

## Part III: Towards Independence (1919-1947)

To introduce Mahatma Gandhi and his ideology in the context of the Gandhian Era and Mass Movements (1919-1947).....

### 1. Introduction to Mahatma Gandhi:

- **Early Life and Education:**

- Born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat.
- Studied law in London and later moved to South Africa, where his experiences with racial discrimination deeply influenced his future philosophy.

- **Return to India:**

- Returned to India in 1915 after two decades in South Africa, where he had already begun experimenting with his concepts of nonviolent resistance (Satyagraha).
- Became a prominent figure in Indian politics and led several major movements for independence from British rule.

### 2. Gandhian Ideology:

- **Ahimsa (Non-violence):**

- Central to Gandhi's philosophy was the concept of non-violence (Ahimsa), which was rooted in ancient Indian traditions and Jain principles.
- Gandhi believed that non-violence was the most powerful weapon in the struggle for justice and that it was essential for both personal and political liberation.

- **Satyagraha (Truth-Force):**

- Satyagraha was Gandhi's method of nonviolent resistance. It was not just passive resistance but an active, peaceful form of protest that aimed to win over opponents by appealing to their sense of justice.
- This approach was first implemented in South Africa and later became a cornerstone of the Indian independence movement, notably during the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Salt March, and the Quit India Movement.

- **Swadeshi and Economic Self-Reliance:**

- Gandhi promoted Swadeshi, the idea of self-reliance and the boycott of foreign goods, particularly British products.
- His emphasis on spinning and wearing Khadi (hand-spun cloth) was symbolic of rejecting British control over Indian industry and promoting rural self-sufficiency.

- **Sarvodaya (Welfare of All):**

- Gandhi's vision extended beyond political independence to the broader upliftment of all sections of society. He advocated for Sarvodaya, or the

welfare of all, with a focus on the upliftment of the marginalized, including Dalits (whom he referred to as Harijans), women, and the rural poor.

- **Religious Tolerance and Unity:**

- Gandhi believed in religious tolerance and worked towards unity among Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and others. His efforts to bridge communal divides were a significant aspect of his leadership during the independence struggle, despite the challenges posed by rising communal tensions.

### 3. Role in Mass Movements:

- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922):**

- Gandhi called for a nationwide boycott of British goods, institutions, and services following the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919.
- The movement mobilized millions of Indians and marked Gandhi's rise as the undisputed leader of the Indian National Congress and the independence movement.

- **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-1934):**

- The famous Salt March of 1930 was the symbolic beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement. Gandhi led a 240-mile march to the Arabian Sea to protest the British monopoly on salt.
- This movement saw widespread civil disobedience, including non-payment of taxes and boycotts of British goods.

- **Quit India Movement (1942):**

- Launched during World War II, the Quit India Movement was a mass protest demanding an end to British rule in India. Gandhi's call for "Do or Die" inspired millions, though the British government responded with mass arrests and repression.

The concept of **Satyagraha**, developed by Mahatma Gandhi, was a unique form of nonviolent resistance rooted in the idea of truth (Satya) and the force that comes from adherence to truth (Agraha). It was not merely passive resistance but an active, moral, and spiritual force that Gandhi believed could be used to oppose oppression and injustice without resorting to violence.

### 1. Concept of Satyagraha:

- **Meaning and Philosophy:**

- Derived from Sanskrit, *Satyagraha* combines two words: "Satya" (truth) and "Agraha" (firmness or insistence). Gandhi believed that holding firmly to the truth could lead to the resolution of conflicts and injustices.
- **Satyagraha was deeply rooted in the principle of Ahimsa (non-violence). Gandhi maintained that violence only begets more violence and that nonviolence is the only way to achieve lasting peace and justice.**

- **Moral and Ethical Foundations:**

- The practice of Satyagraha involved a deep commitment to ethical conduct, with the belief that one's moral authority would ultimately prevail over unjust powers.
- Gandhi emphasized the need for self-purification and discipline among those who practiced Satyagraha. They had to be willing to endure suffering without retaliation and maintain their adherence to nonviolence, even in the face of provocation.
- **Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience:**
  - Satyagraha included strategies such as non-cooperation with oppressive laws, civil disobedience, and nonviolent protests. However, the goal was not to humiliate or destroy the opponent but to convert them by appealing to their conscience.
  - Gandhi believed that the force of moral righteousness could awaken the sense of justice in the oppressor, leading to reconciliation rather than destruction.

## 2. Application of Satyagraha:

- **In South Africa:**
  - Gandhi first applied the principles of Satyagraha in South Africa (1893-1914) where he fought against racial discrimination and unjust laws targeting the Indian community.
  - *The Natal Indian Congress and Phoenix Settlement* were part of his efforts to organize the Indian community. The campaign against the oppressive Asiatic Registration Act in 1907 marked the beginning of his Satyagraha movement.
  - The success of the movement in South Africa demonstrated the power of nonviolent resistance and set the stage for its application in India.
- **In India:**
  - **Champaran Satyagraha (1917):** Gandhi's first significant application of Satyagraha in India occurred in Champaran, Bihar, where he led a movement against the exploitation of indigo farmers by British planters. This success marked his emergence as a leader in the Indian struggle for independence.
  - **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):** In Kheda, Gujarat, Gandhi led a campaign for the relief of farmers who were suffering due to crop failure and were unable to pay taxes. The movement led to concessions from the British authorities.
  - **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922):** As part of his nationwide strategy, Gandhi called for non-cooperation with the British government in the aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Indians boycotted British goods, schools, and institutions, which significantly challenged British rule.
  - **Salt Satyagraha (1930):** Also known as the Salt March or Dandi March, this was one of the most iconic applications of Satyagraha. Gandhi led a 240-mile march to the coastal town of Dandi to produce salt in defiance of British laws that monopolized its production. This sparked widespread acts of civil disobedience across India.
  - **Quit India Movement (1942):** Though the movement eventually turned violent due to British repression, Gandhi's initial call for Satyagraha through

the Quit India Movement aimed at forcing the British to leave India. It became a pivotal moment in the Indian freedom struggle.

