

**ST. ANN'S DEGREE COLLEGE FOR
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**TOPIC –
NATIONALISM IN INDIA**

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INTRODUCTION

Nationalism is an ideology which asserts that a nation is formed by a group of people with a common identity and history.

Growth of modern Nationalism in India is associated with anti-colonial movement. The sense of being oppressed under colonialism provided a shared bond that tied many different groups together.

WORLD WAR I (1914-18)

World War I was the turning point in the history of Indian National Movement. It created new economic and political situation.

- Increase in defence expenditure
- Introduction of war loans
- Increase in taxes
- Increase in customs duties
- Income tax was introduced.



- Forced recruitment of people in the army
- Increase in prices
- Increase in poverty
- Acute shortage of food
- Crop failure in many parts of India in 1918-19 and 1920-21
- Accompanied by Influenza epidemic and famine
- Nearly 12 to 13 million people died (census 1921)



THE RISE OF MAHATMA GANDHI



❖ Champaran Satyagraha, 1916 (Bihar)-

Gandhiji travelled to Champaran to inspire the peasants against the oppressive planters.

Reasons-

- Increase in land rent
- Peasants had to grow crops as desired by landlords and lived in poverty.
- Peasants were paid very less wages

❖ Kheda Movement, 1917 (Gujarat)-

Objective:- He organized satyagraha in the support of peasants against the high land tax

Reasons-

- Increase in land tax by 23%
- Seizure of property on non payment of tax
- Crop failure led to acute famine
- A plague epidemic





❖ Ahmedabad Mill Strike, 1918 (Gujarat)-

Objective:- To organize and mobilise the cotton mill workers against mill owners.

❖ Movement against the Rowlatt Act (1919)-

Rowlatt Act: It gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities, and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years. Mahatma Gandhi was against the passing of Act. Their were widespread protest all over India.

However the Movement lost momentum due to Jallainwala Bagh Massacre.



JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE



The British government decided to clamp down on nationalists. Two leaders of the Congress Party, Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew were arrested and taken to an unknown place on 10th April, 1919. Martial law was imposed. On 13th April, 1919, at Amritsar, Punjab, British troops commanded by General Dyer entered Jallainwala Bagh. While a public meeting was being held they blocked the exit points and opened fire on the crowd; killing hundreds.

1. • The angry crowd took to the streets in many parts of North India.
2. • There were strikes and clashes with the police
3. • There were attacks on government buildings
4. • The government responded with brutal repression
5. • People were flogged and the villages(around Gujranwala) were bombed.
6. • The Satyagrahis were forced to do salaam to all the sahibs
7. • They were also forced to rub their nose on the ground and crawl on the streets

The Aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

THE KHILAFAT ISSUE

The first world war had ended with the defeat of Ottoman Turkey. And there were rumours that a harsh peace treaty was going to be imposed on the Ottoman Emperor - the spiritual head of the Islamic World (the Khalifa). To defend the Khalifa's temporal powers, a Khilafat Committee was formed in Bombay. A young generation of Muslim leaders like Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali joined forces with Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji saw this as an opportunity to bring muslims under the umbrella of a unified national movement.

❖ WHY NON-COOPERATION ?

Gandhiji believed that non-cooperation with the Britishers would lead to collapse of British rule in India and lead to Swaraj. The movement should unfold in stages to achieve success.

STAGE-1

- Surrender of titles that the government awarded
- Boycott of civil services, army, police, courts, legislative councils, Schools and foreign goods

STAGE-2

- Then, in case the government used repression, a full civil disobedience campaign would to be launched

Non-cooperation movement was adopted at the Congress session in Nagpur in December, 1920. Various social groups participated in the movement. All of them responded to the call of Swaraj, but the term meant different things to different social groups.

The Movement in the Towns-

- The Middle class participated in cities.
- Students left government controlled schools and colleges
- Headmasters and teachers resigned
- Lawyers gave up their legal practices.



