

Early Decolonization Movements

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Conditions following WWI

- The force of *nationalism* began to spread world-wide especially after World War I. Additionally, there was a definite movement toward *self-determination* (as defined by President Wilson in his 14 Points speech). Increasingly, colonies wanted independence.
- Economically, colonies suffered during the *Great Depression*. Agricultural prices plunged, and trade ground to a halt as industrial nations slowed production.
- Many colonies reverted to subsistence farming, while others began the early stages of industrialization, creating a degree of economic independence.



Middle East

- During World War I, the British had actively encouraged the Arabs in the Ottoman Empire to rebel. After the war was over, Arabs expected British support in the establishment of self-governed states in the Middle East – but they were sadly mistaken.
- Following the war and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations created several *mandates* (order to establish a government) in the Middle East to be “administered” by the British and French.
- The British were given Iraq and Jordan, the French were given Syria and Lebanon. The area of Palestine became a point of controversy as the British suggested they would support a *Jewish* state in the area.
- The Arabian peninsula managed to establish independent rule under the leadership of *Ibn Saud* – future King of Saudi Arabia.



India

- During World War I, the British made vague promises of reform in India which would lead to eventual self-government.
- After the war, however, the British passed the *Rowlett Act*, to further restrict Indian rights, and to try to prevent the growing Indian independence movement by forbidding groups to gather publicly.
- In 1919, thousands of Indians gathered in the square at *Amritsar* to hear speeches and to protest the Rowlett Act. British troops opened fire on the unarmed crowd, killing hundreds.
- This act convinced emerging leader Mohandas K. Gandhi that he could not negotiate with the British to achieve independence, because the British had no respect for Indian life. He began his active, but non-violent protest of British rule, openly violating unjust laws.



Africa

- Many African troops had served in both the British and French armies during World War I. Many thought that this service would be rewarded with independence following the war.
- This hope was crushed as Europeans tightened their grip on their African colonies following the war. German colonies in Africa were given to France, Britain and Belgium instead of being granted their freedom.
- Uprisings did begin in several colonies, but were crushed by European forces. However, at this time important future independence leaders were being groomed and educated.



Gandhi in India

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Background of Mohandas K. Gandhi

- Mohandas K. Gandhi was born to a middle class Indian family in 1869. A decent student, at the age of 18, he was sent to college in London to become a lawyer -- which was the desire of his family.

- Gandhi was unhappy in London. He never particularly liked the study of law, and the cold damp climate of England was very different from his native India.
- Still, he graduated in 1891, and returned home to practice law. His attempts to establish his own law practice in Bombay failed, and he accepted a position in an Indian law firm in South Africa (which was part of the British Commonwealth).



Gandhi in South Africa

- While in South Africa, Gandhi encountered discrimination based on his skin color. He began to formulate his protest ideas. He was guided by *satyagraha*, or truth force, and he targeted unjust laws. Gandhi decided to intentionally break laws he found to be unjust. This breaking of laws is known as *civil disobedience*.

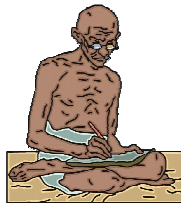
- Gandhi organized the Indian community in South Africa. They all burned their identification cards and passbooks. Many were beaten and jailed (including Gandhi), but they did not fight back. A big part of satyagraha involved *non-violent* resistance. Eventually, the leaders of the South African government had to negotiate a compromise with Gandhi.



Gandhi's Leadership in India

- Gandhi returned to India in 1915 -- in the middle of World War I. After the dreadful Amritsar Massacre, he became convinced that he could no longer negotiate with the British for Indian independence.

- Gandhi began employing the same methods he used in South Africa. He called upon the Indians to disobey unjust laws. He especially targeted a salt law that maintained British production of salt. He also encouraged Indians to boycott British goods and protest British rule whenever they could. Always, he told Indians to do so in a non-violent manner.
- The British were brutal in their treatment of protesters. But, the Indians did not fight back, and images of British troops beating innocent and peaceful Indians were broadcast by media across the world.



Freedom & Tragedy

- The British granted India its independence in 1947, but agreed to partition part of the land off into a "Muslim India" -- Pakistan.
- Gandhi was devastated. He believed that all Indians, whether Hindu or Muslim, should come together and form a single nation.
- Tremendous violence broke out between Hindus and Muslims as millions of people migrated between Pakistan and India. Gandhi, who was known by his nickname "*Mahatma*", or great soul, visited the areas most impacted by violence, and made a personal appeal to stop the fighting.
- In January 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist who did not agree with his policies of peace toward Muslims & Pakistan.



Indian Independence

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Background

- After the unsuccessful Sepoy Mutiny in 1857, Britain assumed direct control of India as a colony. Over time, India became *the most important* colony in the British empire because India provided Britain with many materials that were key to their economy.
- Britain had promised reforms leading to self-government if the Indian helped the British fight in World War I. India agreed, and sent troops to help Britain. After the war, India was hopeful, but the British went back on their promise.



Post WWI & the Amritsar Massacre

- Not only did they **NOT** grant the Indians self-government, they also passed restrictive laws (the Rowlatt Acts) preventing Indians from gathering together in large numbers. The British were hoping to prevent protests, riots or mobs from forming. Most Indians were unaware of the new laws.
- In 1919, more than 10,000 Indians gathered in an enclosed courtyard in the city of Amritsar. They were there to pray and fast and listen to speakers.
- The British believed the Indians were deliberately disobeying the new laws. They opened fire on the peaceful crowd, killing anywhere between 400 & 1500 people (British estimates vs. Indian estimates), and wounding 1200.