### 3. Impact of Satyagraha:

- **National and Global Influence:**
  - Satyagraha became the foundation of India's nonviolent struggle for independence. Gandhi's leadership and the mass participation in Satyagraha movements galvanized Indians from all walks of life to join the freedom struggle.
  - Beyond India, the principles of Satyagraha inspired global movements for civil rights and social justice. Figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela were deeply influenced by Gandhi's philosophy and used it in their own struggles against oppression.
- **Challenges and Criticism:**
  - While Satyagraha was successful in mobilizing mass resistance and undermining British authority, it also faced challenges. Not all movements remained entirely nonviolent, and some leaders and factions within the Indian National Congress questioned the effectiveness of purely nonviolent methods.
  - Nonetheless, Satyagraha left an enduring legacy as a moral and ethical approach to conflict resolution and social change.

Satyagraha was not just a strategy for political resistance but a way of life that Gandhi believed could transform individuals and society. Its success in India's freedom struggle demonstrated the power of nonviolent resistance and its potential to challenge injustice globally.

The early movements of Mahatma Gandhi in India—Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad—played a crucial role in shaping the course of India's struggle for independence. These movements showcased Gandhi's ability to mobilize the masses using nonviolent resistance and marked the beginning of his leadership in India.

#### 1. Champaran Satyagraha (1917):

- **Background:**
  - The Champaran district in Bihar was the site of Gandhi's first significant intervention in Indian politics. The local farmers were forced by British planters to grow indigo on a portion of their land under the *Tinkathia* system, which required them to plant indigo on 3/20th of their land and sell it at prices fixed by the planters. When synthetic dyes replaced natural indigo, the planters charged exorbitant rents and other illegal dues from the farmers to compensate for their losses.
- **Gandhi's Involvement:**
  - Gandhi was approached by Raj Kumar Shukla, a local peasant, to intervene in the situation. Gandhi visited Champaran and, after defying the authorities'

order to leave the district, began a detailed inquiry into the grievances of the farmers.

- **Outcome:**
  - Gandhi's efforts, supported by local leaders, led to the formation of a commission of inquiry, which eventually resulted in the abolition of the Tinkathia system and the return of land to the farmers.
  - Champaran marked the first successful application of Satyagraha in India, establishing Gandhi as a national leader and demonstrating the power of nonviolent resistance.

## 2. Kheda Satyagraha (1918):

- **Background:**
  - Kheda district in Gujarat was struck by floods and famine, causing severe hardship for the local peasantry. Despite crop failures, the British authorities insisted on full tax collection, pushing the farmers into further distress.
- **Gandhi's Involvement:**
  - Gandhi, along with local leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, organized a Satyagraha in which farmers pledged not to pay taxes until their demands for relief were met. The movement was peaceful, with farmers refusing to pay taxes even under the threat of property seizure and imprisonment.
- **Outcome:**
  - The British government eventually relented and agreed to suspend tax collection until the farmers had recovered from their losses. The Kheda Satyagraha strengthened Gandhi's resolve to use Satyagraha as a tool for larger political struggles and consolidated his leadership in the Indian freedom movement.

## 3. Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918):

- **Background:**
  - The Ahmedabad textile mill workers were caught in a dispute with mill owners over wages. Due to the impact of the First World War, the cost of living had risen sharply, and the workers demanded a 50% increase in wages, while the owners were willing to concede only a 20% raise.
- **Gandhi's Involvement:**
  - Gandhi was invited to mediate between the mill owners and the workers. When negotiations failed, he advised the workers to go on strike and assured them of his support. To maintain the nonviolent nature of the strike and to prevent any hasty concessions, Gandhi undertook a fast unto death until a settlement was reached.
- **Outcome:**
  - Gandhi's intervention and fast created immense pressure on both sides, leading to a compromise in which the workers received a 35% wage increase. The successful resolution of the Ahmedabad strike further solidified



Gandhi's influence as a leader capable of bringing about peaceful solutions to social and economic conflicts.

## Impact of the Early Movements:

These early movements demonstrated Gandhi's ability to:

- Mobilize mass support through nonviolent means.
- Engage directly with the grievances of the common people, especially farmers and workers, and make their struggles a central part of the national freedom movement.
- Establish a moral high ground that resonated with both the Indian masses and the British authorities.

These campaigns were crucial in testing the principles of Satyagraha and set the stage for larger movements that followed, including the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement. Through Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad, Gandhi laid the foundations for a mass movement based on truth, nonviolence, and resistance to injustice.

The **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922)** was a significant phase in the Indian independence struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi. It marked a concerted effort by Indians to resist British rule through nonviolent means and civil disobedience. The movement aimed to challenge British authority and promote self-governance through mass mobilization and non-cooperation.