Political Front-

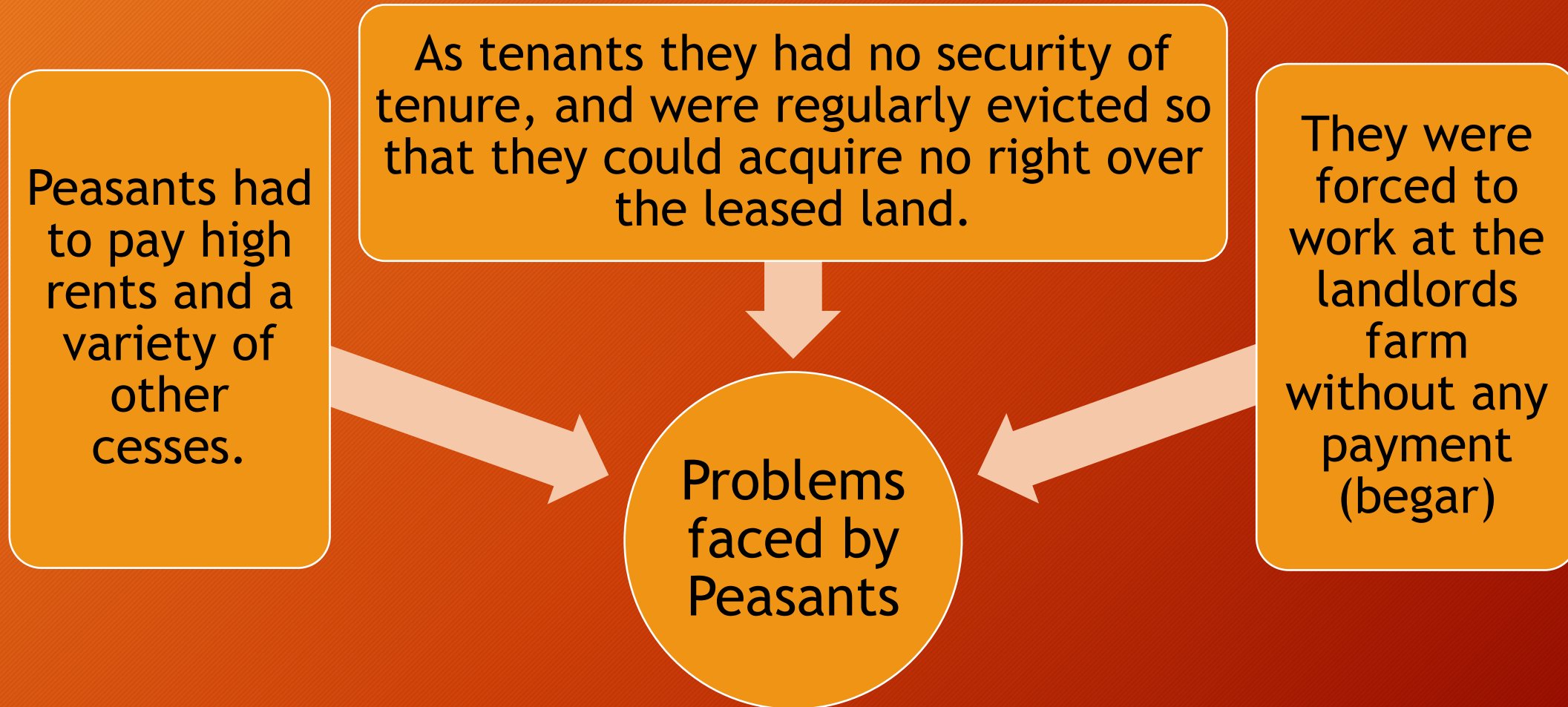
- Council elections were boycotted in most provinces.

Economic Front-

- Foreign goods were boycotted, liquor shops picketed and foreign cloth burnt in huge bonfires.

- However, the movement in cities gradually slowed down because-
 - People were finding it difficult to afford the expensive Khadi cloth.
 - There were not alternative Indian Institutions.

