

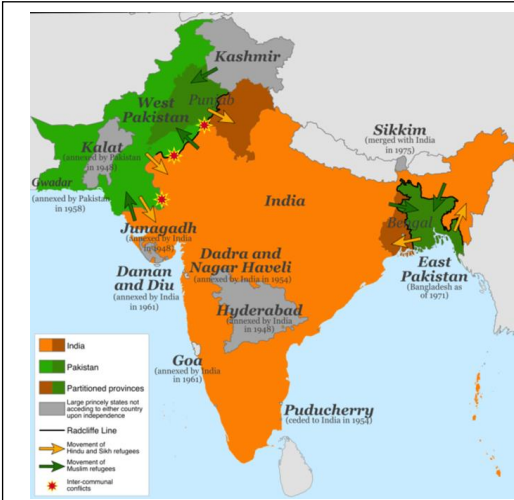
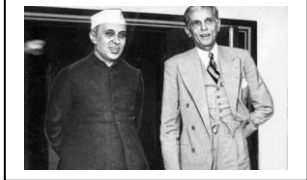
Aim #13: How does India gain independence & what are its effects?



An eye for an eye
will only make the
whole world blind.
Mahatma Gandhi



"With this I am
shaking the
foundations of
the British
Empire!"



MAP BEFORE PARTITION

MAP AFTER PARTITION

Mini Lecture

- When the 20th century began, large parts of Asia had been under Western control for centuries. But a wave of nationalism and **decolonization** rising, particularly after WWII.
- In India, a group of nationalists, mostly middle-class Hindu professionals, formed the **Indian National Congress (INC)** in 1885. Indian Muslims formed a comparable group, the Muslim League in 1906. The goal of these groups was to change, diminish, & eventually eliminate the British domination of their country.
- Indian troops fought for the British in WWI and when they returned to India, many demanded more respect from British authorities.
- Protests against British rule became more widespread after the war, but British authorities contained the protests without resorting to violence. But in April 1919, British soldiers opened fire on a peaceful gathering of about 10,000 Indians in the city of Amritsar, killing about 400 & injuring another 1,200. The **Amritsar Massacre** stirred up demands for greater self-rule.
- In the 1920s & 1930s, **Mohandas Gandhi** ("Mahatma"- "great one"), an Indian lawyer who had studied in London and been an activist for the rights of Indians in South Africa, became a leader in the INC.
- Gandhi persuaded many Indians to practice **passive (nonviolent) resistance or civil disobedience** to British rule. For example, many Indians refused to buy or use British goods (boycott), serve in the armed forces, pay taxes, or obey some British laws. Anyone who did this faced arrest & great numbers of Indians went to jail.
- One symbol of British authority was its control of and tax on the sale of salt. To protest British rule, then, Gandhi led a long protest in 1930 known as the **Salt March**. Walking to the ocean, the marchers filled containers with seawater, set them in the sun, & let the water evaporate till only salt remained.
- By making their own salt, they were breaking the law. More importantly, they threatened British rule. About 60,000 Indians were arrested.
- Gandhi's resistance activities often caused the British authorities to jail him. He also used the tactic of fasting to get his way, going without food for weeks until his demands were met.
- In 1934, **Muhammad Ali Jinnah** became president of the Muslim League. The organization was founded to protect Muslim interests in the region. Jinnah cooperated with the INC at times. At other times, he worked with the British to get protection for Muslims from the Hindu majority. During the 1940s, Jinnah called for a separate Muslim state.
- Jawaharlal Nehru** was a strong Hindu nationalist leader, elected president of the INC six times between 1929 & 1954. He worked closely with Gandhi and was arrested 8 times for his activism.
- When WWII ended, Indian efforts to end colonial rule resumed, but the leaders disagreed on how to move forward. Gandhi believed strongly in uniting Indians of all faiths into one single country. Jinnah feared Hindu domination of Muslims, so he demanded a separate Islamic country.
- Lord Mountbatten, the British colonial leader, proposed portioning the colony into two countries- Pakistan, entirely Muslim and India would be mostly Hindu, but with a large Muslim minority. The **Mountbatten Plan** was adopted.
- However, many regions included both Hindus and Muslims, so a simple separation was impossible. People began fleeing their homes. Hindus tried to get to India and Muslims sought safety in Pakistan. The result was chaos and violence- about 15 million people relocated & over 1 million died. Tensions & violence between the two lasts until today.
- Nehru became the first prime minister of India under the new constitution in 1948. Jinnah headed the government in Pakistan. Gandhi was assassinated in 1948 by a Hindu extremist, who objected his call for fair treatments of Muslims.

