

## India: From British Raj to Indian *Swaraj* (1740's to 1948)

### I. British Colonization of India (1740's to 1814)

### II. British Raj (1814–1947) — “*Sakar ki Churi*” – the knife of sugar

#### A. India—a mosaic of cultures

#### B. British Colonial Administration

#### C. British Military and Political Suppression

1. Sepoy Rebellion (1857–58) *sepoy* < *sipahi* = police
2. Amritsar (April 13, 1919)
  - a. Jallianwalla Bagh
  - b. General Reginald E. H. Dyer

#### D. Indian National Congress — founded 1885

1. Allan Octavian Hume (1829–1912) – British civil servant
2. Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1914) – elected to House of Commons in 1892
3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856–1920) – militantly anti-British
4. Muhammed Ali Jinnah (1876–1948) – founder of Pakistan
5. Jawaharlal Nehru (1889–1964) – 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of India (1947–1964)
  - a. law degree from Cambridge University
  - b. *Toward Freedom: An Autobiography* (1941)
  - c. *The Discovery of India* (1946)
6. Sardar Patel (1875–1950)

#### E. Indian Communist Party—founded 1920 by Manabendra Nath Roy (1886–1954)

### III. Religious Conflicts

#### A. Hindus

1. Four Estates (*Varna*)
  - a. *brahmin*—priests
  - b. *kshatriya*—warriors
  - c. *vaishya*—merchants
  - d. *shudra*—peasants(declass —outcast[e]s)[*harijans*]

#### B. Muslims

#### C. Sikhs

IV. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948) — (Bapu; Gandhiji; Mahatma)

A. Early Life — studied law in England (1888–1891)

B. Activities in South Africa (1893–1914)

C. *Satyagraha* < *saty* = truth + *agraha* = struggle

1. Influenced by:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| a. Jainism     | f. Raychandbhai Mehta                                |
| b. Buddhism    | g. Shamal Bhat                                       |
| c. Jesus       | h. Henry David Thoreau                               |
| d. Leo Tolstoy | i. Hinduism ( <i>ahimsa</i> ; <i>Bhagavad-Gita</i> ) |
| e. John Ruskin |  |

2. Principles

- a. civil disobedience must be offered to unjust laws
- b. disobedience must be carried out in attitude of love + nonviolence
- c. act of disobedience must be seen as offering of sacrifice to God
- d. aim should be to change hearts and minds of oppressor/opponent

E. Evaluations by

1. Jawaharlal Nehru, “Gandhi and Indian Independence”
2. Nathuram Godse, [“Why I Killed Gandhi”] (November 8, 1948)
2. Robert Payne, *The Life and Death of Mahatma Gandhi* (1969)
3. Erik H. Erikson. *Gandhi’s Truth: On the Origins of Militant Non-Violence* (1969)
4. Judith M. Brown, *Gandhi and Civil Disobedience: The Mahatma in Indian Politics, 1928–1934* (1977)
5. V. S. Naipaul, *India: A Wounded Civilization* (1977)
6. Stanley Wolpert, *India* (1991)

V. Independence for India and Pakistan (Aug. 14, 1947) and Burma (Jan. 4, 1948)

A. British Role — Lord Louis Mountbatten – Governor General of the Dominion

B. Relationship of India with Pakistan

1. Hindu-Muslim riots (1946–1948)
2. First Kashmir War (1947–1949)

## Gandhi's Later Activities in India (1915–1948)

- 1915 January 9: arrives in Bombay
- 1917 April–August: aids indigo workers of Champaran  
December: beginning of *khadi* (homespun) movement
- 1918 February–March: leads *satyagraha* campaign for millworkers in Ahmedabad
- 1919 April: announces three-day penitential fast for massacre at Amritsar
- 1921 July 31: presides over bonfire of foreign cloth in Bombay  
December 24: National Congress gives Gandhi sole executive authority; begins general *satyagraha* campaign; boycott of British goods (*hartal*)
- 1922 February 4: Chauri Chaura riots — 23 policemen killed; penitential fast  
March 10: arrested and sentenced to 6 years in prison
- 1924 February 4: released from prison because of poor health  
September 17: begins 21-day fast for Hindu-Muslim unity
- 1928 December 28: again assumes leadership — gives British 1 year to grant dominion status
- 1929 March: arrested for burning foreign cloth; fined one rupee  
October 31: Viceroy opens discussions with Gandhi and other Indian leaders
- 1930 January 1: Indian National Congress votes for complete independence  
March 12: *Satyagraha* campaign — Gandhi's Salt March  
May 5: arrested, imprisoned without trial  
May 21: Dharasana Salt Works; confrontation led by Sarojini Naidu
- 1931 January 26: released from prison — discussions with British  
March 4: Delhi (Gandhi–Irwin) Pact  
September–December: in London for 2nd Round-Table Conference
- 1932 January 4: Gandhi and other Nationalist leaders arrested; Indian National Congress declared illegal  
September 20–26: initiates “fast unto death” in behalf of granting Untouchables (*harijans*) the right to vote
- 1933 May 8: released from prison  
July 15: All-India Congress decides on resumption of *satyagraha*  
August 1: arrested and sentenced to 1 year in prison; released after a few days because of poor health due to fast to help *harijans*
- 1934 October 24: withdraws from National Congress—convinced members used *satyagraha* as tactic rather than as moral commitment
- 1939 March 3: fasts for reforms in Rajkot  
April 29: advocates policy of conciliation toward princes
- 1942 April 11: Indian National leaders reject offer of autonomy with right to secede; instead, demand immediate independence; Gandhi and other leaders arrested, but released later in year  
August 9: arrested and imprisoned at Aga Khan Palace in Poona
- 1944 February 22: Death of Kasturbhai Gandhi  
May 6: released from prison
- 1945 September 19: All-India Congress under Gandhi and Nehru reject Cripps plan; call on Great Britain to “quit India”
- 1946 Hindu-Muslim riots
- 1947 June 3: All-India Congress agrees to partition of India and Pakistan  
August 15: Independence of Dominion of India goes into effect  
September 1–4: fast to stop Hindu–Muslim violence in Calcutta
- 1948 January 13–18: fast to stop Hindu–Muslim violence in Delhi  
January 30: assassinated by a Hindu for giving up too much to Muslims (“Muhammed” Gandhi)