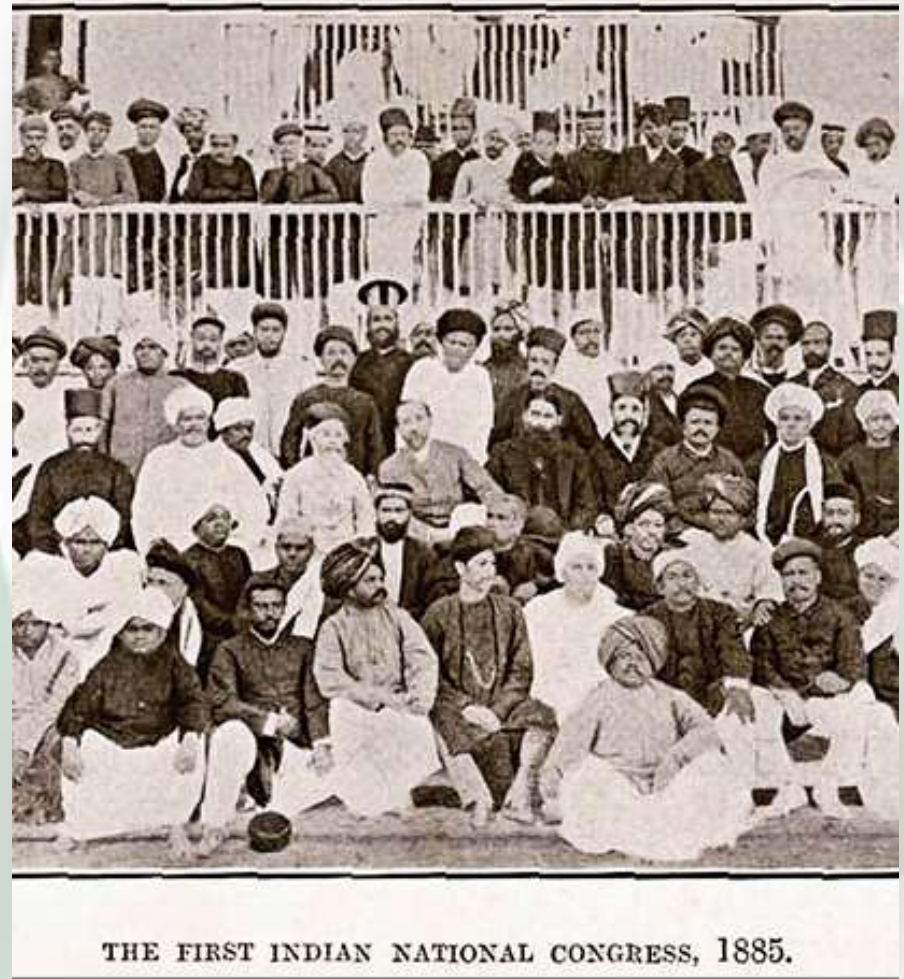


India Gains Independence



India National Congress (INC) Founded 1885

- A group of mostly well-to-do and western-educated Hindu Indians met in Bombay to form the INC in 1885
- At first, supported the **British Raj** and met to discuss issues that were concerns for urban and elite Indians
- By early 1900s, nationalism grew in the members of the INC
- Some supported the British but wanted more say in the government
- Others advocated for **Swaraj**, or self-rule.



Muslim League Founded 1906



- In response to Hindu nationalism, leading members of the upper class Muslim community formed the Muslim League in 1906
- Like the INC, the Muslim League petitioned the Brits. for more say in the government
- Also advocated for Indian Muslims and for laws and policies that would favor them

Gandhi Returns to India 1915

- Returns after gaining fame and some success as a defender of Indian rights in S. Africa
- Known for his nonviolent opposition of Brit. policies in S. Africa that included boycotts, protest marches, and fasts
- Gandhi became a member of the INC and promoted his ideas of reacting to unjust Brit. laws using ***civil disobedience***
- Unlike many of the members of the INC, he was able to better connect with everyday Indians
- 1st major protests targeted Brit. landlords who forced Indian farmers to grow indigo and to sell it at low prices instead of crops that could have made more \$\$\$