- Place - Awadh
- Leader - Baba Ramachandra
- Participants - Peasants
- Movement against - Talukdars and Landlords



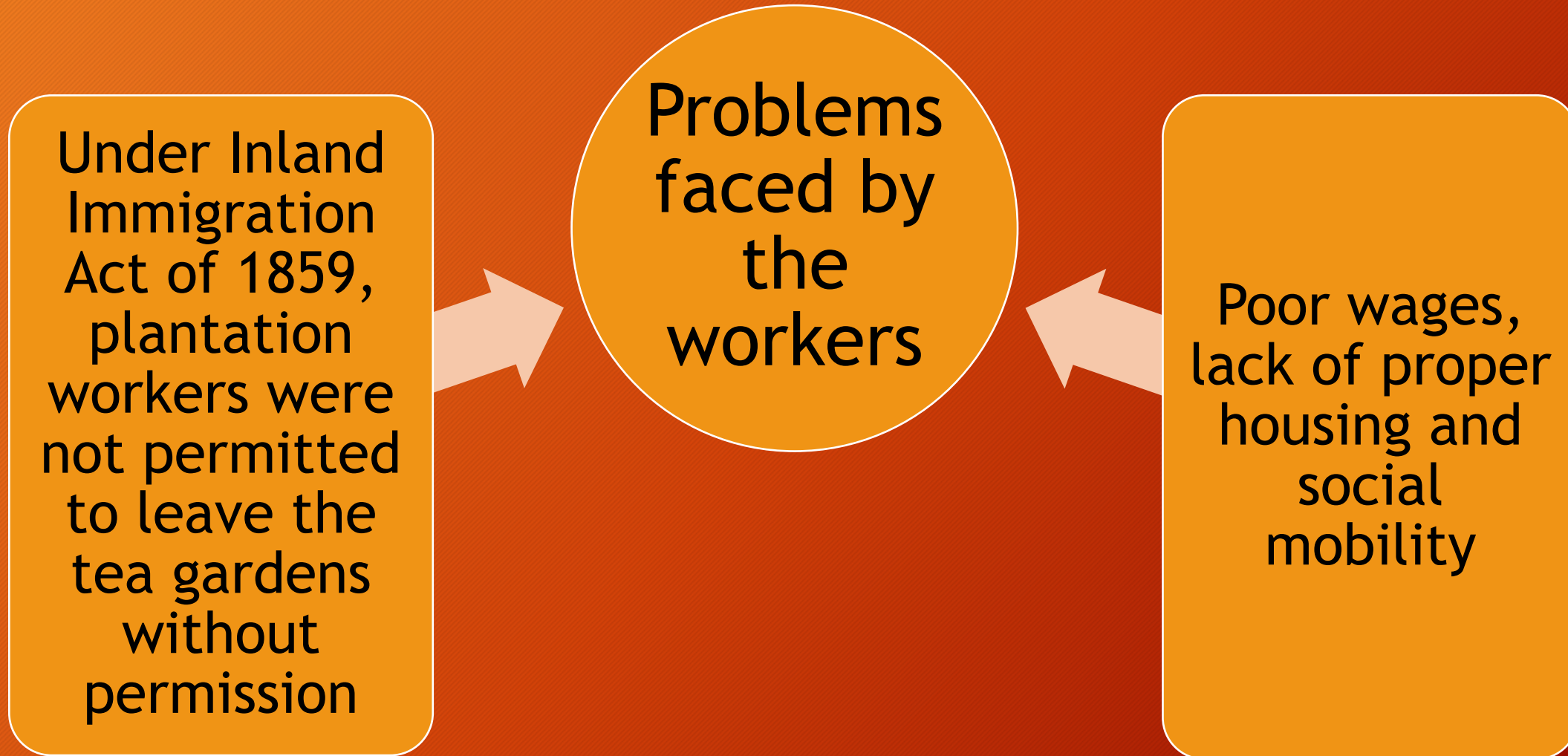
- Place - Gudem hills, Andhra Pradesh
- Leader - Alluri Sitaram Raju
- Participants - Tribal peasants
- Guerrilla warfare against - Colonial Government

Restrictions
on entering
the forests
for grazing
their cattle or
collect
fuelwood or
fruits from
the region

Problems
faced by
tribal
peasants

The
government
began forcing
them to
contribute
begar for
road building

- Place - Assam
- Participants - Plantation workers
- Movement against - Colonial Government



CALLING OFF OF NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

In February 1922, Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement.

