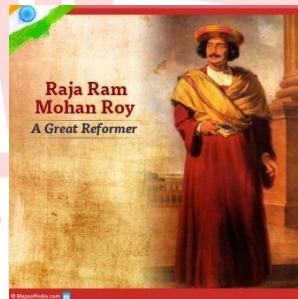


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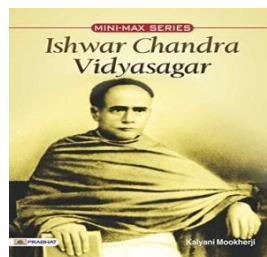
The Struggle for Independence

STUDY NOTES*Let's learn***Social Reformers**

The Revolt of 1857 was the first attempt of the Indians towards independence against the British rule. The revolt inspired many Indians. People started realizing that the British government deliberately worked towards making India poor and backward. They felt the need for an organization that would help in educating Indians against the policies of the British. Several social reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Dayanand Saraswati, Savitribai Phule and Syed Ahmed Khan fought against evil practices like caste system, killing of female babies, sati, and child marriage and against the policies of the British.

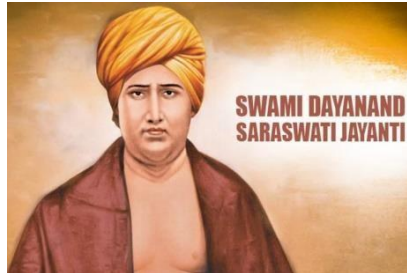
Raja Rammohan Roy

- Born in Bengal on 22nd May 1772.
- He opposed the tradition of sati pratha.
- He opposed the tradition of child marriage and supported education of girls.
- He started the Brahma Samaj in 1828 to educate people about the social evils.
- Raja Rammohan Roy is regarded as the 'Father of Modern India'.

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

- Born in Medinipur, Bengal on 26th September 1820.
- He worked hard to get the widow remarriage legalized.
- He established many schools for girls.

Dayanand Saraswati



- Born in Gujarat on 1824.
- He is the founder the Arya Samaj in Mumbai.
- He opposed child marriage.
- He established many educational institutions like the Gurukuls, Kanya Gurukuls, D.A.V. Schools and colleges.

Savitribai Phule



- Savitribai Phule is hailed as India's one of the first modern feminists.
- Married at the tender age of nine, she fought against social evils like child marriage and sati pratha.
- She laid emphasis on educating women and along with her husband, Jyotirao Phule, she opened the first school for girls in India. They together went on to open 18 schools for girls.
- She not only worked for women's rights but also championed the cause of fighting against the practice of corrupt caste system.

Syed Ahmed Khan

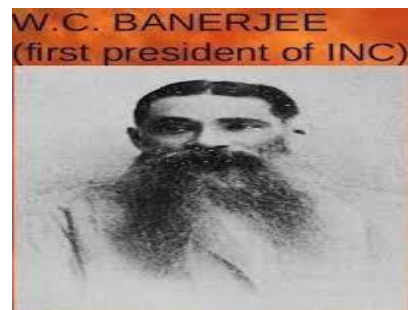
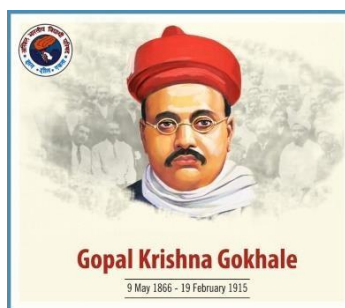
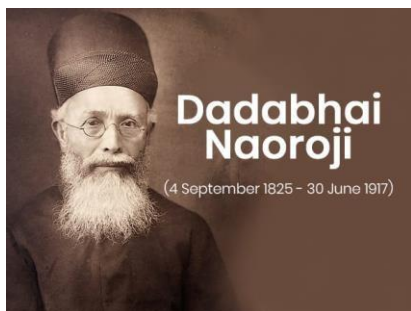


- Born in Delhi on 17th October 1817.
- He founded the Scientific Society.
- He is the founder of Aligarh Muslim University.
- He was a supporter of women's education.

