India Seeks Self-Rule

Objectives

• Explain what motivated the Indian independence movement after World War I.
• Analyze how Mohandas Gandhi influenced the independence movement.
• Describe the impact of the Salt March on the course of the Indian independence movement.

Terms, People, and Places
Ahimsa
Amritsar massacre
Boycott
Untouchables

Note Taking

Reading Skills: Identify Causes and Effects
Recognizing causes and effects can help you understand the significance of certain events. In a chart like the one below, record the causes and effects of Gandhi's leadership of India's independence movement.

Causes
Gandhi Leads Independence Movement
Effects

Call for Independence

The tragedy at Amritsar was linked to broader Indian frustrations after World War I. During the war, more than a million Indians had served overseas. Under pressure from Indian nationalists, the British promised Indians greater self-government. But when the fighting ended, Britain proposed only a few minor reforms.

Since 1885, the Indian National Congress party, called the Congress party, had pressed for self-rule within the British empire. After Amritsar, it began to call for full independence. But party members were mostly middle-class, Western-educated elite who had little in common with the masses of Indian peasants. In the 1920s, a new leader named Mohandas Gandhi emerged and united Indians across class lines.

Gandhi came from a middle-class Hindu family. At age 19, he went to England to study law. Then, like many Indians, Gandhi had little in common with the masses of Indian peasants. In the

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

High-Use Word

Discriminate, p. 504

Definition and Sample Sentence

to treat differently because of a prejudice
Jim Crow laws discriminated against African Americans.

WITNESS HISTORY

Indian Frustration

In the early 1900s, many Indians were dissatisfied with British rule. An early leader of the Indian National Congress party expressed his frustration with an unpopular policy to divide Bengal into smaller sections.

"The scheme [to divide Bengal]... will always stand as a complete illustration of the worst features of the present system of bureaucratic rule—its utter contempt for public opinion, its arrogant pretensions to superior wisdom, its solemn disregard of the most cherished feelings of the people, the mockery of an appeal to its sense of justice, [and] its cold preference of [British civil service workers'] interests to those of the governed."

—Gopal Krishna Gokhale, 1905

Focus Question

How did Gandhi and the Congress party work for independence in India?

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge

Remind students that India provided Britain with natural resources and a market for goods. As in Africa, the colonial system benefited mainly Britain. Ask students to preview the section and write down one example of how Indians reacted against this system.

Set a Purpose

Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

WITNESS HISTORY

Ask What does Gokhale list as the “worst features” of British rule? (disregard for public opinion, belief in British superiority, insensitivity to Indian feelings)

Focus

Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 3 Assessment answers.)

Preview

Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

Note Taking

Have students read this section using the Structured Read Aloud strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the chart on Gandhi’s leadership.

Reading and Note Taking
Study Guide, p. 163

Chapter 15 Section 3 583
Teach

Calls for Independence/
The Power of Nonviolence/
Gandhi Takes a Stand

Instruct
- Introduce: Vocabulary Builder
  Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Ask students to predict how fighting discrimination in South Africa influenced Gandhi when he returned to India.
- Teach
  Review India’s desires for independence from Great Britain. Name Gandhi’s key ideas: (ahimsa, or nonviolence; satyagraha, or nonviolent resistance; civil disobedience; the refusal to obey unjust laws; democracy, or equal rights for all people). How did Gandhi put these ideas into practice? (He called for Indians to boycott British goods in favor of self-sufficiency; he encouraged nonviolent civil disobedience; he led symbolic protests, including one against the salt monopoly.)
- Quick Activity
  Ask students to form groups and list reasons why Gandhi was effective. Have them share their responses with the class.

Independent Practice

Viewpoints
- Have students read The Impact of British Rule on India and complete the worksheet.

Monitor Progress
- Make sure students understand the causes and effects of Gandhi’s leadership. For a completed version of the chart, see the Study Guide.

Answers

Caption
Sample: They might have been sympathetic to the nonviolent approach and shocked that the British mounted to violence.

- Indians felt that the British did not deliver the significant reforms promised during the war as an acknowledgment of their service. Incidents like the Amritsar massacre intensified dissatisfaction.
- They staged boycotts and other nonviolent protests. They increased their own industries so India would be more self-sufficient.

Teach

The Salt March
Gandhi’s march to the sea to collect forbidden salt started out with Gandhi and 78 followers, but gathered strength as it progressed. As he picked up the first lump of salt, he declared, “With this, I am shaking the foundations of the British empire.”

How do you think people in other countries would have reacted to British authorities’ refusal to obey unjust laws? (discuss)

Monitor Progress

The Power of Nonviolence
Gandhi’s ideas inspired Indians of all religions and ethnic backgrounds. His nonviolent protests caught the attention of the British government and the world.

Gandhi’s Ideas
Gandhi’s theories embraced Hindu traditions. He preached the ancient doctrine of ahimsa (uh HIH SAH), or nonviolence and reverence for all life. By using the power of love, he believed, people could convert even the worst wrongdoer to the right course of action. To fight against injustice, he advocated the use of nonviolent resistance.