## Background and Context:

### 1. Post-World War I Discontent:

- After World War I, India faced severe economic hardships, including high inflation, unemployment, and increased taxation. The British government's failure to address these issues and its repressive policies, including the Rowlatt Act of 1919, led to widespread discontent among Indians.
- The Rowlatt Act allowed the British government to arrest individuals without trial and suppress dissent, which intensified resentment against British rule.

### 2. Gandhi's Return to Politics:

- Mahatma Gandhi, who had gained prominence through his leadership in the Champaran and Kheda movements, returned to India from South Africa in 1915. He sought to unify the Indian population under a common cause and challenge British rule through nonviolent means.

### 3. Lucknow Session (1916):

- The Lucknow Session of the Indian National Congress in 1916 marked a turning point, with the Congress and the Muslim League agreeing to work together for constitutional reforms. This collaboration laid the groundwork for the non-cooperation campaign.

## Launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

### 1. Motives and Objectives:

- **Opposition to British Rule:** The primary objective of the Non-Cooperation Movement was to resist British rule and its institutions without resorting to violence. Gandhi called for a boycott of British goods, services, and institutions.
- **Promotion of Swadeshi:** The movement aimed to promote Indian-made goods (Swadeshi) and encourage self-reliance. It sought to weaken British economic and administrative control over India.

### 2. Major Components of the Movement:

- **Boycott of British Institutions:** Gandhi urged Indians to boycott British government institutions, including schools, courts, and legislative bodies. This involved resigning from government positions and refusing to cooperate with British officials.
- **Boycott of Foreign Goods:** The movement emphasized the boycott of British goods and the promotion of indigenous products. The use of Khadi (homespun cloth) became a symbol of resistance and self-reliance.
- **Non-Cooperation with the British Government:** Indians were encouraged to refuse to pay taxes, participate in government activities, or support British policies. This included the resignation of elected representatives from legislative councils.
- **Promotion of Swadeshi Enterprises:** The movement encouraged the establishment of Indian-owned industries and businesses to reduce dependence on British goods and create economic opportunities for Indians.

## Mass Participation and Activities:

### 1. Widespread Support:

- The Non-Cooperation Movement gained widespread support across India, from urban areas to rural regions. People from various social, economic, and religious backgrounds participated in the movement.
- **Public Protests:** Large-scale protests, demonstrations, and rallies were organized across the country. These included peaceful gatherings, strikes, and marches.

### 2. Educational Institutions:

- Many Indian students and teachers resigned from British-run educational institutions and established alternative schools and colleges. These institutions promoted Indian culture and values.

### 3. Economic Impact:

- The boycott of British goods led to a decline in the sale of British products and the growth of Indian-made goods. Swadeshi products gained popularity, and new Indian industries emerged.

### 4. Social Impact:

- The movement also had a significant impact on social issues, including the promotion of untouchability abolition and the empowerment of women.

Gandhi emphasized the importance of social reform alongside political struggle.

## Challenges and Repression:

### 1. British Response:

- The British government responded with repression and punitive measures. Arrests, police brutality, and the use of force were employed to suppress the movement. Many leaders, including Gandhi, were imprisoned, and public demonstrations were met with violence.

### 2. Chauri Chaura Incident (February 1922):

- The movement faced a setback with the Chauri Chaura incident, where a violent clash occurred between protesters and the police in the town of Chauri Chaura, Uttar Pradesh. In the aftermath, a police station was set on fire, resulting in the deaths of police officers.
- Gandhi, who was committed to nonviolence, was deeply distressed by the violence and decided to suspend the movement. He called off the campaign in February 1922, realizing that the movement's nonviolent principles were being compromised.

## Consequences and Impact:

### 1. Impact on Indian Politics:

- The Non-Cooperation Movement significantly raised political awareness among Indians and demonstrated the potential of nonviolent resistance. It also strengthened Gandhi's position as a leader and showcased the Congress as a major force in the independence movement.

### 2. Impact on British Policies:

- The movement created pressure on the British government and highlighted the need for political reforms. Although the immediate response was the suspension of the movement, it set the stage for future negotiations and demands for constitutional changes.

### 3. Long-term Effects:

- The Non-Cooperation Movement laid the groundwork for subsequent movements in the Indian independence struggle, including the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement. It also contributed to the growth of Indian nationalism and the desire for self-rule.

### 4. Legacy:

- The Non-Cooperation Movement remains a landmark event in India's history, exemplifying the power of nonviolent resistance and mass mobilization in the struggle for independence. Gandhi's approach to civil disobedience and his emphasis on nonviolence had a lasting impact on the Indian freedom movement and inspired other global struggles for justice and freedom.

The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922) was a transformative phase in India's quest for independence. It mobilized millions of Indians against British rule, promoted self-



reliance, and demonstrated the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance. Despite facing challenges and eventual suspension, the movement left a lasting legacy in the struggle for India's freedom.

The **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922)** was a major event in India's freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi. It marked the first large-scale and nationwide attempt to oppose British rule through nonviolent means. The movement's roots lay in the widespread discontent and outrage at British policies, and it represented a significant shift towards mass participation in the fight for independence.

## Causes of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

### 1. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919):

- The massacre in Amritsar on April 13, 1919, where British troops under General Dyer opened fire on a peaceful gathering, killing hundreds of men, women, and children, left India in shock and outrage. This brutal act exposed the repressive nature of British rule and fueled widespread anger against the colonial government.
- Gandhi, who had initially supported the British during World War I with the expectation of political reforms, became disillusioned after the massacre. He saw the need for a complete break with the British.

