

Introduction

During their stay in India, Britishers became familiar with the political condition of India. The British East India Company took advantage of the political disputes or internal weaknesses of India and from 1757 A.D., after creeping in to Bengal, to the uprising of 1857 A.D., it established its supremacy over India in its 100 years of rule. In order to maintain this supremacy, the English, gradually, developed a strong administrative structure in the country. Through this administrative structure, common laws, common administration and a legal system according to the British system, came into existence. Yet, the English residing in India established such laws and administration that England would get more benefits. At the cost of India, they made England prosperous and exploited India the most.

The Great National Uprising of 1857

Some of the factors that caused the uprising of 1857 were political dissatisfaction, economic exploitation, social and religious factors, military factor and immediate reasons like introduction of the enfield Rifle in the army. Mangal Pandey was the first martyr of the uprising. Several revolutionaries like Nana Saheb, Tatya, Tope, Raja Kuwarsinh, Rani Laxmibai, Bahadur Shah Zafar etc. took part in it. The uprising of 1857 produced many effects among which are the end of the Company Rule in India and the rule of the British Crown (ruled by Queen Victoria), change in administrative, military, social, religious policies. The reasons responsible for the failure of the 1857 uprising are the beginning of the uprising before the planned time, lack of central leadership, insufficient & unsophisticated weapons, importance of self-centered interests than nationalism amongst revolutionaries, lack of suitable and organised leadership etc. You've already studied these in detail in the previous class.

Boycott and Indigenous Movements

Boycott and indigenous movement along with Bangabandhu Movement (1905) was one of the important events of the Indian national movements. Because of the 'divide and rule' policy as a result of the Britishers' Machiavellian Policies, boycott and indigenous movement got an impetus.

Bengal was a big province at the time of British rule, which included the present day Bengal, Bihar and Odisha. Compared to other states, Bengal was the central point of national awakening. The impetus and thought for the national movement came from Bengal. In the 1857 revolt, Hindus and Muslims had collectively fought the English. That's why, through the English strategy of 'divide and rule', they encouraged communalism and caused division among people.

Viceroy Curzon (1899-1905) divided the vast Bengal Province into East Bengal and West Bengal, in the name of bringing about administrative efficiency.

There was a strong opposition to the division of Bengal. When Bengal was divided on 16th October, 1905, the whole Bengal observed the day as 'National Mourning Day'. The same day, an announcement, about boycotting all foreign goods and encouragement to use indigenous goods, was made. Not merely Bengalis, but the other Indians also began to believe that this division had been done to curtail the vociferous feeling of nationalism that was catching up in India. That day, Hindus and Muslims tied rakhis to each other in the entire Bengal to express their unity. This movement had three major characteristics (1) adopt indigenous products (Swadeshi) (2) boycott foreign goods (3) adopt national education.

India benefitted a lot due to this Swadeshi Movement, while the English industry was badly affected due to the boycott of foreign goods. The cloth coming from Manchester, stopped. Sugar, shoes, cigarettes, tobacco etc imported from England also reduced and the sale of cloth made in India, increased. Factories for making indigenous goods were started. The effect of the Movement was felt in other provinces of India like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai, Madras etc. besides Bengal. The echo of the

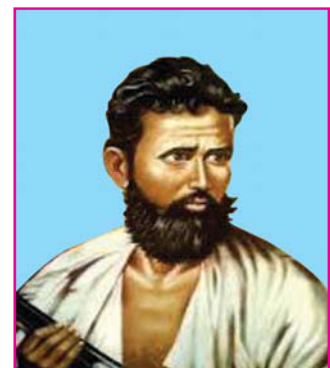
Swadeshi Movement was felt in Gujarat too. The echo of the movement was also felt strongly in the British Parliament and within six years (1911), the division of Bengal was scrapped after a rethinking by the Parliament. This was a memorable victory by the Indians, a victory of the relentless united efforts. This was a noteworthy victory of the new awakening against the English rule.

Muslim League (1906)

By adopting the 'divide and rule' policy, the English wanted to create a conflict between Hindus and Muslims. The then viceroy Lord Minto and the Indian Vizier (Diwan/Vazir) Morley together planned to crush the Indian nationalism. When the national fight became stronger, the English began to favour the upper class Muslims. The English became successful in convincing a group of Muslims that they must form a Muslim organization to demand for separate voting rights and separate voting centres. As a result, Muslim League was formed (1906). Religious head of the Muslims Agakhan, Nawab of Dhaka Salimullah Khan, Viceroy Minto and his personal minister Dunlop Smith had played an important role in the establishment of this organisation. In order to stop the Muslims from attending the annual conference of the Congress, the annual conference of the Muslim League was arranged on the same day as that of the Congress. Thus, the demand for separate representation is not the brain child of the Muslims but that of the English policy. Minto started the policy of taking Muslims as associates. That's why, many writers consider Minto as the father of Muslim communalism. A historian also goes to the extent of saying that, 'the real creator of Pakistan was not Mohamadali Jinnah or Rahitmatulla, but Minto'. Since then, the conflict between Hindus and Muslims increased and resulted in the division of India !

