

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

Salient Features

- It was an all India Movement.
- The movement was strongest in Bihar followed by U.P. and Maharashtra
- Students' agitation and peasant movements in Bihar made it a strong movement in Bihar.
- Jaiprakash Narayan was a very active leader in Bihar where he formed 'Azad Dasta' in the terrains of Nepal and trained them in guerrilla warfare.
- Although this movement theoretically was led by Gandhi but in practice it was in the hands of revolutionaries and the local leaders.
- There was a change in stance of Gandhi during this movement. He did not advocate violence but he did not condemn it also.
- Gandhi did not stop the movement due to violence activities as he did in Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Around 92000 people were arrested by the government.
- In its last stage, the movement became an underground movement during which revolutionaries started planning secret operations.
- Hindu Mahasabha leaders did not participate in Quit India Movement as their agenda was Religion specific whereas Congress was a Secular Party.
- Government lifted the ban on Communist party in 1942 which it had enforced in 1934. Government banned Congress party in 1942 because of its anti-British activities.
- Communists did not join Quit India Movement as the movement was against English which was a partner of Russia but Communists did not help British in suppressing the movement.
- Government used maximum force to suppress this movement which includes aircrafts and machine guns.

Importance of this Movement

- There was an institutional breakdown in this movement.
- This movement is considered to be the turning point in Indian History
- The British hopes of ruling India for 100 years more was crushed due to this movement.

INA Movement

- Indian Independence League was setup up by Rash Behari Bose in Tokyo.
- In 1943 former prisoners of war formed an army called INA. It was formed by Captain Mohan Singh. Major Fujiwara helped Captain Singh in setting it up.
- The battalions raised were called Gandhi battalion, Nehru battalion, Subhash battalion and Rani Lakshmi battalion.
- In 1943, Subhash took guard of INA after Captain Mohan Singh.
- Subhash Chandra Bose was the first person to call Gandhi, Father of the Nation
- He set up an interim government known as Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind.
- One battalion of INA led by Captain Shah Nawaaz Khan attacked India via Burma but due to withdrawal of Japanese support it lost the battle
- Red Fort Trial/INA Trial was held in 1945-46 in which Captain Shah Nawaaz Khan, Captain Prem Kumar Sehgal, Captain Gurubaksh Singh Dhillon were trialled.

Three commissions were set up to probe the death of Subhash Chandra Bose. These were Captain Shah Nawaaz Khan commission, Justice Khosla Commission and Justice Mukherjee Commission.

Last Phase of the Freedom Struggle

Wavell Plan (1945)

- Lord Archibald Wavell was the Governor General and Viceroy from 1943 – 1947.
- He invited leaders to Shimla to announce a plan for Indian.
- Muslim League demanded that all 5 Muslim ministers should be from Muslim League which was rejected by others.
- Congress rejected Jinnah's demand as it would portray Congress as a Hindu Party.
- The meeting was ended after Jinnah's demand.

Wavell Plan

1. Dominion Status to India
2. All posts other than the post of Governor General and Army Chief will be given to Indians
3. Process of framing the constitution of India will start
4. Head of Govt – Indian, 5 ministers – Hindus, 5 ministers – Muslims, others – Dalits, Sikhs etc.

Elections in the Provinces (1945-1946)

- Muslim League used many slogans
- Congress Government which was formed in 1937 failed to sort out the problems and communal violence started.
- Muslim middle class started supporting Muslim League.
- Pakistan was one of the big agendas through which Muslim League campaigned.
- Muslim league used very strong slogans in their campaign like "If you do not vote for Muslim League then you will not be buried in Muslim graveyard".
- It is to be noted that the top leaders of Muslim League were not practicing Muslims like Muhammad Ali Jinnah whereas orthodox Muslims like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was whole heartedly supporting Congress, Gandhi and Nationalist movement.
- Almost 507 seats were reserved for Muslims from all over India in 11 provinces.
- Amongst these 492 seats were of Muslim League.
- There were 30 seats reserved for Muslims at Central Legislative Assembly and all 30 were won by the Muslim League.

Cabinet Mission Plan

- Cabinet Mission plan was sent in 1946. It comprised of Pethick Lawrence, A V Alexander and Stafford Cripps.
- They took a unanimous decision that India cannot be partitioned.
- Muslim League was demanding creation of Pakistan since 1940. The term Pakistan was coined by Choudhry Rahmat Ali.
- Cabinet Mission Plan comprised of four major parts:-
 - Grouping of Provinces in terms of:-
 - Hindu Majority Provinces (11 provinces like UP, CP, Bombay etc.)
 - Muslim Majority Provinces (Western India – Punjab, NWFP)
 - Muslim Majority Provinces (Eastern India – Assam and Bengal)
 Each group would form separate constitution for their province and will collectively make a constitution for India
 - Interim Government would be formed

Pakistan stood for:-

P – Punjab
A – Afghan
K – Kashmir
S – Sindh
Tan – Baluchistan

On 2nd September 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru was chosen as the head of interim government.

It was boycotted by Muslim League.

- Princely states were free to join interim government or could remain with British
- A Constituent assembly would be formed
- Cabinet Mission plan was rejected by both Congress and Muslim League
- On 16th Aug 1946 Muslim League declared the infamous Direct Action Day and gave controversial statements like 'ladke lenge Pakistan'.

Formation of Interim Government

- After the initial boycott, Muslim League joined the interim government in the last week of October 1946.
- 5 Muslim League members were made ministers in Interim government including Liaquat Ali Khan who was made the Finance Minister and went on to become the first PM of Pakistan.
- Top leaders of Muslim League were kept away from the Interim Government and they were active in Pakistan movement.
- On 7th Feb 1947 Nehru wrote a letter to British PM Clement Richard Attlee to complain about Muslim League.
- On 20th Feb 1947 Clement Attlee declared that India would be freed by June 1948 and also announced that Lord Mountbatten would be the last Governor General of India.
- Lord Mountbatten announced Mountbatten plan on 3rd June.
- Clauses of Mountbatten Plan were:-
 - On 15th August India would be freed.
 - If one group of Punjab and Bengal assembly demands for partition, it would be done.
 - Sindh assemble would decide whether they want partition or not.
 - In NWFP plebiscite will be used which will be based on limited suffrage.
 - If partition happened, then there would be boundary commission headed by Radcliffe.
 - Princely states had to join either state and were not allowed to remain free.
 - India would get dominion status immediately and Lord Mountbatten would remain as the Governor General (of both India and Pakistan)
 - Within Congress two groups emerged, one which accepted the plan and the other which completely opposed the plan.
- On 18th July 1947, the British Parliament passed Indian Independence Act.
- On 14th August 1947 Pakistan was created and on 15th August 1947 India was created.

Reasons for the Partition:-

- ✓ Communalisation of Indian Politics
- ✓ Role of certain groups, organisations and political parties during and after the elections.
- ✓ Policy of the British (divide and rule)
- ✓ Failure of Congress to win the largest minority of India.

Reasons for Gandhi to accept partition:-

- ✓ Demand of partition was not only from Muslims. but Sikhs and Hindus were also demanding for it.