Review Questions:

1. Explain how WWII led to decolonization.
2. How was the Amritsar Massacre a turning point in the Indian Independence Movement?
3. How were Gandhi's methods unique? Explain.
4. Explain the problem that arose following India's independence. How was it solved?

Enduring Issue: Inequality; Nationalism

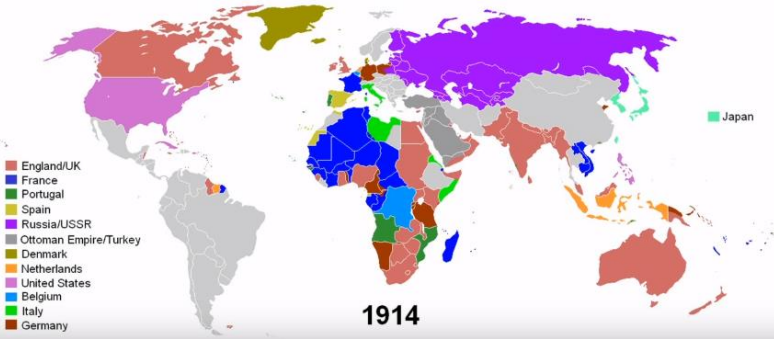
What is decolonization and why did it occur after WWII?

During the 20th century, many colonies began regaining their independence. The two world wars weakened European nations, so they had more difficulty controlling land they ruled overseas. Some decolonization movements, such as the one in India, succeeded through nonviolent resistance. Others, including one in Algeria and Vietnam, succeeded through armed struggle.

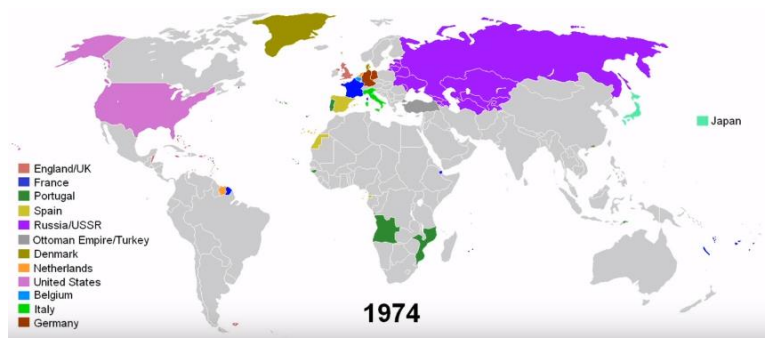
Anticolonial movements built on the idea of nationalism. While nationalism united people enough to throw out colonial rulers, it was often too weak to overcome cultural differences within an independent country. For example, India won its independence from the British after WWII, but it remained a country of hundreds of languages and cultural groups.

Directions: Examine each of the map sets to answer the questions below.

Map A



Map B



1. Based on Maps A & B describe the changes that took place between 1914 and 1974.
2. Based on Maps D, E, and F, describe the changes that took place between 1914 and 1974.

Post-WWII Decolonization

Decolonization is the process of ending colonial rule and establishing a new government, usually by the indigenous people who were colonized. The term decolonization refers to the independence of nations after World War II that were once ruled by European powers or in the case of Korea, Japan. Many of these nations are located in Africa and Asia, regions that were the focus of European imperialism starting in the late 1800s. Due to decolonization, the number of countries in the United Nations increased from 35 in 1946 to 127 by 1970 with many more to follow. In each situation when a nation gained its independence, decolonization was different. Some involved peaceful negotiation, non-violent protest, or violent revolt and armed struggle.