- Movement was turning violent
- Gandhiji believed that Satyagrahis needed to be trained before they would be ready for mass struggles.



- Some Congress leaders wanted to adopt a new method of struggle. They wanted to participate in elections to the Provincial Councils. So that they could oppose British policies within the Councils and argue for reforms.



- C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru formed the Swaraj party to participate in Council policies. Jawaharlal Nehru and Subash Chandra Bose advocated radical mass agitation for full independence.

John Simon was the Chairman of the Commission. It was set up in response of the non-cooperation movement. All members were Britishers. Simon Commission arrived in India in 1928. It was greeted with the slogan 'Go back Simon'. All parties, including the Congress and the Muslim League, participated in the demonstrations.

On Oct, 1929, Lord Irwin offered dominion status for India and Round Table Conference to discuss future of Indian Constitution. This did not satisfy the Congress leaders. In December, 1929, under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru the Lahore Congress formalized the demand of 'Purna Swaraj' or full independence for India.



- It was declared that 26 January, 1930, would be celebrated as the Independence Day.
- Gandhiji's letter to Lord Irwin - January 31st, 1930 - "If the demands are not fulfilled by 11th March, Congress would launch a Civil Disobedience Movement". Gandhiji stated 11 demands, the most stirring of all was the demand to abolish the Salt tax. Lord Irwin was unwilling to negotiate. Gandhiji started his famous Salt March.



THE SALT MARCH AND THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

Mahatma Gandhi started his famous Salt March accompanied by 78 of his trusted volunteers.

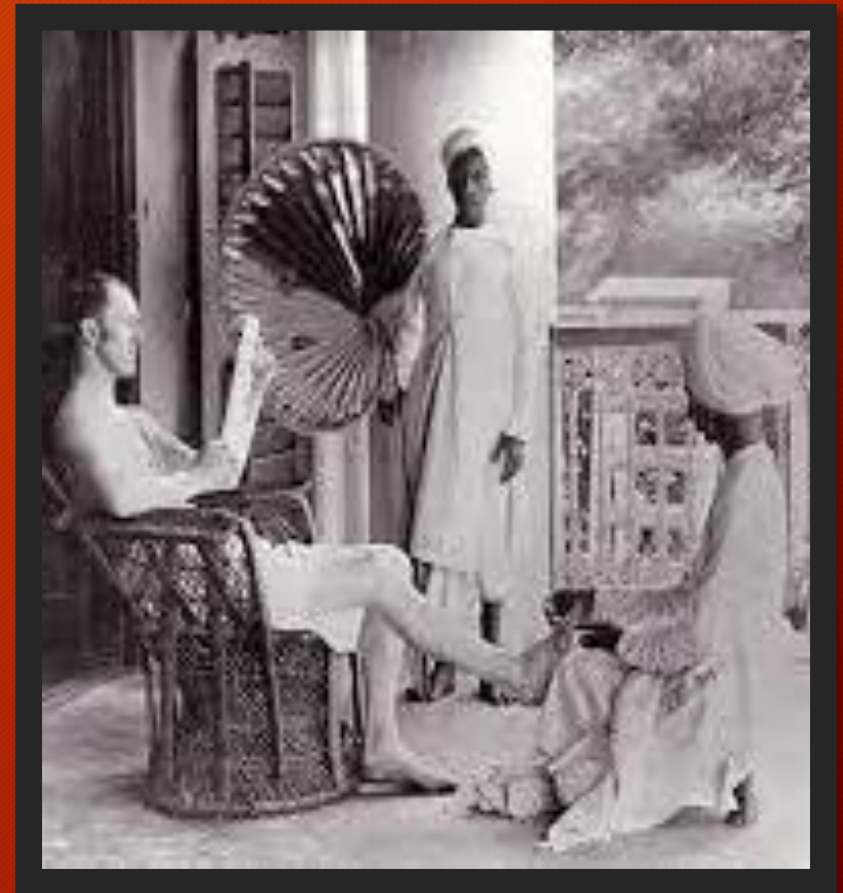
The march was over 240 miles, from Gandhiji's ashram in Sabarmati to the Gujarati coastal town of Dandi.