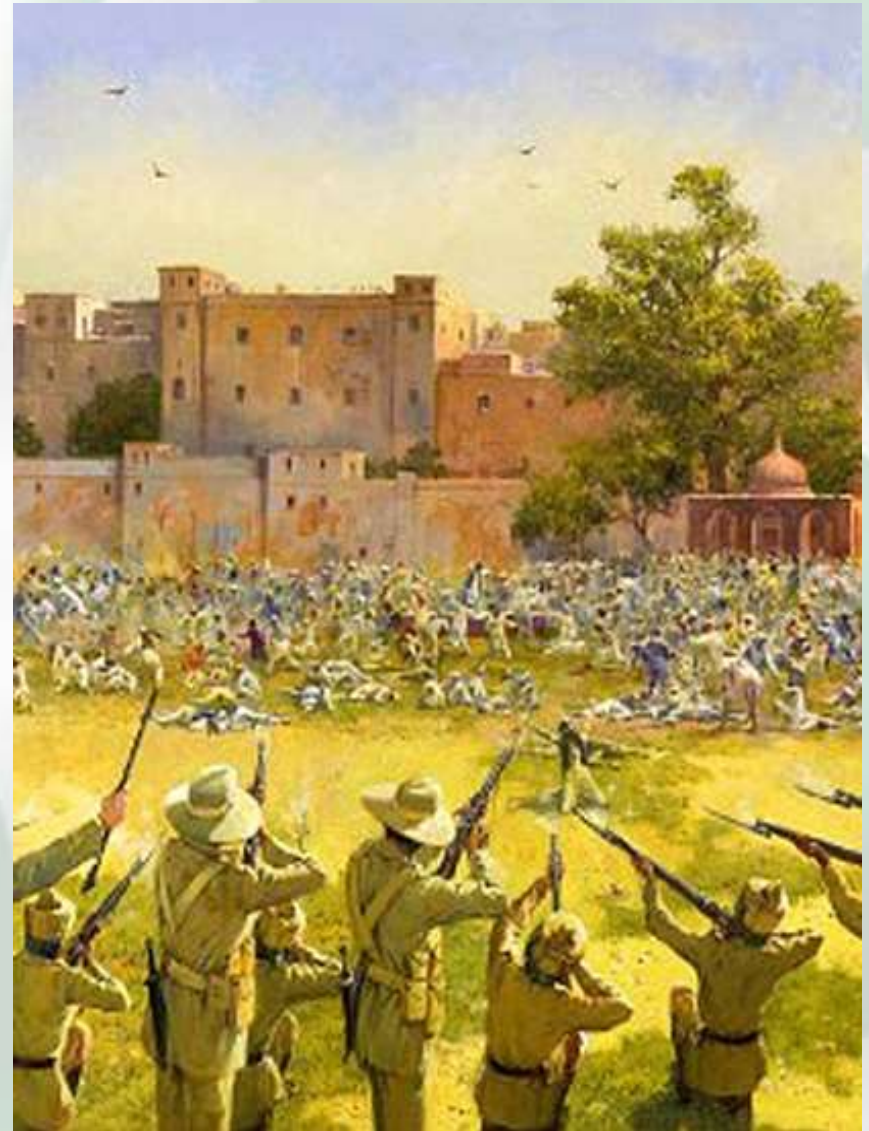
World War I 1914-1918 & Rowlatt Acts 1919



- During WWI, the Brits. brought India into the fight and many Indian troops served overseas
- In exchange, the Brits. promised it would gradually increase Indian participation in the **British Raj**
- Instead of more political autonomy, the government passed the **Rowlatt Acts** or the **Black Bills** in 1919
- The Acts were enacted to stop extreme political activities and people suspected of acting against the government could be jailed without a trial