A number of factors led to massive waves of decolonization after WWII. Though imperialism in the 19th and 20th centuries was profitable for the colonizers, it required a lot of resources to keep control of faraway foreign lands. Nations like Great Britain that controlled massive empires employed administrators and military in each colony. They also installed telegraphs, telephones, and railroad systems to improve communication between their bases. When there were uprisings, the imperial country expended more resources to keep control.

In addition to the drain on resources, **nationalism** spread throughout the colonized world. Movements led by leaders like Mohandas Gandhi in India and Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, inspired others in their nations to defy colonial rulers and fight for their right to self-determination [the freedom to choose who will rule one's nation]. Colonial governments discriminated against the indigenous population and in most cases used economic policies that impoverished the colonized people while benefiting Europeans.

The Great Depression and World War II accelerated the process of decolonization. The Great Depression damaged the world's economy, leading to fewer resources that Western powers could use to control their colonies. At the same time, the economic distress in the colonies caused by the Great Depression made the colonized even more frustrated with their political situation.

During World War II and the period just after the war, European countries focused their efforts on rebuilding their countries. As a result, they were more willing to negotiate with colonies who demanded independence. Furthermore, public opinion started to change. After World War II, organizations like the United Nations with representatives from most countries in the world, supported the process of decolonization and took part in helping colonial governments and colonies negotiate for independence.

1. What is decolonization?
2. Why did decolonization occur after WWI?

What historical circumstances led to the start of the Indian Independence Movement?

Directions: Read through the text below and answer the questions that follow.

The British East India Company

British involvement in India started in the 1600s with the **British East India Company**, a trading company that was supported by the British government. The British hoped to establish direct trade with India because the Ottoman Empire controlled trade overland. The British East India Company made an agreement with the **Mughal Empire** that ruled most of India and set up trading forts on the coast. Between the early 1600s and 1857, the British East India Company gained influence, power, and territory in India. They took power through force and agreements with Indian rulers. In 1857 Indian soldiers employed by the British East India Company rebelled in what is known as the **Sepoy Rebellion**. The uprising lasted over a year. In the end, the British defeated the sepoys and took control over India once again.

British Rule

As a result of the British East India Company's inability to control India, the Company was replaced by the British government, sometimes called the **British Raj**. India became an official British colony and was known as the "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire because it was the largest and most profitable colony in the empire. The British government continued to administer India as the Company had, with strict control and they brought more British troops to the colony and limited which weapons Indian soldiers could handle.

Under the British Raj, after the Sepoy Rebellion, the British in India separated themselves from most Indians. They lived in well-guarded military camps and spent time in private clubs that did not allow Indian members, only Indian servants. As a result of living separately, British understanding of the Indian way of life and culture was laced with suspicion, indifference, and fear.

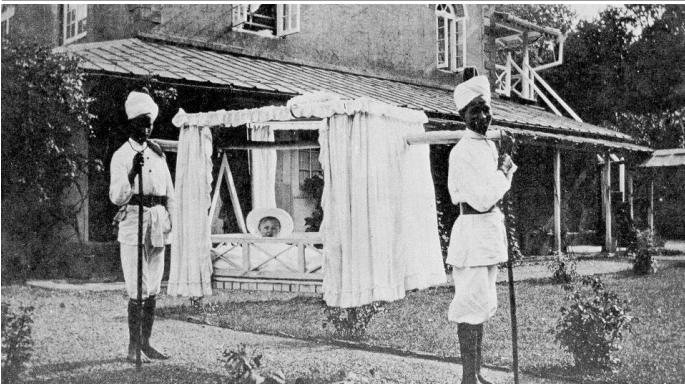
The British united India as one colony and set about modernizing and westernizing the region and its people. They built railway, transport, and communication systems that brought the previously independent regions of India together. This helped the British stay informed about activities in the colony, keep control of it, and transport raw materials from which they profited.