The Rise of Indian Nationalism

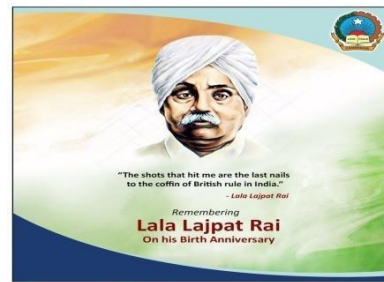
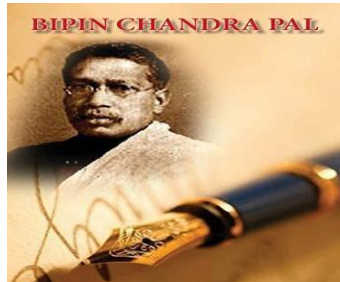
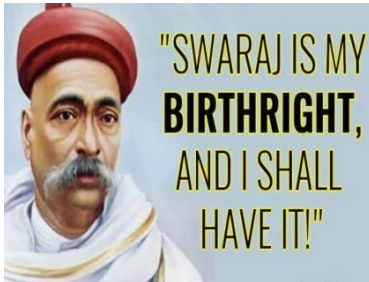
The dissatisfaction of the educated Indians combined with the support of some Englishmen like A.O. Hume, led to the formation of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885.

- The first meeting of the Indian National Congress (INC) was held at Mumbai.
- The main objective for establishing the INC was to promote national unity and safeguard the socio-political rights of the Indians.
- The Indian National Congress did not raise the question of freedom from British rule.
- Their main demand was to bring reforms so that Indians could lead a more free and better life under the British.
- Some of the important leaders were Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee. They were referred as the moderates.



- Other leaders were not in favour of 'soft' approach. They wanted swaraj or self-rule for the Indians. They were called the radicals.
- Some of the important leaders were Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai.

- Tilak declared, 'Freedom is my birthright, and I shall have it' and started a newspaper called Kesari.



The Partition of Bengal and the Swadeshi Movement

In order to weaken the national movement, the British government again adopted the policy of divide and rule and partitioned Bengal. It was announced in 1905 by Lord Curzon, the then viceroy of India.

Objectives of partition of Bengal

- To create a rift between the Hindus and Muslims.
- The partition was done in such a manner that one side had a majority of Muslim population, while the other side had a majority of Hindu population

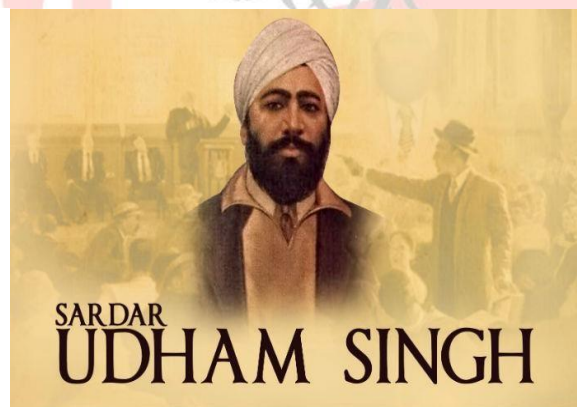
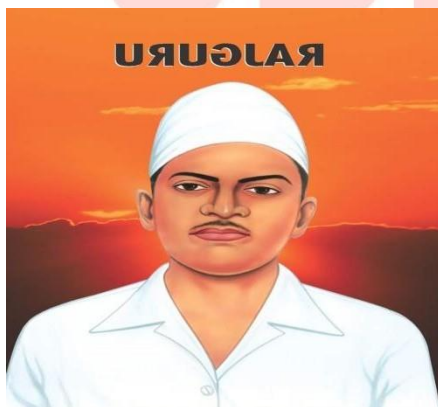
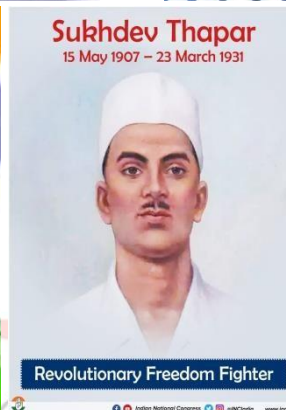
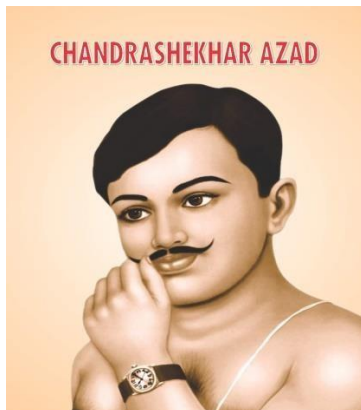
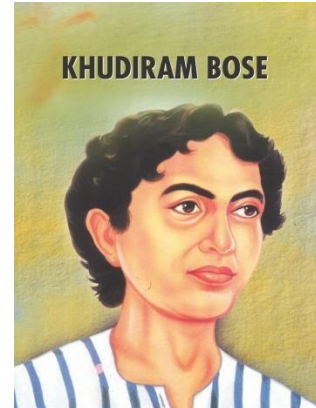
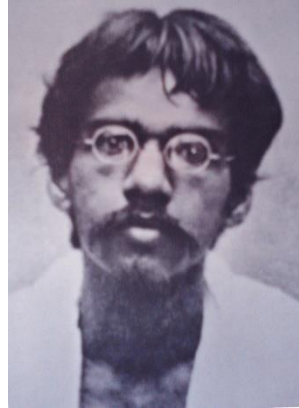
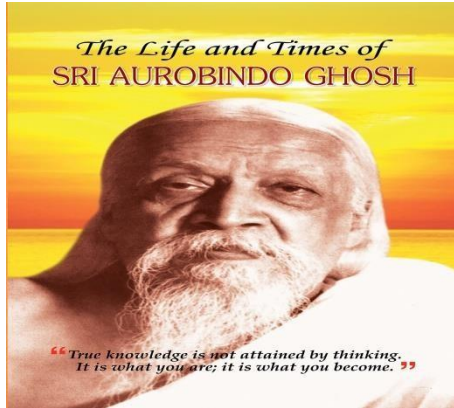
The Indians protested strongly against the division of Bengal. The anger in the people gave rise to the Swadeshi Movement. It started in Bengal but soon spread to other parts of India. The aim of Swadeshi Movement was –