Amritsar Massacre 1919

- The ***Massacre of Amritsar*** April 13, 1919
- British troops fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in Amritsar in the Punjab region of India
- Several hundred people were killed and many hundreds more were wounded
- It marked a turning point in India's history, in that it left a permanent scar on Indo-British relations
- Prelude to Gandhi's full commitment to cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain



[Video Link](#)

Homespun Movement 1920s-1940s



- In 1921, Gandhi given leadership of the INC and reorganized the group with goal of ***Swaraj*** through the use of nonviolent forms of protest
- Britain's industrialization greatly diminished India's traditional economy and the Brits. profited
- Gandhi argued that India needed to be self-sufficient
- One way to do this was to boycott British textiles and to make their own cloth
- This was called the ***Homespun Movement***

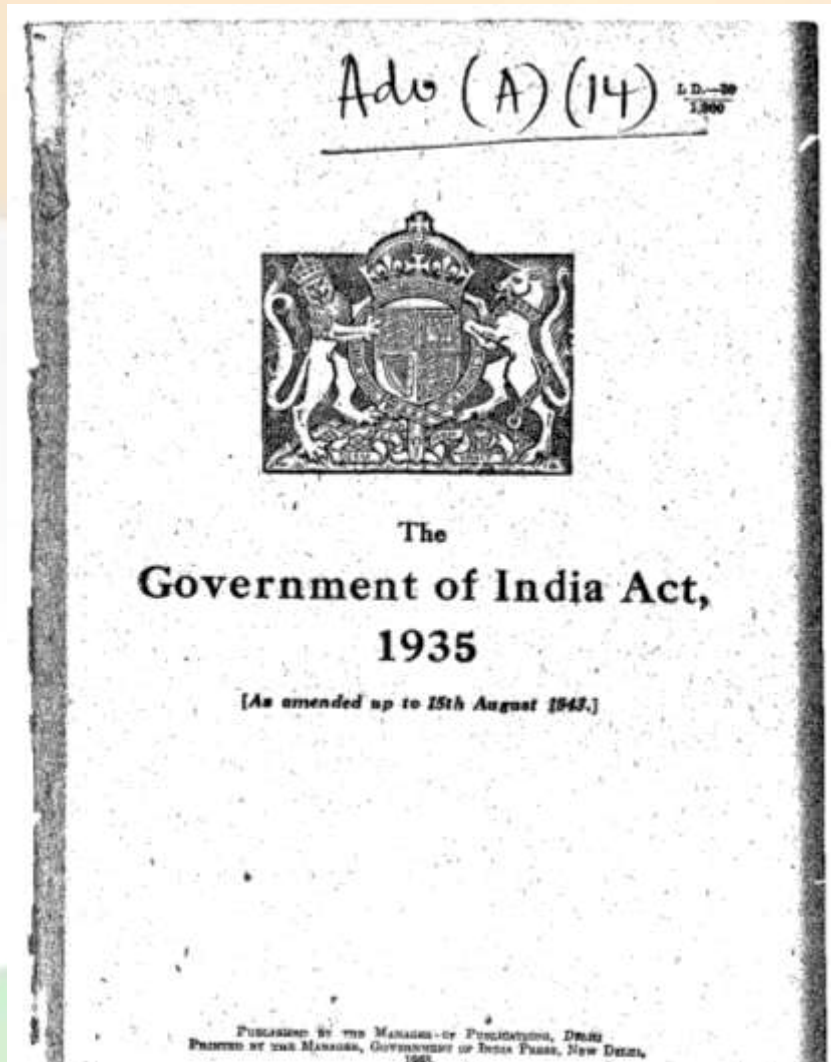
The Salt March 1930

- Salt was being heavily taxed by the Brits.
- Indians could even be thrown in jail for just making or selling salt
- In 1930, Gandhi saw this injustice as the perfect opportunity to practice the kind of passive resistance he called "**satyagraha**." "truth force"
- On March 12, 1930 Gandhi set out with 78 followers on a 240-mile trek to the sea
- For 23 days, they marched and thousands of his countrymen joined along the way
- Eventually, all of the protesters, which reached over two miles long, made it to the sea and defied the law by making salt
- Salt March and protests that followed brought much attention to the Indian independence movement and British cruelty