While the British Raj united the colony with railroads, it divided it along religious lines. The Raj used a policy called "divide and rule." This partly refers to the way in which much territory was acquired, by playing one Indian ruler against another, but also because of how they treated India's Muslim and Hindu populations. There is a long history of animosity between the Muslim and Hindu populations in South Asia that is often traced back to the founding of the Mughal Empire and specifically the practices of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. The British argued that it was necessary for them to control the Indians because without their presence, the Muslims and Hindus would kill each other. For example, in 1905, the British divided the province of Bengal into East Bengal for Muslims, and West Bengal for Hindus. Both sides resented British involvement and accused them of favoring the other religion. The action led to more religious riots in Bengal. The British gave up on dividing Bengal and the area continued to experience religious violence. The situation in Bengal was repeated with greater and more disastrous effects when India gained its independence from Great Britain in 1947.

The British desire to make money from agriculture in India transformed the lives of Indians. The British forced Indian farmers to grow crops like jute and cotton that could be turned into textiles and indigo that was used to create a blue dye, so they could be exported to Great Britain where they were turned into cloth by British mills. That cloth and other goods that were previously made by Indians could not compete with cheaper British-made goods that flooded the country. As a result, Indian artisans gave up their crafts to work in agriculture. In addition to crops for textiles, the British created large tea and coffee plantations to meet increased demand in Europe and the United States.

The change from farming for food to cash crops turned deadly in the face of famines which struck India in the later half of the 1800s, killing 30–40 million Indians. Some modern scholars attribute the famines both to uneven rainfall and British economic and administrative policies. Instead allowing Indians to grow food when they needed it most, the British continued to produce cash crops for export.

The British also instituted an education system in India that was based on their own. Upper class Indians learned to read and write in English, studied medicine, British government and law, and sometimes traveled to England for higher education. While some benefited from this new education, there were also those who saw it as an attempt to westernize Indians and replace their culture with the British.



An English baby girl being carried on a palanquin by Indian bearers, on the road of Nainital. Photograph dated 1904.



Passenger train on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, a British owned company in 1855.

1. Why was India considered the "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire?
2. According to the text, how did most British people feel about Indians after the Sepoy Rebellion?
3. What effects did British rule have on the Indian economy?
4. What effect did the British have on the Indian education system?
5. What strategies did the British use to gain, consolidate, and maintain their power in India?

Who was Mohandas Gandhi?

Directions: Watch the [Biography.com Mini Bio on Mohandas Gandhi](#), this [newsreel from 1931](#), and a section of this [First Television Interview with Gandhi from 1931](#) and answer the questions below.

1. What was Gandhi's profession? Where was he trained?
2. Describe Gandhi's experiences and actions in South Africa.
3. Identify and describe three actions Gandhi took to support Indian Independence from Great Britain.

What was his point of view concerning British rule of India?

Directions: Read each of the excerpts written by Mohandas Gandhi, then answer the questions related to each one.

Document 1

In his book *Indian Home Rule*, Gandhi asked the question, "Why do you want to drive away the English?" He replied with the following statement:

... "Because India has become impoverished [made poor] by their Government. They take away our money from year to year. The most important posts are reserved for themselves. We are kept in a state of slavery. They behave insolently [insultingly] towards us and disregard our feelings. . . ."

- 1a. Who does Gandhi refer to when stating "their Government," "they," and "themselves?"
- 1b. Based on this excerpt, why does Gandhi want to drive away the English?

Document 2

By 1930, when Gandhi wrote the following letter to the leader of the British Government in India, he had become the leader of the Indian Independence Movement and of the Indian National Congress. This is a public letter, sometimes referred to as an open letter, meaning that it was published in a newspaper at the time.

Dear Friend,

Before embarking on Civil Disobedience...I would again approach you and find a way out.

My personal faith is absolutely clear. I cannot intentionally hurt anything that lives, much less fellow human beings, even though they may do the greatest wrong to me and mine. Whilst, therefore, I hold the British rule to be a curse, I do not intend harm to a single Englishman or to any legitimate interest he may have in India.

I must not be misunderstood. Though I hold the British rule in India to be a curse, I do not, therefore, consider Englishmen in general to be worse than any other people on earth. I have the privilege of claiming many Englishmen as dearest friends. Indeed much that I have learnt of the evil of British rule is due to the writings of frank and courageous Englishmen who have not hesitated to tell the unpalatable [unappealing] truth about that rule....

