

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Class : 12th

Subject : History

Chapter : 13

Chapter Name : Mahatma Gandhi And The Nationalist Movement

Q1 How did Mahatma Gandhi seek to identify with the common people?

Answer. Mahatma Gandhi sought to identify with the common people in the following ways :

- He used to speak the language of the common people.
- He wore the dress that the common or poor people wore.
- He opposed caste system.
- He worked on charkha.
- He used to clean toilets.

Page : 374 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q2 How was Mahatma Gandhi perceived by the peasants?

Answer. Gandhiji was perceived by the peasants as he started working for them. Gandhiji joined peasants in Kheda of n asking the state for the remission of taxes following the failure of their harvest. Later when he made his opening speech at BHU, he chose the peasants who constituted a majority of the Indian population.

Gandhiji was presented with an opportunity to put his precepts into practice. At the annual Congress, held in Lucknow in December 1916, he was approached by a peasant from Champaran in Bihar, who told him about the harsh treatment of peasants by British indigo planters.

Page : 374 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q3 Why did the salt laws become an important issue of struggle?

Answer. The salt laws became an important issue of struggle due to the following reasons :

→ Salt is a basic ingredient in every Indian household, salt is indispensable, yet people were forbidden from making salt even for domestic use, compelling them to buy it from the shops at a high price.

→ The state had monopoly over salt.

This law was very unpopular yet Gandhiji hoped to mobilise a wider discontent against British rule.

Page : 374 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q4 Why are newspapers an important source for the study of the national movement?

Answer. Newspapers served an important source for the study of the national movement because it tracked Mahatma Gandhi's movements and reported on his activities and also represented what ordinary Indians thought of him. Newspaper accounts, however should not be seen as unprejudiced. They were published by people who had their own political opinions and world views.

Page : 374 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q5 Why was the charkha chosen as a symbol of nationalism?

Answer. Mahatma Gandhi was profoundly critical of the modern age in which machines enslaved humans and displaced labour. He saw charkha as a symbol of a human society that would not glorify machines and technology. The spinning wheel, moreover, could provide the poor with supplementary income and make them self-reliant.

Page : 374 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q6 How was non-cooperation a form of protest?

Answer. Non-cooperation was a form of protest in the following ways :

→ Embodied by the success of Rowlatt Satyagraha, Gandhiji called for a campaign of "non-cooperation" with British rule. Indians who wished to end the colonial rule were asked to stop attending schools, colleges and law courts, and not to pay taxes. If people followed this it would disrupt the works of the British Government.

→ Students stopped going to schools and colleges run by the government. Lawyers refused to attend courts. The working class went on strike in many towns and cities.

→ Peasants in kumaun refused to carry loads for colonial officials.

As a consequence of Non-cooperation Movement the British Raj was shaken to its foundations for the first time since the Revolt of 1857.

Page : 375 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q7 Why were the dialogues at the Round Table Conference inconclusive?

Answer. The Round Table Conferences were convened by the British Government in London. The first meeting was held in November 1930, but without the pre-eminent political leader in India, thus rendering it an exercise in futility. There were several long meetings with the Viceroy, this resulted in "Gandhi-Irwin Pact", by the terms of which civil disobedience movement would be called off, all prisoners released, and salt manufacture allowed along the coast. The pact as criticized by radical nationalist, for Gandhiji was unable to obtain from the Viceroy a commitment

to political independence for Indians; he could obtain merely an assurance of talks towards that possible end.

A second Round Table Conference was held in London in the latter part of 1931. Here, Gandhiji represented the Congress. However, his claims that his party represented all of India came under challenge from three parties : the Muslim League, the Princes, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who argued that Gandhiji and the Congress did not really represent the lowest castes.

Thus, the Round Table Conferences were inconclusive, so Gandhiji returned to India and resumed civil disobedience.

Page : 375 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q8 In what way did Mahatma Gandhi transform the nature of the national movement?

Answer. In January 1915 M. K. Gandhi returned to India. The India that Mahatma Gandhi left in 1893 was way different than what it was in 1915, when he returned back. People here became far more politically active. The Indian National Congress now had branches in most major cities and towns. In the year 1917 Gandhiji went to Champaran in Bihar to fight for the peasants. He went to Champaran in order to obtain Peasants security of tenure as well as the freedom to cultivate the crops of their choice. In 1918, Gandhiji was involved in two campaigns first in Ahmedabad textile mills and second in Kheda.

Gandhiji later coupled non-cooperation with Khilafat. These movements certainly unleashed a surge of popular action that was altogether unprecedented in colonial India.

By the year 1922, Gandhiji transformed Indian nationalism, thereby redeeming the promise he made in his BHU speech of February 1916. Next was the Salt Satyagraha which was again a successful move. Then came the Quit India campaign in August 1942 which was genuinely a mass movement.

When Mahatma Gandhi joined politics, it was merely a struggle. Intact the meetings of the Congress were also just limited to the anglicised Indians. Through his efforts he brought the poor peasants, artisans, women and others from various backgrounds and walks of life together in the freedom struggle.

Page : 375 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q9 What do private letters and autobiographies tell us about an individual? How are these sources different from official accounts?

Answer. The private letters and autobiographies are important sources of information that provides us with a deep insight into the perception of an individual regarding different issues. Private letters give us a glimpse of his or her private thoughts. In letters we can see people expressing their anger and pain, their dismay and anxiety, their hopes and frustrations. Autobiographies gives us an account of the past that is often rich in human detail.

Many a times letters are written to individuals and are therefore personal, but they are also meant for the public. The language of the letters is often shaped by the awareness that one day they may be published.

Private letters and autobiographies are different from that of official accounts in many ways like official accounts are generally maintained by the government officials. These accounts are written as per certain norms or ways in which the government accepts it. In government records those details are emphasised or generally expressed that run contrary to the views of the government.

Page : 375 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q10 Find out about the route of the Dandi March. On a map of Gujarat plot the line of the march and mark the major towns and villages that it passed along the route.

Answer. The Dandi March started from Sabarmati Ashram and ended at Dandi.



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