The volunteers walked for 24 days, about 10 miles a day. On 6 April he reached Dandi, and ceremonially violated the law, manufacturing salt by boiling sea water.

ARREST OF LEADERS AND BRITISH POLICY OF BRUTAL REPRESSION

Many Congress leaders including Mahatma Gandhi were arrested. Angry crowd in Sholapur attacked all structures that symbolized British rule like Police station. As a result Colonial Government adopted a policy of brutal repression.

- Police fired over those who protested against the arrest of leaders
- Women and children were beaten
- 100000 people were arrested



In such a situation, Mahatma Gandhi once again decided to call off the movement and entered into a pact.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact, 5th March, 1931-

1. Congress agreed to join the Second Round Table Conference to chalk out the constitutional reforms.
2. The Government agreed to release the political prisoners.

The Conference held in London was unprofitable as nothing fruitful came out of it. Ghaffar Khan and Jawaharlal Nehru were arrested. Congress has been declared illegal. Series of measures were imposed to prevent meetings, demonstrations and boycotts.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT - A FAILURE

Movement was called off many times which lessened the enthusiasm of all the participants.

Rich peasants were deeply disappointed when the movement was called off in 1931 without fulfilling their demands. Many did not participate on the relaunch.

Many Congress leaders were not in favour of supporting 'no rent' campaign due to the fear of upsetting rich peasants and landlords.

Muslims felt alienated from the movement due to the fear of the dominance of majority of Hindus. Therefore there was sparse participation.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

Thousands of women came out of their home and participated in the movement. From urban areas they came from high caste families. From rural areas they came from rich peasant household.

1. They believed that service to the nation was their sacred duty.
2. Participated in the protest marches.
3. Manufactured salt, and picketed foreign cloth and liquor shops. Many went to jail.

GANDHI'S SUPPORT FOR DALITS

Gandhiji's opinion on Dalits-

“Swaraj wouldnot come for a hundred years if untouchability was not eliminated”.

1. He called them “Harijan”, the children of god
2. Organised Satyagraha to secure their entry into the temples and other public places
3. Persuaded upper caste to change their heart by himself cleaning toilets to dignify the work.

148 seats were to be allotted to the depressed classes in the Provincial and Central Legislature

Adequate representation would be given to the depressed classes in the Civil Services.

The Dalit Reforms

Congress and Muslim League made efforts to renegotiate. Mohammad Ali Jinnah told that they will give up the demand for separate electorate if Muslims were assured the following-

- Reserved seats in the Central Assembly
- Representation in proportion to population in the muslim-dominated provinces (Bengal and Punjab)

Negotiations over the question of representation continued but all hope of resolving the issue at the All Parties Conference in 1928 disappeared when M.R. Jayakar of the Hindu Mahasabha strongly opposed efforts at compromise.

CULTURAL NATIONALISM



A variety of cultural processes are also responsible for the creation of the feeling of nationalism.

- History and fiction
- Folklore and songs
- Popular prints and symbols

PERSONIFICATION OF THE NATION

With the growth of nationalism, identity of India came to be visually associated with the image of Bharat Mata. Image was first created by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. A movement to revive Indian folklore was done by Indian nationalists. They recorded folk tales sung by bards.



They toured the villages to gather folk songs and legends.



Indians felt India is a country with rich cultural heritage and a glorious past.

Therefore to instill a sense of pride in the nation, Indian history began to be taught about differently.



Flag as a symbol of unity. Various flags were adopted during the national movement.

CONCLUSION

A growing anger against the colonial government was thus bringing together various groups and classes of Indians into a common struggle for freedom in the first half of 20th century. The Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi tried to channel people's grievances into organized movements for independence. Through such movements the nationalists tried to forge a national unity. What was emerging was a nation with many voices wanting freedom from colonial rule.

THANK YOU!