It [British rule] has reduced us politically to serfdom. It has sapped the foundations of our culture. And, by the policy of disarmament [taking away of weapons], it has degraded us spiritually. Lacking the inward strength, we have been reduced, by all but universal disarmament, to a State bordering on cowardly helplessness.

...I have been recently telling the public what Independence should really mean.

Let me put before you some of the salient points.

The terrific pressure of land revenue, which furnishes a large part of the total, must undergo considerable modification in an Independent India ... The ryot [Indian peasant] has remained as helpless as ever... But the British system seems to be designed to crush the very life out of him ... The tax [specifically a tax on the making and selling of salt] shows itself still more burdensome on the poor man when it is remembered that salt is the one thing he must eat more than the rich man both individually and collectively. The drink and drug revenue, too, is derived from the poor. It saps the foundations both of their health and morals ... If the weight of taxation has crushed the poor from above, the destruction of the central supplementary industry, i.e. hand-spinning, has undermined their capacity for producing wealth.

...This transformation is impossible without Independence...

- 2a. What does civil disobedience mean?
- 2b. What are Gandhi's views of British rule and of Englishmen? Are they the same thing?
- 2c. Gandhi states that British rule has reduced Indians to a state of "serfdom." What does serfdom mean? During what other time periods and which places have you studied serfdom?
- 2d. According to Gandhi, identify two ways British rule harmed the Indian economy.

Document 3 (Continued from document 2)

... the conviction is growing deeper and deeper in me that nothing but unadulterated non-violence can check the organised violence of the British Government. Many think that non-violence is not an active force. My experience, limited though it undoubtedly is, shows that non-violence can be an intensely active force. It is my purpose to set in motion that force as well against the organised violent force of the British rule as the unorganised violent force of the growing party of violence. To sit still would be to give rein to both the forces above mentioned. Having an unquestioning and immovable faith in the efficacy of non-violence, as I know it, it would be sinful on my part to wait any longer.

I know that in embarking on non-violence I shall be running what might fairly be termed a mad risk. But the victories of truth have never been won without risks, often of the gravest character. Conversion of a nation that has consciously or unconsciously preyed upon another, far more numerous, far more ancient and no less cultured than itself, is worth any amount of risk.

I have deliberately used the word conversion. For my ambition is no less than to convert the British people, through non-violence, and thus make them see the wrong they have done to India. I do not seek to harm your people. I want to serve them even as I want to serve my own...If the people [of India] join me as I expect they will, the sufferings they will undergo, unless the British nation sooner retraces its steps, will be enough to melt the stoniest hearts...

- 3a. According to Gandhi, how can Indians defeat the British?
- 3b. Why does Gandhi use the word "conversion" to describe the effect he hopes to have on the British people?

How did India gain independence?

Directions: Examine each event on the timeline below and answer the questions embedded.

1885: Indian National Congress Founded

A group of seventy-three mostly well-to-do and western-educated Indians who were lawyers, teachers, and journalists, met in Bombay to form the Indian National Congress in 1885. At first, this group supported the British Raj and met to discuss issues that were concerns for urban and elite Indians but were not controversial. They wrote papers suggesting changes to the British colonial government and submitted them for review but they had little success.

In the early 1900s, a sense of nationalism grew in the members of the Indian National Congress. Some Congressmen supported the British but wanted more say in the government and administration in India. Others advocated for Swaraj, or self-rule. In the early 1900s, those still loyal to the British won out.

1. Who was a part of the Indian National Congress?
2. What was the goal of the Indian National Congress in the early 1900s?

1906: Muslim League Formed

The Indian National Congress was dominated by Hindu Indians and their concerns. In response to Hindu nationalism, leading members of the upper class Muslim community formed the Muslim League in 1906. Like the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League petitioned the British for more say in the government for Indian Muslims and for laws and policies that would favor the people they represented.

3. How was the Muslim League different than the Indian National Congress?
4. What was the purpose of the Muslim League?

1915: Gandhi Returns to India

After gaining fame and some success as a defender of Indian rights in South Africa, Mohandas Gandhi returned to India in 1915. He was known for his nonviolent opposition of British policies in South Africa that included boycotts, protest marches, and fasts.