### 2. Rowlatt Act (1919):

- The Rowlatt Act, also known as the Black Act, was passed by the British government to curb nationalist activities. It allowed the British to imprison Indians without trial, violating basic civil liberties.
- This repressive legislation was seen as a betrayal of the trust that Indians had placed in the British, especially after their contributions during World War I, where many Indians hoped for greater autonomy as a reward for their loyalty.

### 3. Khilafat Movement (1920):

- The Khilafat Movement was initiated by Indian Muslims to protest against the harsh treatment of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, particularly the removal of the Caliph, who was considered the spiritual leader of Muslims worldwide.
- Gandhi saw the Khilafat Movement as an opportunity to unite Hindus and Muslims against British rule. He made common cause with the Khilafat leaders, including the Ali brothers (Shaukat Ali and Mohammad Ali), thus creating a powerful platform for Hindu-Muslim unity in the struggle for independence.

### 4. Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919) and Government of India Act (1919):

- These reforms, introduced by the British, fell far short of Indian expectations. The Government of India Act of 1919 provided for a system of "dyarchy," which divided power between elected Indian representatives and British officials. However, key areas like defense, law, and finance remained under British control.

- This half-hearted attempt at reform was seen as inadequate by Indian leaders, further increasing the demand for full self-rule (*Swaraj*).

## Launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

### 1. Gandhi's Strategy:

- Gandhi believed that the British rule in India was based on the cooperation of Indians, and if Indians withdrew their cooperation, the British administration would collapse. He proposed a movement of non-cooperation, where Indians would refuse to participate in British institutions, boycotting government offices, schools, courts, and British goods.
- The movement was also aimed at promoting self-reliance through the revival of Indian industries like Khadi and the adoption of Swadeshi (using Indian-made goods).

### 2. Indian National Congress Support:

- At the Nagpur session of the Indian National Congress in December 1920, the Non-Cooperation Movement was formally adopted. Congress, under Gandhi's leadership, resolved to renounce cooperation with the British government unless their demands for self-government were met.
- The movement received widespread support from different sections of Indian society, including peasants, workers, students, and professionals. Gandhi's call to boycott British goods, institutions, and honors resonated with the masses.

### 3. Key Elements of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

- **Boycott of Government Institutions:** Indians were encouraged to resign from government jobs, boycott British courts, legislative councils, and government schools, and refuse British titles and honors.
- **Promotion of Swadeshi:** Gandhi emphasized the need to revive the indigenous industry by promoting the use of Khadi (handspun cloth) and boycotting foreign cloth and goods. The spinning wheel became a symbol of the movement.
- **Mass Participation:** The movement attracted a vast spectrum of Indian society, from urban intellectuals to rural farmers, creating a united front against British rule.

### 4. Initial Successes:

- The movement was initially successful in garnering mass participation. Thousands of students left British schools and colleges, lawyers gave up their practices, and people started boycotting foreign goods. Gandhi's ability to connect with the common people, and his emphasis on nonviolence and self-discipline, made the movement a potent force.

### 5. End of the Movement:

- The Non-Cooperation Movement was abruptly called off by Gandhi in February 1922 after the violent incident at Chauri Chaura in Uttar Pradesh, where a group of protesters clashed with the police, leading to the burning of a police station and the death of 22 policemen.

- Gandhi, a staunch believer in nonviolence, could not condone such actions, and he called off the movement to prevent further violence. This decision led to a temporary setback for the freedom struggle, but the movement had already left a significant impact on the Indian national consciousness.

## Impact of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

- The movement was a turning point in India's struggle for independence, as it marked the shift from elite-led politics to a mass-based movement.
- It exposed the vulnerability of British rule and demonstrated the potential power of nonviolent resistance.
- The movement also fostered Hindu-Muslim unity, although this unity would later be challenged by communal tensions.
- Despite its premature end, the Non-Cooperation Movement laid the groundwork for future mass movements, including the Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement, and solidified Gandhi's leadership in the national struggle for freedom.

The **Mass Participation and Suspension** of the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922) marked both its most powerful and most controversial phases. The movement saw unprecedented involvement of various sections of Indian society, transforming it into a true mass movement, but its abrupt suspension also led to debates and discussions about the direction of India's freedom struggle.

## Mass Participation in the Non-Cooperation Movement:

### 1. **Broad-Based Involvement:**

- The Non-Cooperation Movement was notable for its inclusivity. Gandhi's call for non-cooperation attracted people from various backgrounds—urban intellectuals, rural peasants, students, professionals, and even women, who had largely been absent from earlier political movements.
- **Farmers and Peasants:** In rural areas, the movement took on a distinctly agrarian flavor. Peasants, frustrated by high taxes, forced cultivation, and landlord oppression, saw the Non-Cooperation Movement as a way to express their grievances against both the British authorities and local landlords.
  - For example, in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Gujarat, peasants actively joined the movement, refusing to pay taxes and boycotting British goods. In Awadh, peasants led by Baba Ramchandra combined the demand for land reforms with the call for non-cooperation.
- **Workers:** In urban areas, industrial workers joined the movement by organizing strikes and protests against British-owned factories and industries. The movement provided them with an avenue to voice their dissatisfaction with colonial exploitation and poor working conditions.
- **Students and Teachers:** Educational institutions became a critical battleground for non-cooperation. Thousands of students and teachers boycotted government-run schools and colleges, leading to the establishment

of national educational institutions like Jamia Millia Islamia and Kashi Vidyapeeth, which were based on Indian values and independence from colonial influence.