- To boycott British goods.
- Bonfires of British goods, especially clothes.

The British tried to ruthlessly put down the movement. People were fined and mercilessly beaten. But ultimately, the opposition to the partition of Bengal was successful and the British were forced to reunite it.

Activities of the Revolutionaries

After the partition of Bengal, several young Indians started using more violent means to fight the British. They were called the revolutionaries. The movement, however, was not very successful. Important revolutionaries were Aurobindo Ghosh, Barun Ghosh, Khudiram Bose, Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Raj Guru and Udham Singh.



World War I and After

- The First World War broke out in 1914.
- India was still under British control.
- Indian soldiers were sent to the war to fight on behalf of Britain.
- A lot of Indians lost their lives during the First World War.
- The British started levying heavy taxes on the Indians to incur heavy losses during the First World War and they introduced new taxes to recover their losses.

- At that time Mahatma Gandhi came back to India from South Africa in 1915 while World War I was still going on and took over the leadership of the Independence movement going on in India.

MEMORY MAP

The Struggle for Independence

Formation of the Indian National Congress (1885)
(moderates and radicals)

Partition of Bengal (1905)
(Swadeshi and boycott movements)

Revolutionaries who followed violent means to
overthrow the British

First World War
Indian soldiers sent to war; new taxes imposed to
recover losses from fighting the war.

Let's know more**Multiple choice questions**

● Father of Modern India:

- a. Raja Rammohan Roy
c. Dayanand Saraswati

- b. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
d. Dayanand Saraswati

● Founder of Aligarh Muslim University:

- a. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
c. Savitribai Phule

- b. Dayanand Saraswati
d. Syed Ahmed Khan

● The first meeting of the Indian National Congress (INC) was held at:

- a. Delhi b. Bengal c. Mumbai d. Madras

● The First World War broke out in:

- a. 1914 b. 1913 c. 1915 d. 1912

Let's Do**A. Fill in the blanks.**

1. Social _____ fought against the evils in Indian society.
2. The first session of the Indian National Congress was held in _____.
3. The congress leaders who preferred a soft persuasive approach towards the British were known as _____.
4. Indians who thought that the British should be driven out with the help of arms were known as _____.
5. Bal Gangadhar Tilak started the newspaper _____.
6. During the _____ Movement people burnt British goods.

B. Name the following.

1. Two social reformers: _____
2. Two 'moderate' leaders in the Indian National Congress: _____

3. Two leaders in the Indian National Congress who wanted to take a stronger approach to the British: _____

4. Two revolutionaries: _____

Multiple choice questions.

1. Who among these were social reformers?

- a. Syed Ahmed Khan
b. Dayanand Saraswati
c. Raja Rammohan Roy
d. all of these

2. Who among these was not a 'moderate'?

- a. Dadabhai Naoroji
b. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
c. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
d. W. C. Bonnerjee

3. Who said these words – 'Freedom is my birthright and I shall have it'?

- a. Lala Lajpat Rai
b. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
c. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
d. Bipin Chandra Pal

4. The British efforts at partitioning Bengal gave rise to:

- a. Formation of Indian National Congress
b. World War I
c. Swadeshi Movement
d. Revolutionary Movement

5. Mahatma Gandhi came back to India from South Africa

- a. in 1905 when the British decided to divide Bengal
b. in 1914 when World War I broke out
c. in 1857 when the First War of Independence started
d. in 1915 while World War I was going on

