

India: From Raj to Swaraj

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

A. Seven Years War (1756–1763)

1. British (Robert Clive [1725–1774]) vs. French (Joseph Dupleix [1697–1763])
2. Battle of Plassey (1757)

B. Independent Princes (Rajas) → dependency

C. British Economic Exploitation of India

1. East India Company (lost trade monopoly in 1814)
2. Warren Hastings, first Governor-General of Bengal (1773–1784)

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

A. British Colonial Administration

1. William Bentinck, Governor-General (1828–1835)
 - a. outlawed *suttee* (*sati*)
 - b. outlawed *thuggee*
2. Indian Civil Service (ICS)
3. railroads, irrigation, telegraph
4. education – Rammohun Roy (1772–1833) “father of modern India”
– “Letter to Lord Amherst”

B. 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

C. Indian National Congress — founded 1885

1. Allan Octavian Hume (1829–1912)
2. Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1914) – elected to House of Commons in 1892
– 1871 London Speech
3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856–1920) – militantly anti-British
– “Freedom Is My Birthright”
4. Muhammed Ali Jinnah (1876–1948) – founder of Pakistan

III. 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
- b. Buddhism
- c. Jesus
- d. Leo Tolstoy
- e. John Ruskin
- f. Raychandbhai Mehta
- g. Shyamal Bhat
- h. Henry David Thoreau
- i. Hinduism (*ahimsa*; *Bhagavad-Gita*)

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

D. “Indian Home Rule”

E. Activities in India (1915–1948)

F. Evaluations by

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

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

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)