- **Lawyers and Professionals:** Prominent lawyers like C. Rajagopalachari, Motilal Nehru, and C.R. Das gave up their legal practices as a form of protest. Many professionals also resigned from government jobs, marking a significant step in the movement's impact on the educated middle class.
  - **Women:** Though the movement did not explicitly focus on women's rights, it saw increased participation of women, who joined protests, boycotted foreign goods, and participated in the spinning of Khadi. Women like Sarojini Naidu and Kasturba Gandhi played prominent roles in mobilizing support for the movement.
2. **Spread of Boycotts and Protests:**
- **Boycott of Foreign Goods:** One of the key strategies of the movement was the boycott of British goods, particularly textiles. Bonfires of foreign cloth were organized, and people were urged to wear Khadi (handspun Indian cloth) as a symbol of self-reliance and resistance.
  - **Resignation from Government Services:** Many Indians resigned from government jobs as a form of protest. The refusal to serve in the colonial administration undermined British authority and demonstrated widespread discontent.
  - **Boycott of Elections:** The Non-Cooperation Movement also targeted elections to legislative councils, urging Indians to refrain from participating in these British-controlled bodies. The idea was to delegitimize British institutions by withdrawing Indian participation.
  - **National Schools and Colleges:** The movement saw the establishment of several national schools and colleges that sought to provide education free from colonial influence. These institutions were founded on principles of self-reliance and aimed to foster nationalist sentiments among Indian students.
3. **Challenges and Divergences:**
- While the movement succeeded in mobilizing a broad spectrum of society, it also faced challenges. Different regions and social groups had their own priorities and concerns, which sometimes conflicted with the broader goals of the movement.
  - For example, in some regions, the movement took on a more violent and radical character, particularly in rural areas where peasants had longstanding grievances against landlords. The movement's nonviolent principles were not always adhered to by all participants.

## Suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

### 1. **Chauri Chaura Incident (February 1922):**

- The turning point in the movement came with the **Chauri Chaura incident** on February 4, 1922, in the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh. A peaceful protest by peasants against high food prices turned violent when police fired on the crowd, leading to an angry response from the protesters.

- The protesters set fire to a police station, killing 22 policemen. This violent incident was in direct contradiction to Gandhi's principle of nonviolence, which was the cornerstone of the Non-Cooperation Movement.
  - Gandhi was deeply disturbed by the incident, viewing it as a betrayal of the movement's commitment to nonviolence. He believed that the Indian masses were not yet ready to fully embrace nonviolent resistance and feared that further violence could derail the struggle for independence.
- 2. Gandhi's Decision to Withdraw the Movement:**
- In response to the violence at Chauri Chaura, Gandhi decided to call off the Non-Cooperation Movement in February 1922. He believed that the movement had deviated from its original path of nonviolence, and he was unwilling to continue if it meant more violence.
  - Gandhi's decision was a deeply controversial one. Many leaders within the Indian National Congress, including Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das, were disappointed, as they believed that the movement had the potential to bring the British government to its knees. They argued that calling off the movement would demoralize the masses and set back the momentum that had been built up.
  - However, Gandhi remained firm in his belief that nonviolence was non-negotiable, and he chose to prioritize ethical principles over political expediency.
- 3. Aftermath and Impact:**
- The suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement led to a period of introspection within the Indian nationalist movement. While the movement had not achieved its immediate goal of Swaraj (self-rule), it had succeeded in mobilizing millions of Indians and instilling in them a sense of national pride and unity.
  - The movement also marked the beginning of Gandhi's emergence as the undisputed leader of the Indian freedom struggle. Despite the setback, Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance continued to guide the nationalist movement in subsequent years.
  - The suspension of the movement also led to a temporary decline in mass political activity, with the Indian National Congress shifting its focus to more moderate methods of engagement with the British government. Some leaders, disillusioned with non-cooperation, turned to more radical approaches, while others sought to work within the framework of constitutional reforms.

### Legacy of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

- Although the Non-Cooperation Movement was suspended, its legacy was profound. It marked the beginning of mass participation in the Indian freedom struggle, transforming it from an elite-led movement to one involving millions of ordinary Indians.



- The movement also set the stage for future mass movements, such as the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement, which would build on the foundations laid by non-cooperation.
- Importantly, the movement reaffirmed the centrality of nonviolence in the Indian freedom struggle, even as it highlighted the challenges of maintaining such a strategy in the face of widespread oppression and violence.

The Non-Cooperation Movement was a pivotal moment in India's freedom struggle. It demonstrated the power of mass mobilization and nonviolent resistance, even as it faced significant challenges and ultimately ended in suspension. Gandhi's commitment to nonviolence remained unshaken, and his leadership continued to guide the Indian national movement in the years to come.

The **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-1934)** was a pivotal phase in India's struggle for independence, led by Mahatma Gandhi. It marked a shift from earlier movements, such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, by directly challenging the British government's laws and authority through nonviolent mass defiance. The movement also saw widespread participation from various sections of Indian society, further solidifying the national demand for independence.