Birth And Development of Extreme Revolutionary Movement

The Revolutionary activity in India was started by Vasudev Balvant Phadke. Revolutionaries like Damodar Chaphekar, and Balkrishna Chaphekar brothers, Vir Savarkar, Baarindranath Ghosh, Khudiram Bose, Praful Chaki, Ramprasad 'Bismil', Ashfaqullah Khan, Chandrashekhar 'Azad' Bhagatsingh, Shivram Rajguru, Sukhdev, Batukeshwar Dutt, Roshansingh etc carried on the torch of nationalism. Youth trained in making and using weapons were a constant threat for the English government.



Vasudev Balvant Phadke

Fierce revolutionary movements began in India and spread in the other countries as well. The circumstances in its background were the cancellation of the partition of Bengal, the partition of two groups i. e. "Jahal" (radicals) and 'Maval' (moderates) at the Congress Conference in Surat (1907), and the terrific opposition to practice of Congress of making only resolutions and requests. Lal-Bal-Pal trio adopted the radical attitude which brought new life in the young Indian activists. The lethargic policies of the Indian National Congress got a solid new turn.



Khudiram Bose



Ramprasad 'Bismil'



Ashfaq ullakhan



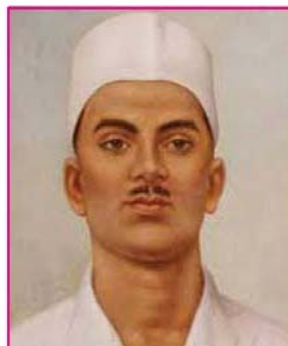
Chandra Shekhar
'Azad'



Sardar Bhagat Singh



Shivram Rajguru



Sukhdev Thapar



Roshan Singh

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak declared it firmly, 'Freedom is my birthright and I will achieve it anyhow'. This became the maxim for the revolutionary freedom fighters.

At that time, a group of Indian youth undertook activities to seek freedom from foreign rule. These extreme revolutionaries were more than happy to sacrifice their lives for the motherland. They could give up their lives or take lives in order to attain freedom.

Revolutionary activities spread in Maharashtra, Bengal, Punjab, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madras province, Uttarpradesh and central India. Among these activities were some like 'Mitramela Society', 'Abhinav Bharat Samaj', 'Anushilan Samiti', 'Anjuman-e-Muhillane Vatan', Indian Patriots Association (later 'Bharatmata') etc. and thus gave impetus to revolutionary activities.



Balgangadhar Tilak

In the first stage, newspapers and magazines like 'Sandhya', 'Yugantar', 'Navshakti' and 'Vandematram', 'Kesari', 'Maratha' gave constant strength to the activities. About 34 revolutionaries were prosecuted in the Alipur massacre. Several revolutionaries were arrested in 'Howrah massacre' and 'Dhaka massacre'. Attempt to kill Lord Hardinge by throwing a bomb in Delhi; dropping bomb on Viceroy Minto on November 13, 1909 outside Raipur darwaja in Ahmedabad can all be given as examples of these.

In the second stage (1920-42), events like 'Kakori Loot Case', 'Lahore massacre' and dropping of bomb on Central Parliament (Delhi) took place. You have already studied about the other revolutionaries engaged in all these activities

Fierce Revolutionary Movement in Gujarat

Sri Aurobindo Ghosh was the pioneer of armed revolution in Gujarat. But he remained behind the curtain. His brother Baarindrakumar Ghosh always remained in the forefront (1902). He arrived in Gujarat and moved towards the southern part. Here, he met Shri Chotubhai and Shri Ambubhai Purani – very able companions. Sakaria Swami met him on the banks of Narmada. This Swami was associated with Queen of Jhansi at the time of the revolt of 1857. Baarindrakumar involved some of the middle class youth from Vadodara, Charotar region (Kheda) Ahmedabad, Mehsana in the revolution. In relation to these activities, the buggy of Viceroy Minto was bombed outside Raipur Darwaja in Ahmedabad.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosh described the scheme for revolution in his book named 'Bhavani Mandir'. It was also translated into Gujarati and published in the journal 'Dakshina'. Besides this, booklets with titles like 'Deshi Vanaspati Davao', 'Nahavana Sabu Banavvani Reet', 'Kasrat', 'Gulab no Kisso', 'Kayada no Sangrah' etc were published in order to spread the thoughts of revolution, so that Britishers won't understand ! These

booklets contained methods of preparing bombs. 'Gangnath Vidyalay' was established near Chandod – Karnali, where secret revolutionary activities were carried out. Many Gujarati youth joined these revolutionary activities against whom stern action was taken by the government. But the fight did not stop and finally government realised that suppression would not help to rule over India.

