

REVOLUTIONARY TERRORIST MOVEMENT (Contd.)

The Movement can be categorised in:-

Pre-World War:-

In the initial period, the movement was centred around religious symbols due to which it lacked mass appeal

These movements were directed towards various British Institutions but lacked proper planning

Post World War:-

The Movement was influenced from the Russian revolution of 1917, the movement became more organised and gained steam

At this time, HSRA emerged. Most prominent leader of HSRA was Bhagat Singh.

Hindustan Socialist Republican Army

- They targeted not only British but also Indian capitalists, zamindars, kings and communal forces.
- They were influenced by communistic ideologies which had wide appeal among the educated youth.
- The republican form of governance was gaining popularity over the monarchy even within the Congress and Jawaharlal Nehru was also in favour of it.
- At this time, communal tensions were on the rise; communal groups paid little heed to the welfare of their own community and were more concerned about the rights of others.
- **Lahore Conspiracy Case 1928** – In 1928 Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru and Chandrashekhar Azad murdered a British Police Officer named Saunders at Lahore. This was to revenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai who was killed by Saunders while protesting against Simon Commission. This case eventually led to execution of Bhagat Singh
- **Bombing of Legislative Assembly** – On 8th April 1929, Bhagat Singh along with Batukeshwara Dutt bombed the central Legislative Assembly, Delhi.

Two Controversial bills namely **Trade Dispute Bill** and **Public Safety Bill** were to be passed by the House that day.

The intention of the bombing was to draw attention to the problems of the people. The intention was not to hurt or kill anyone but to draw attention of the media and public to their cause

➤ **Achievements**

- They succeeded to a great extent in **removing fear of authority** in the minds of the common people.
- The revolutionaries were fearless in nature and heroic in their actions which encouraged people to stand up against authority.
- The Government made some legislative changes bowing to demands from the nationalists.
- It aroused a patriotic feeling among Indians.
- They believed in secularism and promoted it. They believed that secularism was the key to India's unity and Independence.
- The Movement became weak after the death of Bhagat Singh as his charisma was unmatched. The movement didn't die completely and many revolutionaries resurfaced during the 1942 Quit India Movement.

Events of 1928

Simon Commission

In 1927, the British appointed the India Statutory Commission headed by Sir John Simon

The purpose of this mission was:-

1. To review the Government of India Act, 1919
2. To suggest legal and administrative reforms for the future

In 1928, the members of the commission reached India to widespread protests. The protestors were raising slogans like 'Simon Go Back' and 'Go Back Simon'

The main reason for protests was that the mission didn't include any Indian. In the earlier acts of 1909, 1919 also there was no Indian member but they did not witness such protest. This shows the change in political scenario.

Nehru Committee

- Purpose of this committee was to form a draft constitution for the country
- The first meeting was held at Delhi, followed by Mumbai and Lucknow
- A Sub Committee headed by Motilal Nehru was formed. Other prominent members were Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir Ali Imam, M.R. Jayakar and Subhash Chandra Bose

Recommendations

1. Dominion Status
2. Secular State
3. Universal Adult Suffrage
4. To end separate electorate
5. Reservations of seats for minorities

Reaction to the report

- Jawaharlal Nehru, Motilal Nehru's son opposed dominion status.
- Young leaders like Subhash Chandra Bose in Congress and Muslim League demanded 'Poorna Swaraj' or complete independence.
- Jinnah's fourteen point program

Jinnah's Fourteen Point Program

5 key demands

1. Separate electorate
2. Reservation of seats for Muslims
3. One-third reservation in Union Parliament
4. Weak Centre and strong States
5. If 4/5th members of a particular community oppose a bill; it shall not be passed

Lahore Session of Indian National Congress

- In this session Congress demanded 'Poorna Swaraj' (complete independence) for the first time.
- The session was presided by Jawaharlal Nehru. Gandhi supported Jawaharlal Nehru in this session.
- On 31 December, 1929 the nationalists gathered at river Ravi and hoisted the tricolour flag
- On 26 January, 1930 they celebrated Independence Day. Our constitution was formally adopted on 26 January 1949 but was implemented on 26 January 1950 to mark this historic day.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

Meaning of the Movement

- It means to disobey a law with great civility and humility
- It was Gandhi's movement.
- Satyagraha was used as a means of protest as Gandhi said if we believe something is wrong we have every right to oppose it. This shows opposing was equally important to Gandhi
- He believed it would test the courage, patience and sacrifice of the satyagrahi

Causes of the Movement

- The British passed a law forbidding Indians to manufacture salt which could only be done by English or European manufacturers
- There were large scale arrests during the anti-Simon Commission movement.
- 1929-33 was the period of Great Depression which affected all capitalist countries including India. It led to widespread unemployment, poverty and unrest.
- Gandhi presented 11 point program to the government.

Nature

- Gandhi started Dandi March with only 78 people, from Gandhi's Ashram in Sabarmati on 12 March, 1930, but was joined by thousands by the time he reached Dandi.
- The entire distance was covered on foot passing through villages, towns. This enabled Gandhi to connect to the masses with his unique pad-yatra.
- Gandhian politics was not power-centric but focussed more on mobilising people for the cause of nation.
- Swadeshi goods became popular again and foreign goods were boycotted
- The peasant movement became more radical in regions where their union was strong like eastern UP and Bihar.
- In Begusarai, central Bihar, the peasants stopped paying Chowkidari Tax to Zamindars.
- In North West Frontier Province, Khan Abdul Gaffer Khan also known as Frontier Gandhi started the Red Shirt Movement.

Features

- It was an all India mass movement.
- It was more popular among the peasants and in rural areas.
- The unity among Hindus and Muslims was missing. This was due to Jinnah's demands and differences between Congress and Muslim League.
- The kind of resilience shown by Gandhian Satyagrahis was very unique.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact – 5th March, 1931

- It was the first time that an Indian leader was invited by the British for a dialogue at almost equal footing
- It had been almost a year since the movement began which forced the British to initiate a dialogue with Gandhi
- Gandhi agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience movement and government agreed to release all political prisoners
- The salt law was amended and people living in coastal areas were allowed to manufacture salt. Peaceful agitation against liquor was allowed and confiscated property was returned.
- Gandhi agreed to participate in II Round Table Conference.