Gandhi became a member of the Indian National Congress and promoted his ideas of reacting to unjust British laws using civil disobedience. Unlike many of the members of the Congress, Gandhi was able to better connect with everyday Indians.

Gandhi's first major protests targeted British landlords who forced Indian farmers to grow a cash crop called indigo and to sell it at a low price instead of more in-demand crops that they wanted to grow and could make more money with. Gandhi also led protests against the British taxation of a region suffering from the effects of floods and famine. Gandhi and his supporters won more favorable agreements in both cases.

5. What was Gandhi "known for" when he returned to India in 1915?
6. What actions did Gandhi take to fight injustice in his first years back in India?

1914-1918: World War I

During World War I, when Britain declared war on Germany, they brought India into the fight. Large numbers of Indian troops served overseas. In exchange, the British government declared that it would gradually increase Indian participation in the British Raj.

Instead, during World War I (1914–18) the British government of India enacted a series of repressive emergency powers that were intended to combat extreme political activities. By the war's end, expectations were high among Indians that those measures would be eased and that India would be given more political autonomy. However, the British passed what became known as the **Rowlatt Acts** in early 1919, which essentially extended the repressive wartime measures. The Rowlatt Acts stated that political cases could be tried without juries and that people suspected of acting against the government could be jailed without a trial.

7. What promises did the British make during WWI? Did they follow through on those promises? Explain.

April 1919: Amritsar Massacre

Watch this [dramatization of the Massacre of Amritsar from the film Gandhi \(1982\)](#) and read the text below.

The Massacre of Amritsar, also called **Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre**, occurred on April 13, 1919. British troops fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in [Amritsar](#) in the Punjab region of [India](#), killing several hundred people and wounding many hundreds more. It marked a turning point in India's modern history because it left a permanent scar on Indo-British relations and was the prelude to [Mohandas Gandhi](#)'s full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.

The Rowlatt Acts, initiated in 1919, were met by widespread anger and discontent among Indians, notably in the Punjab region. In early April, Gandhi called for a one-day general strike throughout the country. In [Amritsar](#), the news that prominent Indian leaders had been arrested and banished from the city sparked violent protests in which soldiers fired upon civilians, buildings were looted and burned, and angry mobs killed several foreign nationals and severely beat a Christian missionary. A force of several dozen troops commanded by Brigadier General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer was given the task of restoring order. Among the measures taken was a ban on public gatherings.

On the afternoon of April 13, a crowd of at least 10,000 men, women, and children gathered in an open space known as the Jallianwalla Bagh, which was nearly completely enclosed by walls and had only one exit. It is not clear how many people there were protesters who were defying the ban on public meetings and how many had come to the city from the surrounding region to celebrate Baisakhi, a spring festival. Dyer and his soldiers arrived and sealed off the exit. Without warning, the troops opened fire on the crowd, reportedly shooting hundreds of rounds until they ran out of ammunition. It is not certain how many died but, according to one official report, an estimated 379 people were killed, and about 1,200 more were wounded. After they ceased firing, the troops immediately withdrew from the place, leaving behind the dead and wounded.

8. Why were people protesting in Amritsar? Why were there troops in Amritsar?
9. Why is the Massacre of Amritsar historically significant?

1921: Gandhi Given Leadership of Indian National Congress

After the Amritsar Massacre, Gandhi dedicated himself to gaining self-rule for India. In 1921, he was given leadership of the Indian National Congress. He reorganized the group with the goal of *Swaraj* through the use of nonviolent forms of protest.

10. With Gandhi as its leader, what was the goal of the Indian National Congress after 1921?

1920s-1940s: Homespun Movement

Great Britain's efforts to modernize the Indian economy brought industrial manufacturing to the colony through the building of textile factories. The move benefited British factory owners, but it greatly diminished India's traditional economy. People who once made a living by making cloth could not compete with inexpensive machine-made British goods.