Revolutionary Movement in Foreign Countries

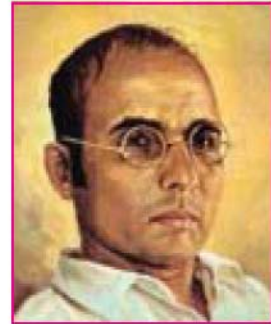
The revolutionary movement began in foreign countries also for giving freedom to India from the British. The revolutionary activities that began in India spread to different countries like England, Canada, America, Germany, France, Myanmar (Burma), Malaya, Singapore, Afghanistan, Russia.

The active revolutionaries who took part in revolutionary activities in foreign countries are :

Shyamji Krishna Verma, Madanlal Dhingra, Vir Savarkar, Lala Hardayal, Udham Singh, Raja Mahendra Pratap, Madam Bhikhaji Cama, Sardarsingh Rana, Maulana Abdulla, Maulana Basir, Champak Raman Pillai, Dr. Mathursinh "Khudabaksh" were associated with these activities.

The revolutionary activities in the foreign countries gave impetus to the revolutionary activities in India. Pistols were being secretly sent to India from England along with the beddings of cooks. Madanlal Dhingra killed William Wylie who used to criticize the revolutionaries. In 1907, the 'Indian Independence League' was established in California, America, which was later named as 'Gadar Party' by Lala Hardayal. A weekly named 'Gadar' was published in four languages. Taraknath Das and Kartarsingh too joined this activity. Champak Raman Pillai formed the 'Hind Rastriya Swaymsevaka Dal' in Germany. The plan was made to attack India by making Iraq as the headquarter (1907). In the 'International Socialist Conference' held in Stuttgart, Germany, the national flag prepared by Madam Cama was hoisted for the first time, Raja Mahendra Pratap formed the Provisional Independent Government under 'Rashtra Pramukh' in Afghanistan in which Barkatulla, Abidulla, Maulana Bashir, Shamshersingh, Dr. Mathursingh etc. also joined. This government made efforts to get help from Russia, Iran, Turkey etc. They also met the Turkish chief Anwar Pasha and the Governor. The conspiracy 'Galibnama' written on 'reshmi rumal' (Silk handkerchief) asking all Muslims to unite and fight against Christians, was exposed ! Raja Mahendra Pratap sent a golden strip, with his signature to the Russian Czar, in which he had requested the Czar to sever all ties with England. Russian revolutionary Trotsky had pledged all his support to the Indian revolutionaries. Sohanlal Pathak in Burma and Parmanand in Singapore carried on revolutionary activities. In addition to this, the Kamagatamaru and Toshamaru steamer events provided inspiration to the Indian revolutionaries staying abroad to fight against the British.

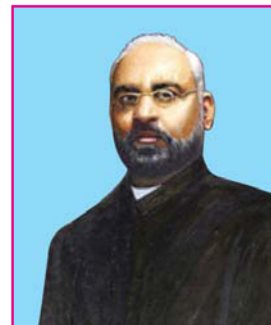
The Indian youth, in the age group of 18 - 24 years were mainly involved in the radical freedom movement. They used to carry out any kind of thrilling acts as they did not fear death. When caught, they readily



Vir Savarkar



Madanlal Dhingra and Udham Singh



Shyamji Krishna Verma



Madam Cama

embraced death shouting slogans like 'Inquilab Zindabad' and 'Vande Mataram' for the purpose of freedom of their motherland. Their sacrifices would provide inspiration to the young generation for ages.

Morley – Minto Reforms (1909)

The English adopted the policy of 'Divide and Rule' to create enmity between Hindus and Muslims (1906). Under the leadership of Agakhan, Muslim delegation met Viceroy Minto. Morley was the Indian Vizier at that time (1909). These reforms are known as Morley-Minto reforms.

