

Movement for Independence

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Rowlatt Act

- December 1917
- Committee formed under Justice Rowlatt
- To investigate revolutionary activity in India
- It confirmed revolutionary activity in India

Main tenets of Rowlatt Act

- Arrest without warrant
- Detention without bail
- The right of provincial Government to order people where to live

Aftermath of Rowlatt Act

- Uproar in India
- Jinnah resigned from Imperial legislative council
- Gandhi launched hartal

Amritsar Massacre

- Strikes and demonstrations caused the British to ban public meetings
- 10 April, 1919, rioting started in city of Amritsar and two banks were attacked and five Europeans were killed
- General Dyer, commander in the area was determined to restore order
- Angered when a crowd of estimated 20,000 peaceful protestors gathered in Jallianwala Bagh
- Troops opened fire: 400 people killed and 1200 wounded

Non-Cooperation Movement

- March, 1920
- Led by Gandhi
- British clothes were burned
- Teachers and students lefts English colleges
- Lawyers gave up practice
- First elections of reformed councils were ignored

Khilafat Movement

Background of khilafat Movement

- During First World War there were two sides: UK, France, US versus Germany, Austria, Turkey
- Turkey or Ottoman Empire were led by Caliph
- Treaty of Versailles set out to punish defeated players and this worried Muslims in India for Caliph was spiritual head of Muslim community

Reasons for the formation of Calipahite Movement

1. Deep-Seated Muslim Fears

- Indian Muslims were suspicious of the way Britain has treated Muslims in the past
- Mistreatment of Muslims in Persia and Afghanistan

2. Institution of Caliph under threat

- Caliph was spiritual head of Muslim Ummah
- Removal of Caliph would be a serious blow to the spirit of Muslim community

3. Treaty of Versailles

- Probability of adverse impacts on ottoman empire

Establishment of Khilafat Movement

The All India Khilafat Conference

- In November 1919, a conference was called in Delhi to try to persuade the British to maintain the Turkish empire
- Leading figures of conference: Maulana Shaukat Ali, Maulana Muhammad Ali Johar, and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad
- The conference passed a resolution agreeing to send a delegation to Britain to make sure that the British were aware of the strength of Muslim support for the caliph
- Gandhi was also present in the conference, it reflected the bi-partisan spirit of the movement

The second Conference

- It was held in Amritsar in December 1919
- At the same time both congress and the League were also meeting in the city
- It was agreed that all three organisations should work together to oppose plans to dismember the Turkish empire
- It was agreed that Gandhi would take lead in trying to persuade the British not to punish Turkey

Further developments

- Treaty of Sevres: Ottoman Empire was to split up
- Turks later rebelled against this treaty and the Treaty of Lausanne replaced it in 1923. Some of the land lost in Europe was returned, but never regained control of the Muslim territories in the Middle East.
- Non-cooperation heightened
- Khilafat Movement as a general anti-British protest

Hijrat Movement

- India as Dar ul Harab
- Hordes of Muslims migrated to Afghanistan

Khilafat Movement in Difficulty

- On 8 July 1921, the All-India khilafat Movement met for the third and final time
- It passed many resolutions which so offended the British that they arrested its leaders on the charges of sedition
- Moplah Uprising: Burning down of police station
- Chauri Chura: twenty one policemen were killed
- Gandhi called off the non-cooperation movement
- In 1922, the sultan was deprived of political power
- Two years later, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk abolished the caliphate and exiled the the Caliph, Muhammad VI

Reasons For the Failure of the Khilafat Movement

- Its members were more concerned with the fate of Caliph than the Turkish people
- Unsustainable unity between Muslims and Hindus
- The core objective was diluted when it turned as a general anti British movement

Impact of Khilafat Movement

- Policy of non-cooperation showed the strength of Indian people
- It made the Muslims realise that they have power to mobilise
- It also created good between Muslims and British
- Communal problems