Gandhi’s philosophy reflected Western as well as Indian influences. He admired Christian teachings about love. He believed in the American philosopher Henry David Thoreau’s ideas about civil disobedience, the refusal to obey unjust laws. Gandhi was also influenced by Western ideas of democracy and nationalism. He urged equal rights for all Indians, women as well as men. He fought hard to end the harsh treatment of untouchables, who were members of the lowest caste, or class.

Gandhi Sets an Example
During the 1920s and 1930s, Gandhi launched a series of nonviolent actions against British rule. He called for Indians to boycott, or refuse to buy, British goods, especially cotton textiles. He worked to restore pride in India’s traditional industries, making the spinning wheel a symbol of the nationalist movement. Gandhi’s campaign of civil disobedience attracted wide support.

Checkpoint
- What methods did Indians use to resist British rule?

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Gandhi Takes a Stand: The Salt March

To mobilize mass support, Gandhi decided to take a stand against the British salt monopoly, which he saw as a symbol of British oppression. Natural salt was available in the sea, but the British government required Indians to buy only salt sold by the monopoly.

Breaking the Law

On March 12, 1930, Gandhi set out with 78 followers on a 240-mile march to the sea. As the tiny band passed through villages, crowds responded to Gandhi’s message. By the time they reached the sea, the marchers numbered in the thousands. On April 6, Gandhi walked into the surf and picked up a lump of sea salt. He was soon arrested and jailed. Still, Indians followed his lead. Crooked villages started collecting salt, Indians sold salt on city streets. As Gandhi’s campaign gained force, tens of thousands of Indians were imprisoned.

Steps Toward Freedom

All around the world, newspapers criticized Britain’s harsh reaction to the protests. Stories revealed how police brutallyclubbed peaceful marchers who tried to occupy a government salt factory. The March forced Britain to respond to Indian demands.

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Mohandas Gandhi: Hind Swaraj

Objective
- Outline Gandhi’s ideas behind the nonviolent method of passive resistance.

Build Background Knowledge
- Remind students that Gandhi believed in using only peaceful means of protest. Tell them to write down the ideas underpinning this belief as they read.

Instruct
- Discuss Gandhi’s underlying beliefs and how they led him to promote passive resistance. Ask: Why does soul-force involve sacrifice of self? (The person practicing soul-force must accept the consequences of breaking a law.) According to Gandhi, what would a person using body-force do to resist laws? (He or she would use violence.) What character traits would a person who practices passive resistance need? (courage, honesty, bravery, patience, thoughtfulness, self-discipline)

Monitor Progress
- Form students into groups and ask them to debate Gandhi’s ideas. Which aspects of Gandhi’s theories do they think work? Which do not work?

Thinking Critically
- 1. securing rights or bringing about change without using violence
- 2. Yes, using soul-force, whether for a just or unjust cause, never involves violence toward others to accomplish a goal. The one who uses soul-force is the only one who gets hurt.

Editor: Passive resistance is a method of securing rights by personal suffering; it is the reverse of resistance by arms. When I refuse to do a thing that is repugnant (offensive) to my conscience, I use soul-force. For instance, the Government of the day has passed a law which is applicable to me. I do not like it. If by using violence I force the Government to repeal the law, I am employing what may be termed body-force. If I do not obey the law and accept the penalty for its breach, I use soul-force. It involves sacrifice of self.

Everybody admits that sacrifice of self is infinitely superior to sacrifices of others. Moreover, if this kind of force is used in a cause that is unjust, only the person using it suffers. He does not make others suffer for his mistakes. Men have before now done many things which were subsequently found to have been wrong. No man can claim that he is absolutely in the right or that a particular thing is wrong because he thinks so, but it is wrong for him so long as that is his deliberate judgment. It is therefore most (proper) that he should not do that which he knows to be wrong, and suffer the consequence whatever it may be. This is the key to the use of soul-force.

Reader: You would then disregard laws—this is rank disobedience! We have always been considered a law-abiding nation. You seem to be going even beyond the extremists. They say that we must obey the laws that have been passed, but that if the laws be bad, we must drive out the legislators even by force.

Editor: Whether I go beyond them or whether I do not is a matter of no consequence to either of us. We simply want to find out what is right and to act accordingly. The real meaning of the statement that we are a law-abiding nation is that we are passive resisters. When we do not like certain laws, we do not break the laws of the land; we suffer and do not submit to the laws.

History Background

Gandhi’s Early Years: Born on the coast near Bombay, Gandhi was married by his family at 13. His father was prime minister to three local rajas. His mother was deeply religious. Gandhi dreamed of studying medicine, but was forbidden because of his caste. Instead, he studied law in England. Unable to find work in Bombay, he accepted a position in South Africa. On a train there, Gandhi refused a white man’s request that he leave the first-class carriage. As a result, he was thrown off the train at the next station. He spent the night meditating, and decided to dedicate himself to fighting racial injustice. While fighting injustice in South Africa, Gandhi began living a life of poverty and spiritual purity and developed his concept of satyagraha, or soul-force. *the quiet and irresistible pursuit of truth.* Gandhi believed that the means used to achieve a goal should shape the outcome. Gandhi left South Africa in 1914, bringing his quest and his methods to India.