

## Chapter- 20

# Gandhiji Leads the Nation

## STUDY NOTES

### Let's Learn

#### Introduction

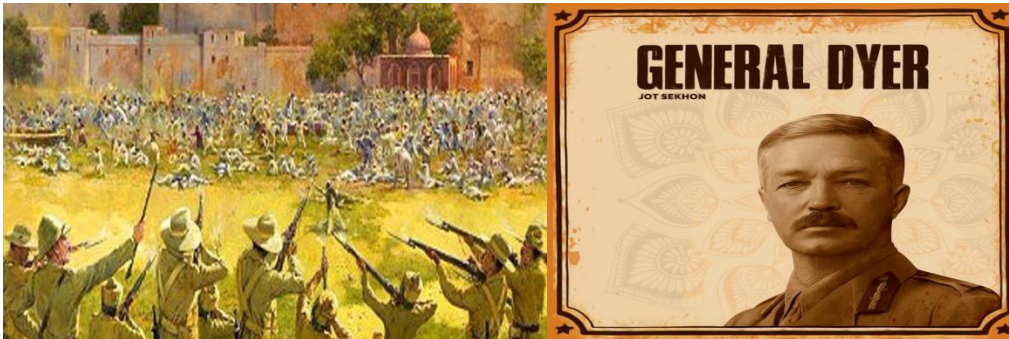


- After returning to India in 1915 Gandhiji travelled to various parts of the country.
- Social evils like the caste system kept the people divided and backward.
- Gandhiji was sad to see the low caste people who were called “untouchables” (treated badly).
- Renamed untouchables as “Harijans” meaning ‘people of God’.
- He quickly won the support and respect of the common people of India.

#### The Rowlatt Acts and the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

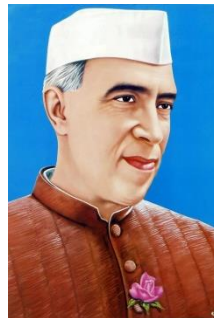
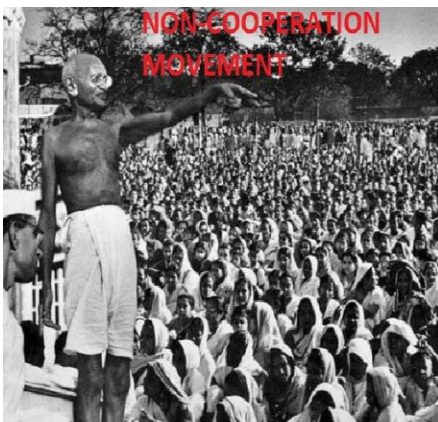


- After first World War, British imposed fresh taxes and passed new laws to suppress Indians.
- This was time when Gandhiji launched – ‘Satyagraha movement’.
- In 1919, the British passed new laws called “Rowlatt Acts” – They could arrest anyone without trials.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919, a public meeting was held in Jallianwala Bagh at Amritsar.



- On the orders from General Dyer the British soldiers blocked the only exit of the Bagh and open fired for 10 minutes at the unarmed crowd.
- Dyer was forced to resign in March 1920.
- July 1920 he was pardoned by House of Lords in Britain.

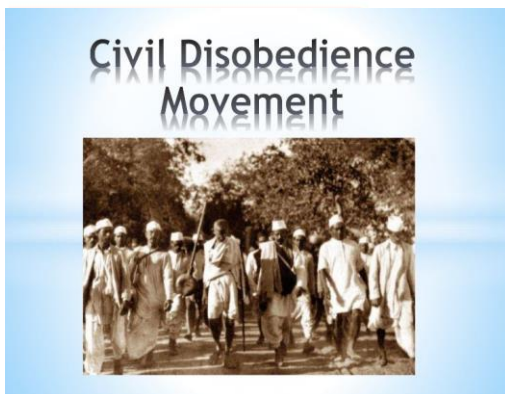
### The Non-Cooperation Movement



- Gandhiji launched the Non-cooperation movement. He asked the people of India not to cooperate with the British.
- Indians working for British government quit, lawyers boycotted the courts, indian children were withdrawn from British government schools.
- Throughout the country, men, women, and children sat on the streets and blocked them.
- In 1922, Non-cooperation movement in Chauri-Chaura in UP, got violent – 22 police men died.
- During this movement many young leaders joined the freedom struggle – Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

### The Civil Disobedience Movement

- In 1930 Gandhiji launched massive Civil Disobedience movement.
- He told Indians to refuse to pay taxes, especially tax on salt, to the British government.
- The “Salt Law” passed by the British government forbid Indians from making salt.
- He organized peaceful march from the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi on the sea shore “Dandi March”.
- At Dandi, Gandhi and his followers made salt by evaporating sea water.



