

and English concepts of law, justice, democracy, and nationalism. However, the funds that the British made available for health and education were hardly adequate for India's massive needs.

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

By the early 20th century, the Indian nationalist movement for self-government and independence centered in the *Indian National Congress party*.

1. Leaders

a. Mohandas K. Gandhi. A high-caste Hindu educated in Britain, Gandhi absorbed Western ideals of democracy and nationalism. He became the political and spiritual leader of the Indian masses—revered as a prophet and called "saintly one," or *Mahatma*. Gandhi sought to end British rule, not with violence, but with *passive resistance*, also called *noncooperation* or *civil disobedience*. His followers boycotted British goods, shunned government service, refused to pay taxes, and disregarded British laws. Gandhi believed that passive resistance would compel Britain to withdraw from India.

To provide work for India's masses and to avoid the need for foreign capital, Gandhi urged India to produce goods by ancient hand methods. Gandhi also struggled to improve the status of India's untouchables.

b. Jawaharlal Nehru. Also a high-caste Hindu educated in Britain, Nehru was a practical political leader with socialist leanings. He accepted Gandhi's ideas of passive resistance and aiding untouchables, but he rejected Gandhi's proposal for hand production. Instead, Nehru urged industrialization to develop India's economy and raise living standards.

c. Mohammed Ali Jinnah. A Moslem, Jinnah in the 1930's led his coreligionists out of the Congress party and into the *Moslem League*. Because he feared Hindu domination, Jinnah demanded that the Moslem sections of India become a separate independent state, *Pakistan*.

2. India Gains Independence (1947). Following World War I, Indian nationalists intensified their campaign against British rule. Undeterred by repeated jail sentences, they practiced civil disobedience. Even Gandhi and Nehru were several times imprisoned.

During World War II the Congress party rejected Britain's offer of postwar independence, continued its policy of civil disobedience, and demanded immediate freedom. The Indians, however, could not convince the British to act more rapidly. After the war, in 1947, India (chiefly Hindu) and Pakistan (predominantly Moslem) both received dominion status.

3. Moslem-Hindu Violence Accompanies Independence. With British control removed, Moslems and Hindus engaged in bloody religious riots and sought safety by mass migrations. Because Gandhi preached against such violence, he was assassinated in 1948 by a Hindu fanatic.

INDIA AS A BRITISH POSSESSION

1. Political Control. To the mid-19th century, Britain controlled India through a private business enterprise, the *British East India Company*. Its rule resulted in an Indian revolt in 1857, led by the British army's native soldiers, called *sepoys*. After suppressing the *Sepoy Mutiny*, the British government assumed control of the country, ruling British India directly as a colony and ruling the native states indirectly as protectorates through British "advisers" to the Indian princes. In 1876, after Prime Minister Disraeli had secured the Suez Canal, which shortened the water route to India, Parliament proclaimed Queen Victoria as Empress of India.

The British freed India of local wars, guarded its borders against invasion, and generally provided efficient rule. In response to Indian demands, Britain in 1919 permitted the Indian people limited self-government.

2. Economic Control. Britain profited greatly from India, called the "brightest jewel of the British Empire." British manufacturers and workers depended upon India to purchase their textiles and machines. British merchants sought India's exports of raw jute and tea. British investors developed India's mineral resources, built railways, and established factories. By the mid-20th century, India was an important Asian producer of textiles, iron and steel, and cement.

By industrializing India, the British provided employment for many Indian workers. Also, the British government improved the country by public works: schools, roads, hospitals, and irrigation and sanitation projects.

The Indian masses, however, continued to live close to the starvation level. The population almost doubled between 1850 and 1900, and job opportunities could not keep up with the increase in population. Handicraft workers could not compete with factories, and factory workers received extremely low wages. Farmers, the overwhelming majority in the population, were beset by uncertain rainfall, crude cultivation methods, high rents, and heavy taxes.

3. Social Control. The British had little respect for the native Indian culture, particularly the barbaric practices of slavery, *suttee* (the Hindu custom of burning the widow on the funeral pyre of her deceased husband), and *female infanticide* (killing unwanted baby girls). The British halted these practices. Also, the instituted modern health methods, thus lowering the death rate, began English-oriented educational programs, and introduced the English language