Arrival of Gandhiji to India (1915)

Gandhiji returned to India (1915) after successfully fighting against racism in South Africa with satyagrah. His political mentor (guru) was Gopalkrishna Gokhle and Spiritual mentor was Shrimad Rajchandra from whom he got inspiration. Gandhiji travelled across India and observed the life of Indians. He considered exploitation as the root of poverty in India and made plans to abolish British rule in India.

Rowlatt Act. (1919)

The British government formed the Rowlatt Act under the Chairmanship of Rowlatt, the Minister of Law (1919).

This act was framed with the purpose of suppressing revolutionaries and nationalists. This Act came to be known as 'Black Act' because it was meant to suppress individual freedom and freedom of speech.

According to this Act, any suspicious person could be arrested and jailed, without conducting any trial against him. That's why Gandhiji called it 'Black Act' and Motilal Nehru considered it as 'snatching away, of argument, appeal and advocacy'.

The British government gained immense power, under this Act, to suppress any kind of opposition. So leaders and people at large, expressed their opposition. Meetings, rallies, shows and strikes were organised against it. Gandhiji was arrested in Delhi. When Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Kitchlu were arrested in Punjab, the agitation became severe. The government vehemently tried to suppress all opposition.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (13th March 1919)

When popular leaders like Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Kitchlu were arrested in Amritsar, Punjab, a public gathering was organised in the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, on the day, of Baisakhi, to oppose the arrest.

General Odonil Dyer reached there with his troops and without any warning, opened fire on innocent people



4.1 Inhuman toutouring of Britishers

from the machine gun. There were high walls on four sides of the Bagh. In the middle, was an unused well and the only way out being narrow, a number of people lost their lives in the firing. According to the government report, 379 people died and 1200 injured. As per the committee appointed by the congress, 1000 people had



4.2 Jallianwala Bagh Memorial

died in the firing. 'Hunter Commission', investigating the case on behalf of the British Government, defended General Dyer. The commission forgave Dyer considering it as 'an innocent mistake that happened unknowingly'. On the other hand, when Dyer returned to England, he was honoured with a sword and 2000 pounds ! Indians got a terrible shock because of this. After this inhuman act, Gandhiji's faith towards the British was completely lost. This event played an important role in uniting the whole nation. This tragedy became the ground for the future Non Co-Operation movement.

Khilafat Movement

During the First World War, Turkey joined the German side. So when England won, the treaty that was made, had many firm and unjust terms and conditions for the losing side. The sultan of Turkey, at that time, was a Khalifa - Head of Muslims. The Movement in India, to oppose the strict terms imposed on Turkey and the sultan, came to be known as Khilafat Movement. Ali brothers - Maulana Shaukatali and Maulana Mohammad Ali - were the chief leaders of the Movement. Gandhiji requested the congress to support the Movement, keeping Hindu-Muslim unity in mind. The Movement became severe with the Congress support.

Non Co-operation Movement (1920-22)

The Nagpur Conference gave the approval to Non-Co-operation Movement (December, 1920). Now, the Congress made a strong demand for independence of India (Swarajya) instead of self-government (Swashasan) under the rule of the British Empire.

Constructive Aspect

In the positive aspect of the movement was Hindu-Muslim unity to be strengthened, insistence



4.3 Common people in Non-Co-operation Movement

on using 'Swadeshi' articles, revival of spinning wheels in every house, collection of one crore rupees for 'Tilak Swarajya Fund', abolition of untouchability, national education, prohibition etc.

Negative Aspect

The negative aspects consisted of giving up of government jobs, government school-colleges, boycott legislatures, resign from government courts, local self-government, boycott foreign cloth and other articles, government functions, titles etc.

Programmes for Non Co-operation Movement

In the beginning of the Movement, Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore surrendered their titles 'Kaiser-e-hind' and 'Knighthood honour' respectively. Other leaders of the nation also gave up their titles and positions. Students left English schools and colleges. At various places, foreign clothes were set on fire. When Duke of Kainatt came to India, he was boycotted (1921, November). The ceremony of honouring Prince of Wales was boycotted. Such incidents created considerable national excitement. On the other hand, national schools and colleges were established, like Kashi, Bihar, Jamia-Milia, Gujarat Vidyapiths etc. Due to the vigorous propaganda for Swadeshi goods, the import of cloth, footwear, luxurious items from England reduced drastically. This reaction rattled the British Parliament. The government was shocked by this kind of huge economic loss to England.

More than one crore rupees was collected in the Tilak Fund. On many occasions, the Hindu-Muslim emerged predominantly. The 'Mopla Revolt' (Malabar) between Hindu landlords and Muslim peasants deserves criticism and it was suppressed by the British army.