### The Simon Commission and Demand for Purna Swaraj



- In 1928, a committee under Sir Simon, called “Simon Commission” began working on it.
- There were no Indians in this commission, this made Indians angry.
- They decided to boycott the commission and staged demonstrations and shouted slogans – “Simon Go Back”.
- The congress now decided to demand Purna Swaraj (complete independence) for India.

### World War II and the Quit India Movement

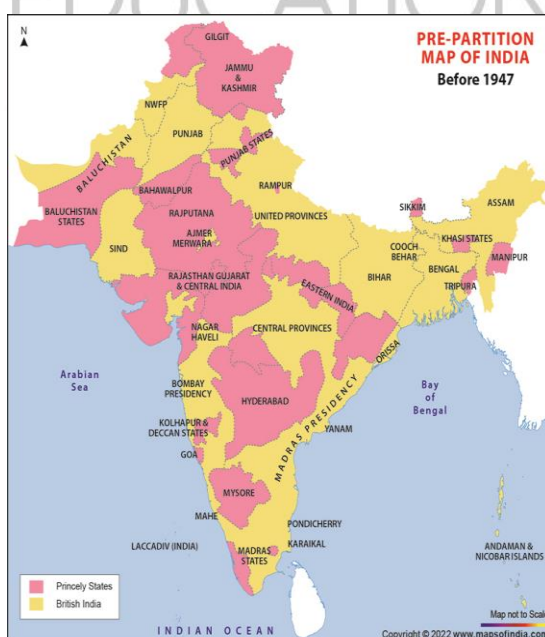
- In 1935, British passed “The Government of India Act”.
- Elections were held throughout the country.
- The congress won in most provinces and formed government. But power still remained in the hands of the British.
- World War II – 1939.
- Congress declared that India would not join the war until British granted complete independence.
- They held talks and meets but failed. Gandhiji launched “Quit India Movement” in August 1942.

