

## National Movement : History : Chapter 6 (Extra Notes)

### Question 1.

Name some of the political associations that were formed in the 1870s and 1880s. What were their goals?

#### Solution:

Political associations formed in the 1870s and 1880s mostly by Indian lawyers educated in Britain. Some of these Associations were, the Indian National Congress, the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, the Indian Association, the Madras Mahajan Sabha and the Bombay Presidency Association. These associations functioned in different parts of the country, with a common goal for all the people of India. The common goal was an independent India, empowered to take decisions regarding its own governance.

### Question 2

What brought the moderates and radicals together?

#### Solution:

In 1905 Viceroy Curzon partitioned Bengal which was the biggest province of British India and included Bihar and parts of Orissa. The government separated East Bengal and merged it with Assam.

The British stated that Bengal was divided for administrative convenience; where as the real reason was to restrict the influence of Bengali politicians and to split the Bengali people.

It was this division of Bengal that brought the moderates and radicals together. All the leaders opposed the division. Large public meetings and demonstrations were organized and novel methods of mass protest developed.

### Question 3.

Describe the Rowlatt Satyagraha.

#### Solution:

In 1919 Gandhiji gave a call for a Satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act, passed by the British. The Act restricted the freedom of expression and strengthened police powers. Mahatma Gandhi, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and others strongly opposed this Act.

April 6th 1919, was observed as a day opposing the Act. It was a non-violent opposition.

Satyagraha Sabhas were set up all over India against the Rowlatt Act. It was the first all-India struggle against the British government.

#### **Question 4.**

**What did the Khilafat movement support?**

**Solution:**

The Khilafat movement was a political campaign launched mainly by Muslims in South Asia to influence the British government and to protect the Ottoman Empire after World War I.

In 1920 the movement gained force after the Treaty of Sèvres, which solidified the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire. Indian Muslims were keen that the Khalifa be allowed to retain control over Muslim sacred places in the erstwhile Ottoman Empire. The leaders of the Khilafat agitation, Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, now wished to initiate a full-fledged Non-Cooperation Movement. Gandhiji supported the movement.

#### **Question 5.**

**What made Gandhiji call off the non-cooperation movement?**

**Solution:**

As the Non-Cooperation Movement turned violent in some places Gandhiji called off the movement. The main incident that made Gandhiji call off the movement was the Chauri Chaura incident. Here the peasants set fire to a police station and 22 policemen died. The setting of the police station was in retaliation to the police firing at a peaceful demonstration by the peasants.

#### **Question 6**

**Who did the Indian National Congress wish to speak for?**

**Solution**

Indian National Congress wished to speak for all the people of India, irrespective of class, color, caste, creed, language, or gender. It stated that India, its resources and systems were not of any one class or community of India, but of all the different communities of India.

#### **Question 7**

**What economic impact did the First World War have on India?**

**Solution**

The First World War changed the economic and political situation in India. There was a huge rise in the defense expenditure of the Government of India. The government increased taxes on individuals and businesses. The price of all commodities increased putting the common man into a lot of hardship. There was a great demand for industrial goods due to the war and this resulted in the decline of European goods being imported into India. This in turn gave the Indian industrialists a chance to expand their production.

### **Question 8**

**What did the Muslim League reSolution of 1940 ask for?**

#### **Solution**

**In 1940 the Muslim League passed a re Solution demanding “Independent States” for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of the country. The re Solution did not mention partition or Pakistan.**

### **Question 9**

**Discuss those developments of the 1937-47 period that led to the creation of Pakistan**

#### **Solution**

**In 1937 the government announced elections to the provincial legislatures. The Congress was victorious in 7 out of 11 provinces and formed governments in the 7 provinces.**

**A new phase of civil disobedience movement was started by Gandhiji. The ‘Quit India was initiated. The British did their best to suppress the movement. Finally the British began accepting the demand for freedom by the Indians.**

**In 1940 the Muslim League passed a re Solution demanding “Independent States” for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of the country.**

**The Muslims feared that they may be suppressed by the Hindus as the Hindus were a majority in India. A social divide was created between the Hindus and the Muslims increased as the Congress failed to mobilize the Muslim masses.**

**At the end of the Second World War in 1945, the British opened talks with the Congress, the League for the independence of India. The talks failed because the League saw itself as the sole spokesperson of India’s Muslims. The Congress could not accept this claim since a large number of Muslims still supported it.**

**In 1946 elections to the provinces were held. The divide between the congress and the Muslim League became more evident after the elections. The Congress did well in the “General” constituencies, at the same time the Muslim League succeeded in areas where seats were reserved for Muslims. The League persisted with its demand for “Pakistan”.**

**In March 1946 the British cabinet sent a three-member mission to Delhi to examine the best suited political framework for a free India. It was suggested that India should remain united with some autonomy for Muslim-majority areas. The Congress and the Muslim League were unable to come to a consensus and partition became inevitable.**

**After the failure of the Cabinet Mission, the Muslim League decided on mass agitation for an independent state of Pakistan.**

It was announced on 16 August 1946 as “Direct Action Day”. Riots broke out in Calcutta which lasted for many days. Thousands of people died in these riots.

By March 1947 violence spread to different parts of northern India. Many hundred thousand people were killed and numerous women had to face atrocities.

Millions of people were forced to flee their homes.

The state of Pakistan was born. The partition brought untold misery to millions of Indians.

### Question 10

Write about different forms that the Non-cooperation movement took in varied parts of India. How did the people of India understand Mahatma Gandhi?

### Solution

The people of various places in India showed different reactions.

- The Patidar peasants in Kheda, Gujarat, started nonviolent campaigns against several high land demands of the British.
- The Muslim traders and peasants of Sind (now in Pakistan), were encouraged and excited about the Khilafat call.
- The Akali agitation (of the Sikhs) in Punjab aimed to mitigate corrupt Mahants. These mahants were assured by the British itself.
- In Bengal, the Khilafat non-cooperation alliance offered extensive communal unity and power to the national movement.
- In Andhra Pradesh, the tribals and peasants staged a ‘forest satyagraha’ number while even sending off their cattle into the forests, without having to pay for the grazing fee.

Most people thought of Mahatma Gandhi as a sort of messiah. They thought of him as a leader that could help in overcoming poverty and even misery. Gandhiji worked towards developing class unity rather than class conflict.