The government adopted the policy of suppression. Uncontrolled lathicharge, firing, collective arrests and inhuman torture was meted out. Unsuccessful attempts to break Hindu-Muslim unity were made.

The Chauri-Chaura Incident and Withdrawal of the Movement

People took out a rally in the Chauri-Chaura Village in Gorakhpur, Uttarpradesh (5, February, 1922). The police opened fire on the people. But when they ran short of bullets, people attacked the police station and set on fire in which 21 policemen died. On receiving this horrible news, Gandhiji said, 'I have committed a Himalayan blunder by giving the tool of Satyagraha in the hands of people who do not understand the value of non-violence'. He suspended the Movement immediately.

Importance of Non-Co-operation and its effects

This Movement did not achieve its desired aims, but its negative and constructive aspects, managed to generate in people, awareness of their rights. A negative atmosphere, against the government, was created. There was a strong feeling of opposition against injustice. There was a political awareness among all the classes of India. The faith in independence became stronger. The fear of lathi, punishment and imprisonment was removed. The youth and women too came forward to serve their nation and Congress became an organisation of the people. schools giving national education began. Hindi started getting more importance than English. The Movement that was limited to cities and towns and intellectuals, spread to the people and villages.

Swarajya Party

With the purpose of retaining the national awareness among people, Chittaranjan Das Munshi and Motilal Nehru formed the Swarajya Party after the withdrawal of the Non-Co-operation Movement. Their purpose was to enter the legislative assemblies and oppose the unfair policies of the government. The leaders of the Swarajya Party also adopted the constructive activities of Gandhiji like abolition of untouchability, Hindu-Muslim unity, revival of spinning wheel, liquor prohibition etc.

Swarajya Party contested the election of the legislatures held in November, 1923 and the candidates of the Swarajya Party were elected in the central legislature as well as the Provincial Legislature and got clear majority. It did not get the majority in Bengal but emerged as a strong party. Motilal Nehru was elected into the central Legislature as the party leader and Chittaranjan Das was elected in the Bengal Province.

Swarajya Party disapproved the government budgets and proposals and resented the unjust policies of the government. It compelled the government to consider the problems of the people. Due to the working of the Swarajya Party only, government had to appoint the Simon Commission two years earlier.

The Swarajya Party functioned in a disciplined manner and established high parliamentary practices. It proved to the British government that Indians can rule constitutionally and democratically. The educated class of India was thus attracted to the Swarajya Party. National awareness re-emerged in the people. The party played a crucial role in bringing the achievement of independence very near. All this indicates the importance of the Party.

With the death of Chittaranjan Das in June, 1925, the Swarajya Party became weak. Some members began supporting the government while others established a new party named the National Party. Thus, the prestige of the Swarajya Party, reduced. In the 1926 election, all its members lost terribly except in Madras Province. Bipinchandra Pal and Surendranath Bannerji even criticized the Party strongly.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions pointwise :

- (1) Discuss the nature and effects of boycott agitation and national movements.
- (2) Growth and development of fierce revolutionary movements – Discuss.
- (3) Explain the programmes, event and effects of Non-Co-operation Movement.

2. Write Short notes :

- (1) Revolutionary movements in foreign countries.
- (2) Rowlatt Act.
- (3) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
- (4) Swarajya Party

3. Answer the following questions :

- (1) Who divided Bengal ? When and why ?
- (2) Explain the fierce revolutionary movements in Gujarat.
- (3) Why did Gandhiji call Rowlatt Act as 'Black law' ?
- (4) Why was the Non-Co-operation Movement suspended ?
- (5) Why did the prestige of the Swarajya Party decline ?

4. Choose the correct options from those given below :

- (1) By what name is the day of partition of Bengal known as ?
(A) National Mourning Day (B) Bangbhang Day
(C) Independence Day (D) None of the above
- (2) Which reform gave Muslims, communal electoral constituencies ?
(A) Mont–Ford (B) Ilbert Bill
(C) August offer (D) Morley–Minto
- (3) Who prepared the stage for armed revolution in Gujarat for the first time ?
(A) Baarindranath Ghosh (B) Chotubhai Purani
(C) Ambubhai Purani (D) Arvind Ghosh
- (4) Who hoisted the Indian national flag in the foreign land for the first time ?
(A) Shyamji Krishna Varma (B) Rana Sardarsingh
(C) Madam Bhikaiji Cama (D) Madanlal Dhingra

Activity

- Collect the photographs of as many leaders mentioned in the lesson as possible.
- Find out booklets on the life of revolutionaries of the Revolt of 1857.
- Prepare a map indicating the main centres of the 1857 Revolt.

