority areas. But negotiations between the Congress and the League failed. After that, Muslim League persisted with its demand for Pakistan. Large scale violence occurred throughout the northern part of the peninsula. The country was finally partitioned in August 1947.

## Let's do

**Question 10:** Find out how the national movement was organized in your city, district, area or state. Who participated in it and who led it? What did the movement in your area achieve?

**Answer:** Our state, Bihar was an important part of India's struggle for independence. In particular, wealthy and educated people organized the national movement. Generally, all sections of the society participated in the movement. Even in the beginning of the movement, Babu Kunwar Singh of Rajput Royal house of Jagdishpur and his army as well as countless other persons from Bihar contributed to the India's first war of Independence. The movement was led by many outstanding leaders like Babu Kunwar Singh, Swami Shajanand Saraswati, Desh Ratana Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Bihar Kesari Sri Krishna Sinha, Bihar Bibhuti Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Mulana Mazharul Haque, Loknayak Jayprakash Narayan, Satyendra Narayan Sinha, Yogendra Shukia and many others. Khudiram Bose, Upendra Narayan Jha "Azad" and Prafulla Chaki were also active in revolutionary movement in Bihar. In India's struggle for independence, the "Champaran Satyagraha" marks a very important stage. This marked Gandhiji's entry into the India's struggle for freedom. Local leader. Raj Kumar Shukia drew the attention of Mahatma Gandhi to the plight of the peasants suffering under an oppressive system established by European indigo planters. Ultimately, the system was abolished. Gandhi became the mass leader only after the Champaran Satyagraha.

**Question 11:** Find out more about the life and work of any two participants or leaders of the national movement and write a short essay about them. You may choose a person not mentioned in this chapter.

**Answer:** Kunwar Singh: Babu Veer Kunwar Singh (1777-1858) was a zamindar of Jagdishpur near Arrah in the state of Bihar. At the age of 80 years, during India's First War of Independence (1857-58), he assumed command of the soldiers who had revolted at Danapur on 5 July 1857. Two days later, he occupied Arrah which was relieved by Major Eyre on 3rd August. He recorded victories in many battles. In his last battle which was fought on 23 April 1858 near Jagdishpur, Kunwar Singh had a victory over the force led by Captain Le Grand. On 26 April 1858, he died in his village.

Sarojini Naidu: Sarojini Naidu (February 13, 1879—March 2, 1949), "the Nightingale of India" was a distinguished poet, renowned freedom fighter and one of the great orators of her time. In 1898, she got married to Govindarajulu Naidu, a doctor by profession. She

presided over the annual session of the Indian National Congress at Kanpur (1925). She had a leading role in Salt Satyagraha and consecutive struggles. She was President of the National Women's Conference for many years and trained many volunteers who took up women's cause. She was the first woman to be appointed in 1947 as the Governor of the United Province (Presently—Uttar Pradesh).