## Subhash Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army

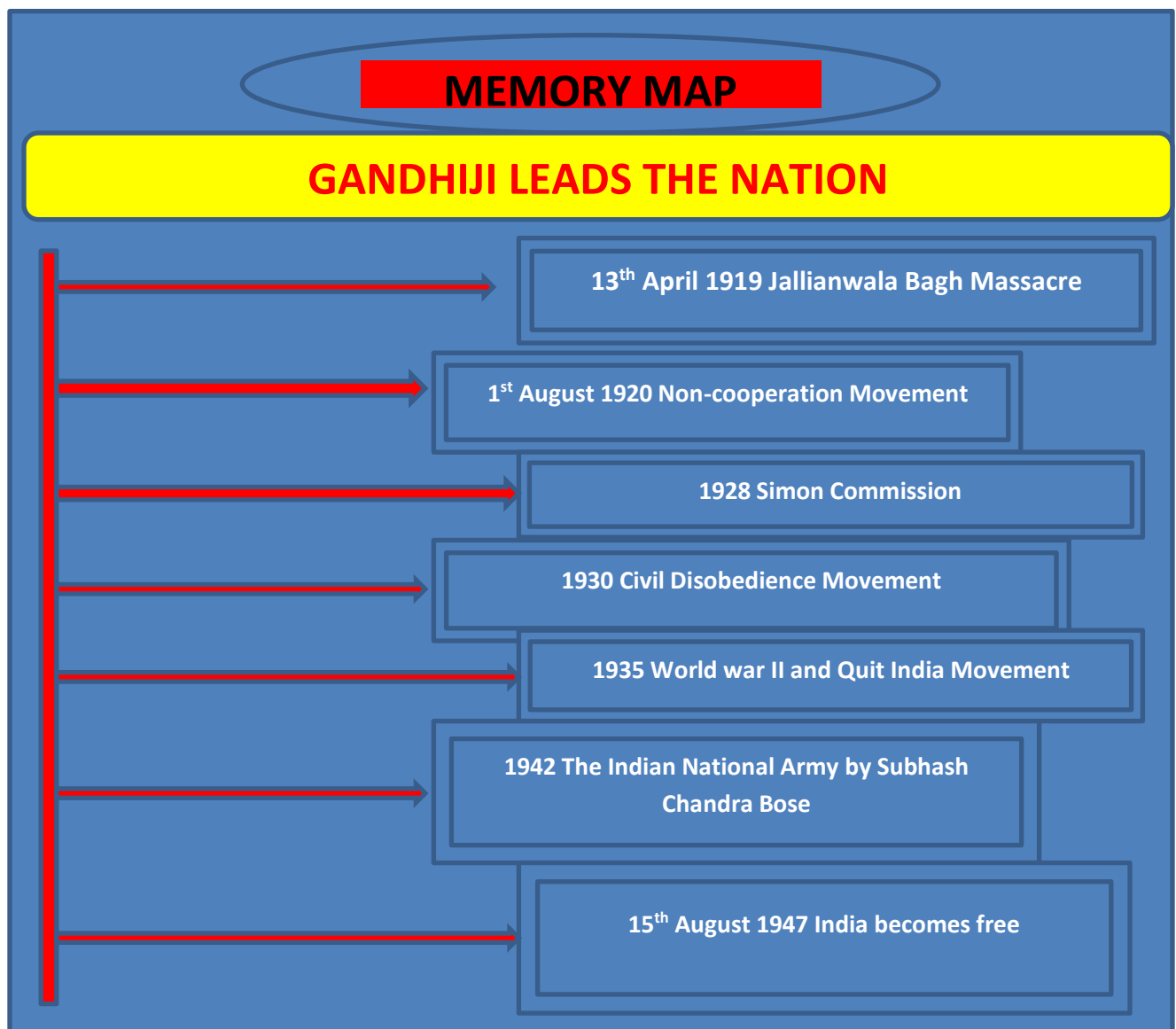


- Subhash Chandra Bose was elected president of the Indian National Congress twice.
- He was lovingly called “Netaji”.
- He went to Japan and organized an army of 40,000 Indian soldiers and called it “Azad Hind Fauj” or the “Indian National Army”.
- They fought against the British on the north eastern borders of India.
- Initially they pushed back the British but finally the British defeated the Indian National Army.

## India Becomes Free



- World war II ended – 1945
- Quit India Movement and Indian National Army shook the British.
- The “divide and rule” policy of the British was successful in dividing Hindus and Muslims.
- The Muslim League under the leadership of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, demanded a separate nation for the Muslims.
- India got her independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, but was divided into 2 nations-India and Pakistan.



**Let's know more****Fill in the blanks.**

- The people of 'low castes' were considered \_\_\_\_\_ and were treated very badly.
- 'Harijans' means \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a non-violent method of protest against any form of injustice.
- There were no Indians included in the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ passed by the British forbade Indians from making salt.

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

1. Gandhiji gave the name \_\_\_\_\_ to the 'untouchables'.
2. Gandhiji launched the Satyagraha Movement in India to oppose the \_\_\_\_\_ Acts.
3. The British, under General Dyer, massacred thousands of unarmed Indians gathered at \_\_\_\_\_ in Amritsar.
4. Indians protested against the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission as there was no Indian in it.
5. In the 1929 session of the Congress, the Congress demanded \_\_\_\_\_ from the British.
6. The Civil Disobedience Movement was launched with the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ Movement was launched while World War II was going on.
8. The Indian National Army was formed by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Understand and Answer****B. Answer the following questions.**

1. What did Gandhiji do as soon as he came back to India?
2. Why did Gandhiji protest against the Rowlatt Acts?
3. After which incident did Gandhiji launch the Non-Cooperation Movement?
4. Why did Gandhiji call off the Non-Cooperation Movement?
5. When did the Congress demand Purna Swaraj? What did this mean?
6. What was the Civil Disobedience Movement? How did it start?
7. What did the Civil Disobedience Movement achieve?
8. Why did the Congress ministries in the provinces resign after World War II started?
9. What role did Subhash Chandra Bose play in the freedom struggle?
10. 'India became independent but Gandhiji's dream was shattered.' Why?