## Background of the Civil Disobedience Movement:

1. **Swaraj (Self-Rule) Demand:**
  - By the late 1920s, the Indian National Congress had shifted its goal from seeking dominion status within the British Empire to demanding complete independence (*Purna Swaraj*). This change was formalized at the Lahore Session of the Congress in December 1929, where the resolution for full independence was passed, and January 26, 1930, was declared as Independence Day.
  - However, the British government showed no inclination towards granting full independence, and the colonial policies continued to oppress Indians economically and politically.
2. **Simon Commission (1927):**
  - The Simon Commission, appointed by the British government to review the Government of India Act of 1919, further aggravated Indian discontent. The commission had no Indian members, which was seen as an insult to Indian political aspirations.
  - The commission's arrival in India was met with widespread protests, with slogans like "Simon Go Back" echoing across the country. This intensified the demand for constitutional reforms and independence.
3. **The Nehru Report (1928):**
  - In response to the Simon Commission, the Indian National Congress proposed the Nehru Report, which demanded dominion status for India. When the British government ignored the report, it fueled further disillusionment with constitutional methods.
4. **Impact of the Great Depression (1929):**

- The global economic depression that began in 1929 severely impacted the Indian economy, particularly the agricultural sector. Farmers were unable to sell their produce at fair prices, and the colonial government's tax policies exacerbated their hardships. This economic distress contributed to growing unrest and set the stage for mass protests.

## Launch of the Civil Disobedience Movement:

### 1. Gandhi's Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha):

- The movement began on March 12, 1930, with Gandhi's famous **Dandi March**. Gandhi and 78 of his followers marched from Sabarmati Ashram to the coastal village of Dandi in Gujarat, covering a distance of about 240 miles. The purpose of the march was to defy the British salt laws, which imposed a tax on the production and sale of salt, a basic necessity for all Indians.
- On April 6, 1930, Gandhi broke the salt law by picking up a handful of salt from the seashore. This simple act of civil disobedience became a powerful symbol of resistance against British rule and ignited the movement across the country.

### 2. Mass Participation:

- The Civil Disobedience Movement quickly spread across India, with people in different regions taking part in various forms of defiance against British laws. The movement included the boycott of foreign goods, refusal to pay taxes, and the picketing of liquor shops.
- **Salt Satyagraha:** Following Gandhi's example, thousands of Indians across the country defied the salt laws by making their own salt or participating in salt raids. The salt satyagraha became a unifying symbol of resistance for all sections of society, from peasants to urban professionals.
- **No-Tax Campaigns:** In several regions, particularly in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) and Bihar, peasants refused to pay land revenue and taxes to the British authorities. This was a direct challenge to the economic foundation of British rule in India.
- **Boycott of British Goods:** People were encouraged to boycott British goods and promote indigenous products (Swadeshi). Bonfires of foreign cloth were organized, and Khadi became a symbol of self-reliance and resistance.

### 3. Women's Participation:

- The Civil Disobedience Movement saw significant participation from women, who played a crucial role in picketing foreign goods shops, participating in salt satyagraha, and organizing protests. Women like Sarojini Naidu, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, and Kasturba Gandhi emerged as prominent leaders during this period, inspiring many others to join the movement.

### 4. Repression by the British Government:

- The British government responded to the Civil Disobedience Movement with severe repression. Thousands of protesters, including Gandhi and other prominent leaders, were arrested and imprisoned. The movement faced brutal crackdowns, with police using lathi charges, tear gas, and even firing on peaceful demonstrators.

- The British also imposed heavy fines on villages that participated in the movement and confiscated property from those who refused to pay taxes.

## Phases of the Civil Disobedience Movement:

### 1. First Phase (1930-1931):

- The first phase of the movement was marked by widespread civil disobedience and mass participation. The movement reached its peak in 1930, with salt satyagraha, tax refusals, and boycotts spreading across the country.
- The movement's success forced the British government to enter negotiations with Indian leaders, leading to the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact** in March 1931. According to the pact, the British agreed to release political prisoners, and in return, Gandhi agreed to suspend the movement and participate in the **Second Round Table Conference** in London.

### 2. Second Phase (1932-1934):

- The Civil Disobedience Movement was resumed in 1932 after the failure of the Second Round Table Conference and the repressive policies of the British government. Gandhi was disappointed with the conference, as the British refused to concede to the demand for full independence and continued to divide Indian leaders along communal lines.
- The resumption of the movement led to another wave of mass protests, arrests, and repression. Gandhi was again imprisoned, along with thousands of other leaders and activists. The British government's efforts to crush the movement through arrests, confiscations, and violence made it increasingly difficult for the movement to sustain its momentum.
- **Poona Pact (1932):** During this phase, the issue of separate electorates for the Dalits (Depressed Classes) became a significant controversy. Gandhi went on a fast unto death in opposition to the British proposal for separate electorates for Dalits, which he believed would divide the Hindu community. The fast led to the Poona Pact between Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, which resulted in a compromise on reserved seats for Dalits within the general electorate.

### 3. Gradual Decline:

- By 1934, the movement began to lose momentum due to the intense repression by the British government, internal divisions within the Congress, and the growing exhaustion of the masses after years of struggle. Gandhi decided to withdraw the movement, realizing that the conditions were not favorable for its continuation.

## Impact and Legacy of the Civil Disobedience Movement:

### 1. National Consciousness:

- The Civil Disobedience Movement played a crucial role in raising national consciousness and deepening the resolve of Indians to fight for

independence. It strengthened the idea of nonviolent resistance and demonstrated the power of mass participation in the freedom struggle.