Gandhi argued that India needed to be self-sufficient so they would not have to not rely on the British. One way of doing this, he claimed, was for Indians to make their own clothes. The push for Indians to give up buying British textiles and to make their own clothes was called the Homespun Movement.

Gandhi led the movement by example. He made all of his own clothing and carried a portable spinning wheel with him so he could continue the practice while traveling.



Gandhi spinning, late 1940s.

11. Why did Gandhi encourage Indians to spin their own cloth?

1930: The Salt March

Watch this [History Channel video on Gandhi's Salt March](#) and then watch this [dramatization of the Salt March from the film Gandhi \(1982\)](#).

Soon after the Salt March ended, Gandhi was arrested. The protest against the salt tax continued. Gandhi's followers nonviolently marching toward the British Salt Works in Gujarat where they were beaten by soldiers employed by the British army.

The Salt March and protests that followed it brought worldwide attention to the Indian Independence movement and British cruelty. The media attention turned public opinion in Great Britain in Gandhi's favor and led to his release from prison, negotiations with the British government in India, and more support for Indian self-rule.

12. Why did Gandhi lead the Salt March?

13. What did Gandhi achieve through the Salt March?

1930s: Government Act of 1935 and Elections of 1937

After Gandhi's release from prison and the end of the salt tax protests, the Indian National Congress, led by Gandhi, entered into years of negotiations with the British Raj. The resulting law was the Government of India Act of 1935. The Government of India Act of 1935 was a new plan for ruling India that involved more Indian participation in the government and free elections to select representatives from each province.

In 1937, the first elections took place. The Indian National Congress candidates won a majority of the provinces, while the Muslim League did poorly in the election.

14. What benefits did Indians gain from the Government Act of 1935?

1940: Lahore Resolution

In 1940, the Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah wrote the Lahore Resolution, a statement that demanded that India be separated into two states: one for Hindus and one for Muslims. Violence between Muslims and Hindus had been a continuous issue in India, and politicians like Jinnah feared that the Indian National Congress, which was dominated by Hindus, would not negotiate for the best interests of the Muslim population.

15. What was the Lahore Resolution? What effect might it have on India's independence?



Photograph of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Mohandas Gandhi, 1944. Though pictured here in good spirits, the two disagreed on whether and independent India should remain one country or be divided between Muslims and Hindus.

1939-1945: World War II, the Quit India Movement, and the Indian National Army

At the outbreak of WWII, the British pulled India into the conflict without consulting the elected Indian representatives. In response, all of the elected Indian officials resigned from the government.

In 1942, Gandhi and the Indian National Congress launched the **Quit India Movement**, demanding immediate independence for India. In a speech entitled, "Do or Die," given on August 8, 1942, Gandhi urged the masses to act as an independent nation and not to follow the orders of the British. His call found support among a large number of Indians, including revolutionaries who did not support Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence. Almost the entire Congress leadership, both at the national and local levels, was put into confinement less than twenty-four hours after Gandhi's speech, and the greater number of the Congress leaders spent the rest of the war in jail. Despite lack of direct leadership, large-scale protests and demonstrations were held all over the country. The British responded with mass detentions, making over 100,000 arrests.

The Quit India Movement died down in a few months, but other groups of Indians started to rebel against the British. A group of Indian soldiers that once fought for the British, switched sides during WWII to fight with the Japanese in an attempt to invade India from the Southeast, defeat the British, and declare India independent. They were unsuccessful, but the attempt showed how deeply Indians disliked British rule. In addition, in 1946 sailors in the Royal Indian Navy revolted against the British, refusing to work, carrying on violent protests, and in some instances taking over ships.

The pressure from the Quit India Movement, recognition that the armed forces were opposed to British rule, and the drain on resources from WWII and the recovery from that war, led the British to give up their control of India. Soon, they started negotiations with the Indian National Congress and Muslim League to transfer power to India.

16. Identify and explain three reasons the British gave up power in India.

August 14, 1947: Independence, the Partition of India, and the death of Gandhi

Watch this [excerpt of this documentary on Gandhi \(31:52-end\)](#) and read the text below.