Salt March & Homespun Movement

- In 1930, Gandhi organized a 240 mile march to the sea to make salt. He was protesting a British law that prevented the Indians from making their own salt.
- As he marched, tens of thousands of Indians joined him. Nearly 60,000 Indians were jailed (including Gandhi), and many were beaten in this salt *satyagraha*.
- Gandhi also organized the *homespun* movement. He wanted Indians to resist buying cheap British cotton cloth, and told Indians to make their own cloth. The hope was that this would hurt the British economy. Gandhi, as always, led by example, spinning cotton into thread in his room, and weaving it into the cloth he wore.
- These public movements drew the world's attention to India, and began to turn world opinion against the British.



Freedom & Partition

- India refused to help Britain fight in World War II. Gandhi offered Britain only "moral support" in the struggle against German Nazism. He felt that India could not support the British in a fight for freedom when they, themselves were denied such freedom.
- Following World War II, Britain was exhausted, and no longer interested in fighting to keep India as a colony. In 1947, the *Indian Independence Act* was signed, and India was declared an independent state. Unfortunately, the Act partitioned India into two separate states -- the Hindu India, and the Muslim Pakistan. Many were disappointed with the division.



India After Independence

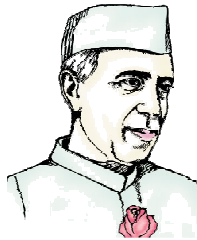
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Nehru

•Following independence, India established a parliamentary democracy, and **Jawaharlal Nehru** became India's first Prime Minister.

•Nehru had a difficult job -- to lead the newly independent India through the Cold War. He pioneered the idea of **Non-alignment**, as he attempted to pick a neutral course through era. Many other nations followed suit.

•Nehru attempted to modernize India's education system, by mandating free public education. He also attempted to add to the rights of women and untouchables. In 1950, an article was added to the Indian Constitution specifically prohibiting discrimination based on caste.



Economy & the Green Revolution

•The **Green Revolution** refers to the attempt to maximize agricultural production through the use of technology, science and research. This revolution was especially active in developing nations from the 1940s to the 1970s.



•Frequently included in this agricultural revolution was the use of technology like tractors or more extensive irrigation systems. In addition, new fertilizers, pesticides and hybrid seeds or genetically engineered plants were used to increase overall yield.

•India was on the brink of famine in the early 1960s when they began to use these techniques. By 1990, India's rice production had tripled, while the cost was halved.

•In general, Nehru pursued a **mixed economy** in which there was significant government direction of the economy (especially in heavy industry), and regulation of privately owned businesses.

Indira Gandhi

•Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Nehru, and came to power as Prime Minister of India in 1966 – not long after her father died.

•Evaluation of Indira's rule of India provides mixed results. On one hand, under her guidance, India's economy became the fastest growing in the world. She also focused on the development of science and technology – in 1971 India launched its first satellite into space.

•On the other hand, critics were silenced as she ruled in a dictatorial fashion. There were accusations of corruption and election fraud, and her sterilization program to control population made her unpopular.

•In 1984 Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards. They did so to avenge her bloody raid on the Sikh holy Golden Temple.



Rajiv Gandhi

•Rajiv Gandhi was the son of Indira, and grandson of Nehru. He took office in 1984 after the assassination of his mother.

•Rajiv's government moved in a different direction from his relatives'. First, he de-regulated much of the economy (got rid of much government control and regulation). Second, he worked to improve relations with the United States.

•Unfortunately, Rajiv met a terrible end. He supported the peace efforts of the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka (the island off the coast of India) over the rebel Tamils. In 1991 the Tamils assassinated him.



Modern Issues in India

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Overpopulation

•India is the second most populous nation in the world with a total population of 1.2 *billion*! India also has a high growth rate at 1.41% annually, and over half of its population is under the age of 25, which suggests this rate will continue, if not increase. If this does occur, India will surpass China's population by 2025 with a population of 1.6 billion.



•Causes of this problem are rooted in religion, science and society. First, children are considered a gift of god, and are to be desired. As a result, birth control is avoided. Second, medical technology has improved, extending the lifespan and reducing infant mortality. Third, children are seen as a form of social security that parents will be cared for in old age.

•The government has promoted numerous programs to combat population growth including education programs, free clinics and birth control, and small family campaigns. None has been overly effective.

Conflict with Pakistan

•Since the partitioning of India and Pakistan in 1947, the nations have been involved in four wars and numerous border skirmishes.

•At issue (directly or indirectly) in every conflict is the border province of *Kashmir*.

•Both nations claim rights to the territory. India claims its right based on Hindu rule in the area when partitioned. Pakistan claims its right based on a Muslim majority living there. The nations currently split the territory – 67% to India, 33% to Pakistan.



Poverty

•India has one of the largest economies (ranking 9th) in the world! They also have one of the fastest *growing* economies in the world! With all of this, why does the average yearly income in India hover around \$3,700? Why is India so poor?

•The size of India's population greatly contributes to the widespread poverty. Currently, over 37% of the population lives below the poverty line.

•Additionally, India's government dominated economy led to slow growth prior to the 1990s. De-regulation changes have contributed to the growth India experiences today.

•Rural poverty is terrible, and seems to be getting worse. Many blame the fact that the government promotes the planting of cash crops over food, leading to shortages.

•Overall however, India appears to be headed in the right direction. The economy continues to grow, and they are on track to cut their poverty level in half by 2020.



Pollution

•Despite significant improvements in the last decade, India continues to struggle with urban air quality, the degradation of land, and a sanitary water supply.



•Many of these environmental problems are caused by the burning of fossil fuels, increased industrialization and urbanization, the lack of sewage treatment plants, and lack of garbage removal services.

•Notably, economic development may be equally responsible for increased pollution and improved environmental conditions.