- The movement also helped spread the message of independence to rural India, engaging peasants, farmers, and ordinary citizens in the fight against colonial rule.

## 2. Strengthening of the Congress:

- The Indian National Congress emerged stronger from the movement, with its leadership solidified under Gandhi's guidance. The Congress became the principal organization representing Indian aspirations for freedom, and it gained mass support across different regions and communities.

## 3. International Attention:

- The Civil Disobedience Movement attracted global attention to India's struggle for independence. Gandhi's methods of nonviolence and civil disobedience inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. His leadership and the Indian struggle became a symbol of resistance against colonialism and oppression.

## 4. Preparation for Future Movements:

- Although the Civil Disobedience Movement did not achieve its immediate objective of full independence, it laid the groundwork for future campaigns, including the Quit India Movement in 1942. It also deepened the resolve of Indians to continue the fight until freedom was achieved.

The Civil Disobedience Movement was a defining moment in India's freedom struggle. It showcased the power of nonviolent resistance and mass participation, while also highlighting the challenges of sustaining such a movement in the face of brutal repression. The movement's legacy continues to inspire struggles for justice and freedom around the world.

The **Salt March** and the **Dandi March** are two iconic events in the Civil Disobedience Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, and they are often considered synonymous. The Dandi March was a specific instance of the broader Salt March, which played a crucial role in mobilizing Indian opinion against British rule.

## Dandi March (March 12-April 6, 1930):

### 1. Background:

- The Dandi March was initiated as part of the broader Salt March, which aimed to defy the British salt laws. The British government had imposed a monopoly on salt production and distribution, forcing Indians to buy expensive, heavily taxed salt from the British. The salt tax was symbolic of British economic exploitation and control over essential resources.

### 2. Gandhi's Strategy:

- Mahatma Gandhi chose to highlight the salt tax as a symbol of British oppression. He planned to lead a march from his ashram in Sabarmati to the coastal village of Dandi in Gujarat to produce salt from seawater, thereby directly challenging the British salt laws.

- The march was designed to be a peaceful, nonviolent protest that would capture the imagination of the Indian public and draw international attention to the Indian struggle for independence.
- 3. **The March:**
  - **Start:** On March 12, 1930, Gandhi and 78 of his followers began the Dandi March from Sabarmati Ashram. The group consisted of men, women, and children who were committed to the cause of civil disobedience.
  - **Journey:** The march covered a distance of about 240 miles (385 kilometers) across the harsh terrain of Gujarat. Over the course of the 24-day journey, the marchers encountered various challenges, including extreme weather conditions and physical exhaustion.
  - **Support and Impact:** As the march progressed, it attracted widespread support from the Indian populace. Many people joined the march along the way, turning it into a mass movement. Gandhi's simple yet powerful act of defiance inspired thousands across India to join in the struggle.
- 4. **Arrival at Dandi:**
  - On April 6, 1930, Gandhi and his followers reached the coastal village of Dandi. There, Gandhi picked up a lump of salt from the seashore, symbolically breaking the British law and marking the success of the Salt March.
  - The act of collecting salt from the sea was a direct challenge to British authority and ignited a wave of similar acts of defiance across the country. People everywhere began to make their own salt or purchase it from alternative sources, further undermining the British salt monopoly.

## Significance of the Salt March and Dandi March:

1. **Symbolic Defiance:**
  - The Salt March was a powerful symbol of resistance against British colonial rule. The act of defying the salt laws was not just about salt but represented a broader challenge to British economic and political control over India.
2. **Mass Mobilization:**
  - The march successfully mobilized large sections of Indian society, from urban intellectuals to rural peasants. It demonstrated the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance and mass participation in the struggle for independence.
3. **International Attention:**
  - The Salt March received significant international media coverage, bringing global attention to the Indian independence movement. Gandhi's leadership and the peaceful nature of the protest garnered sympathy and support from various quarters worldwide.
4. **Impact on British Policies:**
  - The Salt March and subsequent acts of civil disobedience created significant pressure on the British government. The movement forced the British authorities to take notice of the growing discontent and led to negotiations between Gandhi and British officials.



## 5. Gandhi's Leadership:

- The Dandi March cemented Gandhi's position as the leading figure in the Indian independence movement. His strategy of nonviolent resistance and his ability to mobilize people from diverse backgrounds were showcased as effective tools in the struggle for freedom.

## 6. Catalyst for Wider Movement:

- The success of the Salt March inspired further acts of civil disobedience and contributed to the broader Civil Disobedience Movement. It laid the groundwork for future mass movements and campaigns against British rule.

## Legacy:

The Salt March and Dandi March remain iconic events in India's history and continue to symbolize the power of nonviolent resistance. Gandhi's approach to civil disobedience, combined with mass mobilization and peaceful protest, became a model for other freedom struggles and civil rights movements around the world. The Dandi March, in particular, is remembered as a defining moment in the Indian independence movement, demonstrating the effectiveness of Gandhi's strategy and the collective power of ordinary people in the fight for justice and freedom.

The **Round Table Conferences** and the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact** were crucial milestones in the Indian independence movement during the early 1930s. They represented attempts at negotiating constitutional reforms and resolving political disputes between the British government and Indian leaders.