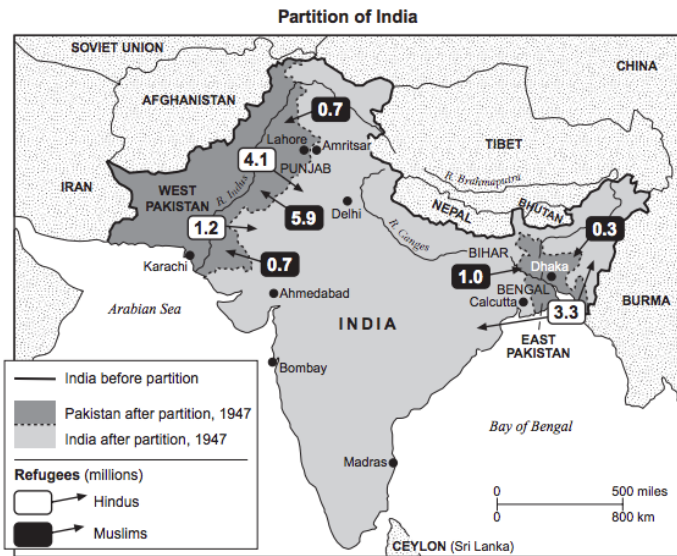
Despite Gandhi's desire to keep India together, the decision was made to divide the colony into two separate and independent nations: India and Pakistan (more on this in a later lesson). This separation of India and Pakistan is known as the **Partition of India**.

Pakistan gained its independence on August 14, 1947 and was led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
 India gained its independence on August 15, 1947 and was led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

- 17. Why was Gandhi unhappy with the result of India's Independence Movement?
- 18. How did Gandhi react to violence between Hindus and Muslims after Partition?
- 19. How did Gandhi die? What reason was given for his death?

Why was the Partition of India a turning point for the region?

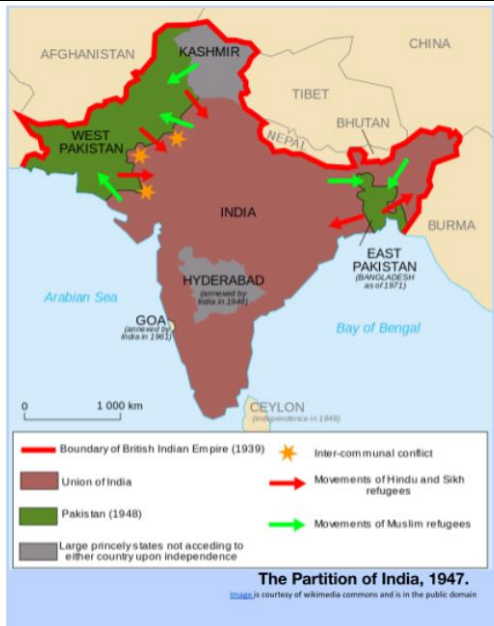
Directions: Watch this video from Vox entitled, "[How the British failed India and Pakistan.](#)", this video from Vox entitled, "[The conflict in Kashmir, explained.](#)" and/or this video from Vox entitled, "[How this border transformed a subcontinent | India & Pakistan](#)" then answer the questions that follow.



Source: Christine Hatt, *Judge for Yourself: Mahatma Gandhi*, World Almanac Library (adapted)

- 1. What was the British policy of "divide and rule"?
- 2. How did the government of India Act of 1935 and the first elections contribute to the British divide and rule strategy?
- 3. Which country is predominantly Muslim: India or Pakistan?
- 4. Which country is predominantly Hindu: India or Pakistan?
- 5. How were the borders between Pakistan and India decided on? Who created them? What were the effects of these borders?
- 6. What were the immediate effects of the Partition?
- 7. What have been the long-term effects of the Partition on the relationship between Pakistan and India?
- 8. Where is Kashmir? Why is there conflict in the region?

Watch this [video on the Partition of India](#) and read [this article from BBC History](#), then answer the questions that follow.



- 1. Why was the colony of India divided into India and Pakistan in 1947?
- 2. What were the immediate effects of the Partition?
- 3. What have been the long term effects of the Partition on the relationship between Pakistan and India?