Understand and Answer

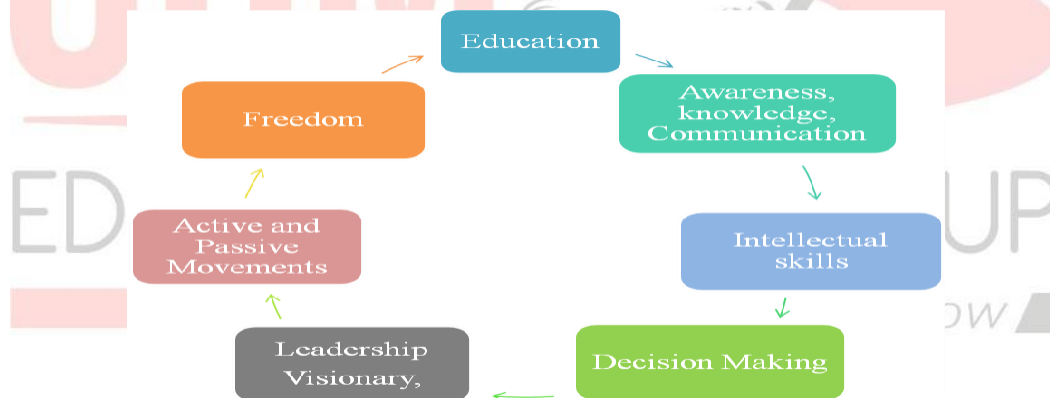
C. Answer the following questions.

1. According to the social reformers, why was Indian society divided and backward?
2. Why did the reformers want to educate the people of India?

3. How did the thinking of the educated people in India change after the First War of Independence?
4. What was the difference between the 'moderate' and the 'radicals'?
5. Who said 'Freedom is my birthright, and I shall have it'?
6. Why did the British think of partitioning Bengal?
7. What was the Swadeshi Movement?
8. Why did the British impose more taxes on the people after World War I?

Teacher's Note

Indian freedom struggle and its seeds were cultivated long ago with the beginning of education phase of our freedom fighters. Proper education imparts knowledge and develops awareness, communication and various skills. The success of most of the passive and active movements was the result of those seeds sown into their minds and thus, their heroic act of uniting whole country against the shrewd British rule was remarkable.



Improve your G.K

- The first president of the INC - (W.C. Bonnerjee, 1885)
- The first Englishman to become the president of INC - (George Yule, 1888)
- The first woman president of the INC - (Annie Besant, 1917)
- The first woman president of the INC - (Sarojini Naidu, 1925)

ANSWER KEY

Let's know more

Multiple choice questions

- a. Raja Rammohan Roy
- d. Syed Ahmed Khan
- c. Mumbai
- a. 1914

Let's Do**A. 1. Reformers**

2. In 1885 in Bombay (now Mumbai)
3. Moderates
4. Revolutionaries
5. Kesari
6. Swadeshi

B.1. Raja Rammohan Roy, Dayanand Saraswati

2. Dadabhai Naoroji, Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee
3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai
4. Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad

Multiple choice questions.

1. d. all of these
2. b. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
3. b. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
4. c. Swadeshi Movement
5. d. in 1915 while World War I was going on

Understand and Answer

C.1. According to the social reformers Indian society was divided and backward due to social evils like –

- caste system
- sati pratha
- child marriage
- Killing female babies, etc.

2. Social reformers wanted to educate the people of India because -

- They realized that social evils such as outdated customs and superstitions could be removed by education.
- Education can help in the progress of Indian society.

3. Reasons which change the thinking of the educated people in India after the First War of Independence –

- World War I broke out in 1914.
- Lakhs of Indian soldiers fought with the British army and sacrificed their life.
- Indians thought that the British would be more sympathetic towards them.
- But the British became harsher and imposed fresh taxes to recover the losses.
- Educated people of India realized the injustice of British rule and the value of freedom.

4. The moderates took the softer approach towards the British.

Whereas the radicals believed in the stronger and more active opposition to the British.

5. Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

6. The British thought of partitioning Bengal because –

- The feeling of nationalism was growing among the Indians.
- It was the strongest at that time in Bengal.
- The British realized that the Unity of the Indians was very dangerous for them.
- So the British divided Bengal on the basis of religion in 1905.

6. Swadeshi Movement -

- Swadeshi means 'own country'.
- In Swadeshi Movement, People pledged to use goods made in India only and boycotted British goods.
- People burnt British goods.
- This movement started in Bengal but soon it spread to other parts of India.
- Everyone including women and students participated in the movement.

8. The British imposed more taxes on the people to recover the losses they suffered in World War I.