

# Difference Between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore on Nationalism

The two stalwarts of the Indian Independence Struggle, Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore had diverging views regarding nationalism.

They both had a novel, yet different approaches when it came to defining contemporary nationalism.

Believing that imperialism is an external manifestation of nationalism, Rabindranath Tagore considered that 'internationalism' would cut above the narrowness of nationalism.

Mahatma Gandhi (2nd October 1869, - January 30th. 1948), on the other hand, strived to make internationalism more accepting and tolerant by broadening its horizons within the fold of nationalism.



This article will further highlight the differences between Gandhi and Tagore's idea of nationalism for the IAS Exam.

<b>Differences between Gandhi and Tagore on Nationalism</b>	
Mahatma Gandhi wished to develop a more Indian-centric nationalism which would be far more welcoming and rooted to Indian -traditions and cultures rather than being influenced by the west	Rabindranath Tagore (7 May 1861 - August 7, 1941) was an ardent supporter of nationalism until the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914-1918. And the war between Japan and China in 1937.
Mahatma Gandhi in his book " <i>Hind-Swaraj</i> " criticised both the moderate and extremist nationalists of the Indian National Congress as the believed that both their methods were insufficient to give a unique identity to a uniquely Indian-form of nationalism	Tagore believed that nationalism was just another term for the appropriation of wealth and territory of other countries and that it would violate the basic ideals of humanity.
Mahatma Gandhi argued that the type of nationalism favoured by freedom fighters everywhere was too violent in its nature and approach and it would only lead to future conflicts.	Rabindranath Tagore argued that violent nationalism would destroy civilization itself. He was also opposed to non-violent forms of nationalism such as the one represented by Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement, which he felt presented a more isolationist view of India
Mahatma Gandhi advocated that the role of a ' <i>lingua franca</i> ' (common language between speakers whose native languages are different.) will play a crucial role in fostering nationalism in a country that has different languages and dialect groups.	Rabindranath Tagore believed that contemporary nationalism will eventually take a violent form and thus it was necessary to arrive at an alternative.
In conclusion, Mahatma Gandhi's idea of nationalism was to be based on self-sufficiency at all levels of society	Ultimately, Rabindranath Tagore the mechanical idea of nationalism with his idea of 'swadeshi samaj' which was based on social relations that were not mechanical and impersonal but based on love and cooperation. Thus adding a socialist element to his belief in internationalism.