## Round Table Conferences:

The Round Table Conferences were a series of three conferences held in London between 1930 and 1932. They were convened by the British government to discuss constitutional reforms in India and address the political demands of Indian leaders.

### 1. First Round Table Conference (November 1930 - January 1931):

- **Context and Participants:**
  - The First Round Table Conference was held from November 1930 to January 1931. It was convened by the British government to discuss constitutional reforms in India in response to the growing demand for self-rule.
  - The conference was attended by various Indian leaders, including representatives from the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and other political groups. Notably, Mahatma Gandhi represented the Congress, while the Muslim League was represented by Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
- **Key Issues and Outcomes:**
  - The primary agenda was to discuss constitutional reforms and the future governance of India. However, the conference faced difficulties

as it did not include all major Indian political groups, and many were dissatisfied with the British proposals.

- The Indian National Congress, led by Gandhi, had decided to participate in the conference as part of a broader strategy to engage with the British government while continuing the Civil Disobedience Movement. However, Gandhi's participation was limited, and there was significant discord among various Indian factions.
- The conference concluded without reaching a consensus on major issues. The British government's proposals were seen as inadequate by many Indian leaders, and the session did not achieve substantial progress.

## 2. Second Round Table Conference (September - December 1931):

### ○ Context and Participants:

- The Second Round Table Conference was held from September to December 1931. It was convened after the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which had temporarily suspended the Civil Disobedience Movement and led to Gandhi's participation in the conference.
- Gandhi attended the conference as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress, while other Indian leaders and political groups were also present.

### ○ Key Issues and Outcomes:

- The conference aimed to discuss constitutional reforms and the future of Indian governance. Gandhi presented the Congress's demands, including full self-rule and greater representation for Indians in the government.
- The discussions focused on the nature of the future constitutional framework and the scope of Indian participation in governance. However, significant disagreements persisted over issues such as separate electorates for various communities, and no substantial agreement was reached on key issues.
- The conference concluded with the British government making some concessions but failing to address the central demands of the Indian National Congress fully. The discussions set the stage for the drafting of the Government of India Act 1935, which would later become the basis for constitutional reforms in India.

## 3. Third Round Table Conference (November - December 1932):

### ○ Context and Participants:

- The Third Round Table Conference was held from November to December 1932. It was convened in the aftermath of the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement and the growing tensions between different Indian political groups.
- The conference saw participation from various Indian leaders, including those who had previously been critical of the British government's approach.

### ○ Key Issues and Outcomes:

- The focus of the Third Round Table Conference was on resolving the remaining issues from previous conferences and finalizing the constitutional framework for India.
- The conference was marked by intense debates and disagreements among different Indian factions. Issues such as the representation of minorities, communal electorates, and the extent of self-governance were prominent.
- The conference concluded with the British government announcing the decision to introduce the Government of India Act 1935, which would provide a framework for constitutional reforms and limited self-government for India.

## Gandhi-Irwin Pact (March 5, 1931):

The **Gandhi-Irwin Pact** was a significant agreement signed between Mahatma Gandhi and the then British Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, on March 5, 1931. The pact marked a temporary suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement and was a key development in the political negotiations between Indian leaders and the British government.

### 1. Background:

- By early 1931, the Civil Disobedience Movement, which began with the Salt March in 1930, had gained widespread support and mobilized large sections of Indian society. However, the movement faced increasing repression by the British government, and both sides were looking for a resolution to the ongoing conflict.
- Gandhi, representing the Indian National Congress, sought to engage with the British government to negotiate constitutional reforms and address the grievances of the Indian people.

### 2. Terms of the Pact:

- **Suspension of Civil Disobedience:** Gandhi agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement, including the boycott of British goods and the refusal to pay taxes. The suspension was seen as a gesture of goodwill to facilitate negotiations and discussions.
- **Release of Political Prisoners:** The British government agreed to release all political prisoners who were not involved in violence. This was a significant concession as it aimed to ease the tensions between the authorities and the Indian public.
- **Public Meetings and Political Activities:** The pact allowed for the resumption of public meetings and political activities, including the right to campaign for Indian self-rule. This provided a platform for Indian leaders to engage with the masses and advocate for their demands.
- **Future Negotiations:** The pact included a commitment from both sides to engage in further negotiations regarding constitutional reforms and the future governance of India. This laid the groundwork for Gandhi's participation in the Second Round Table Conference.

### 3. Impact and Significance:



- **Temporary Resolution:** The Gandhi-Irwin Pact temporarily resolved the conflict between Gandhi and the British government, leading to a brief period of political calm and the resumption of dialogue.
  - **Gandhi's Recognition:** The pact elevated Gandhi's position as a key leader in the Indian independence movement and recognized the Indian National Congress as a legitimate representative of Indian aspirations.
  - **Political Developments:** The pact set the stage for further negotiations and discussions, including the Second Round Table Conference, which sought to address constitutional reforms and the future of Indian governance.
  - **Criticism and Controversy:** The pact faced criticism from within the Congress and among other political leaders who felt that Gandhi had made too many concessions. Some viewed the suspension of the movement as a setback, while others believed it was a strategic move to gain more substantial concessions from the British government.
- *The Round Table Conferences and the Gandhi-Irwin Pact were significant events in the Indian independence movement, representing both opportunities and challenges in the quest for constitutional reforms and self-rule. While they did not lead to immediate independence, they played a crucial role in shaping the political landscape of India and setting the stage for future developments in the struggle for freedom.*