**C. Match the incidents with the years in which they happened.**

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Simon Commission            | a. 1919          |
| 2. Jallianwala Bagh massacre   | b. 13 April 1919 |
| 3. Rowlatt Acts                | c. 1928          |
| 4. Civil Disobedience Movement | d. 1929          |
| 5. Government of India Act     | e. 1930          |
| 6. Quit India Movement         | f. 1935          |
| 7. World War II ends           | g. 1942          |
| 8. India gets Independence     | h. 1945          |
| 9. Purna Swaraj                | i. 1947          |

**Multiple choice questions.**

- Gandhiji gave the name 'Harijans' to
  - Priests
  - ministers in the government
  - social workers
  - people who were regarded as 'untouchables'
- Satyagraha means
  - Speaking the truth
  - Violet protest against an injustice
  - Non-violent protest against an injustice
  - Any kind of protest against an injustice
- To protest against which of these did Gandhiji undertake the Dandi March?
  - Salt laws
  - Rowlatt Acts
  - Simon Commission
  - Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- The Quit India Movement was launched in
  - 1928 when the Simon Commission started its work
  - 1929 after the Congress decided to demand Purna Swaraj
  - 1935 after the Government of India Act was passed
  - 1942 after the failure of talks between the Congress and the British during World War II



5. Which of these leaders was in favour of the partition of India into two nations?

- a. Gandhiji    b. Mohammad Ali Jinnah    c. Subhash Chandra Bose    d. None of these

**Teacher's Note**

Sometimes we get so angry that we lose control over ourselves. In this state we say things that hurt others, and which we regret later. This can often affect our relationship with our family and friends. Being able to control our anger is an important life skill.

**Improve Your GKs**

- Do you know how many times Mahatma Gandhi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize? Gandhiji was nominated in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1947, and, finally, a few days before he was murdered in January 1948.
- The country against whom he fought for India's Independence, Great Britain, released a stamp honouring him, 21 years after his death.
- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was not born with the title Mahatma. He was given the title to him by the Nobel Prize-winning Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, according to some authors.
- It is said that Mahatma Gandhi's funeral procession was 8 kilometers long.
- Reserve Bank of India issued The Gandhi series banknotes by displaying a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi since its introduction in 1996. The series issued in 1996 is of 10 and 500 rupee banknotes.
- In 1959, Gandhi Memorial Museum was established. It is located in the city of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, India. It is also known as the Gandhi Museum. It consists of a blood-stained garment that was worn by Mahatma Gandhi when he was assassinated by the Nathuram Godse.

**Answer key****Let's Know More**

- Untouchables
- People of God
- Non-violence
- Simon
- Salt law

**Let's Do**

A.1. Harijans

2. Rowlatt

3. Jallianwala Bagh

4. Simon

5. Purna Swaraj

6. Dandi March

7. Quit India

8. Subhash Chandra Boss

**Understand and Answer**

B.1. Gandhiji traveled to various parts of India to know more about the people.

2. Under the Rowlatt Acts, anyone could be arrested without a trial. So Gandhiji started Satyagraha to protest against Rowlatt Acts.

3. After the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Gandhiji launched the Non-cooperation Movement.

4. The Non-cooperation Movement at Chauri Chaura (UP) became violent. People set fire to one police station and twenty-two policemen were killed. Gandhiji called the Movement off as he did not believe in violence. He thought that the Movement failed due to violence.
5. In 1929, Congress demanded Purna Swaraj. Purna Swaraj meant complete Freedom for India.
6. The Civil Disobedience Movement was launched to break all the unjust laws of the British. Gandhiji started the movement by organizing a peaceful march from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi on the seashore.
7. The Civil Disobedience Movement was started by Gandhiji. Although Gandhiji was arrested, the movement spread throughout India.
8. The Congress ministers in the provinces resigned after World War II started because the British had declared the war on India's behalf, without taking to the Indian leaders.
9. Subhash Chandra was a popular leader. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress twice. He also organized an army of 40000 Indian soldiers to fight against the British. The army was called Azad Hind Fauz or Indian National Army (INA). Azad Hind Fauz fought against the British on the northeast border.
10. Gandhiji was heartbroken and his dream of a united India had been shattered because India was divided into two nations.

- C. 1. Simon Commission ⇒ c. 1928
2. Jallianwala Bagh massacre ⇒ b. 13 April 1919
3. Rowlatt Act ⇒ a. 1919
4. Civil Disobedience Movement ⇒ e. 1930
5. Government of India Act ⇒ f. 1935
6. Quit India Movement ⇒ g. 1942
7. World War II ends ⇒ h. 1945
8. India gets Independence ⇒ i. 1947
9. Purna Swaraj ⇒ d. 1929

### MCQs

1. (d) people who were regarded as 'untouchables'
2. (c) non-violent protest against an injustice
3. (a) Salt Laws

4. (d) 1942 after the failure of talks between the Congress and the British during World War II
5. (b) Mahammad Ali Jinnah