[Video Link](#)

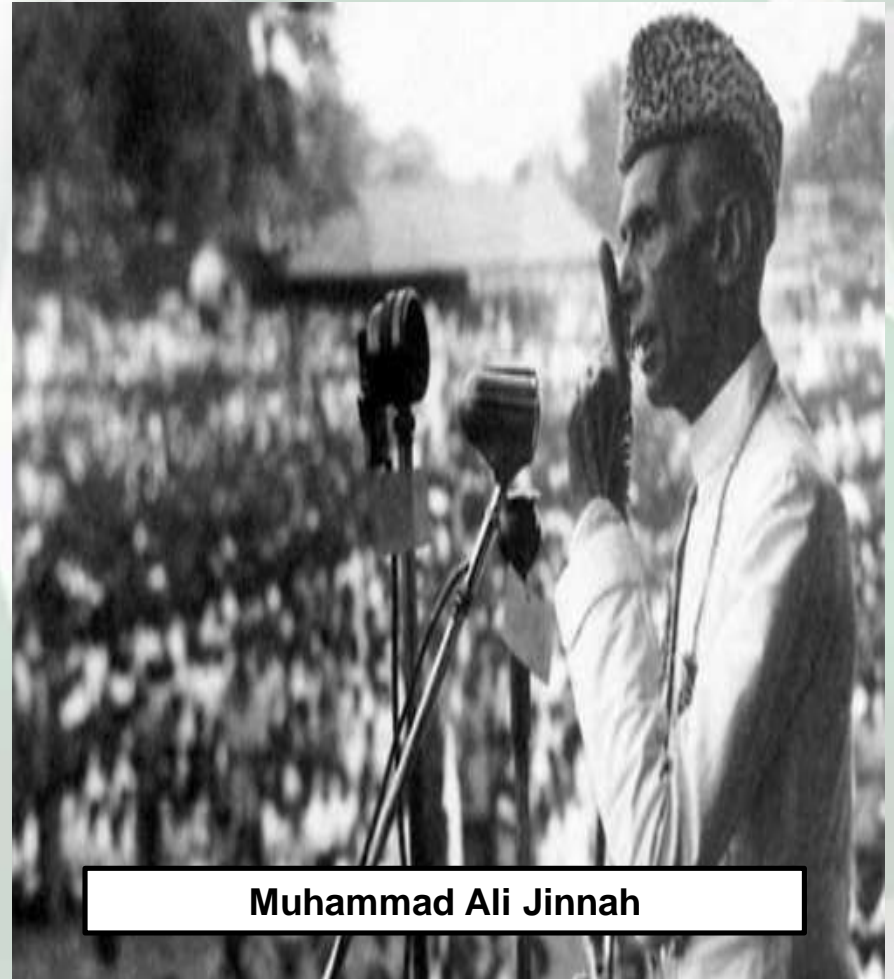
Government of India Act 1935 & Elections of 1937



- After the salt tax protests, the INC, led by Gandhi, entered into years of negotiations with the British Raj
- Resulting law was the ***Government of India Act of 1935***
- It was a new plan for ruling India:
 - More Indian participation in govt.
 - Free elections to select reps. from each province
- In 1937, the first elections took place:
 - INC candidates won a majority of the provinces
 - Muslim League did poorly in the election

Lahore Resolution 1940

- In 1940, the Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah wrote the ***Lahore Resolution***
- It demanded that India be separated into two states: one for Hindus and one for Muslims
- Jinnah feared that the Hindu dominated INC would not negotiate for the best interests of the Muslims



Muhammad Ali Jinnah

World War II & the Quit India Movement 1939-1945

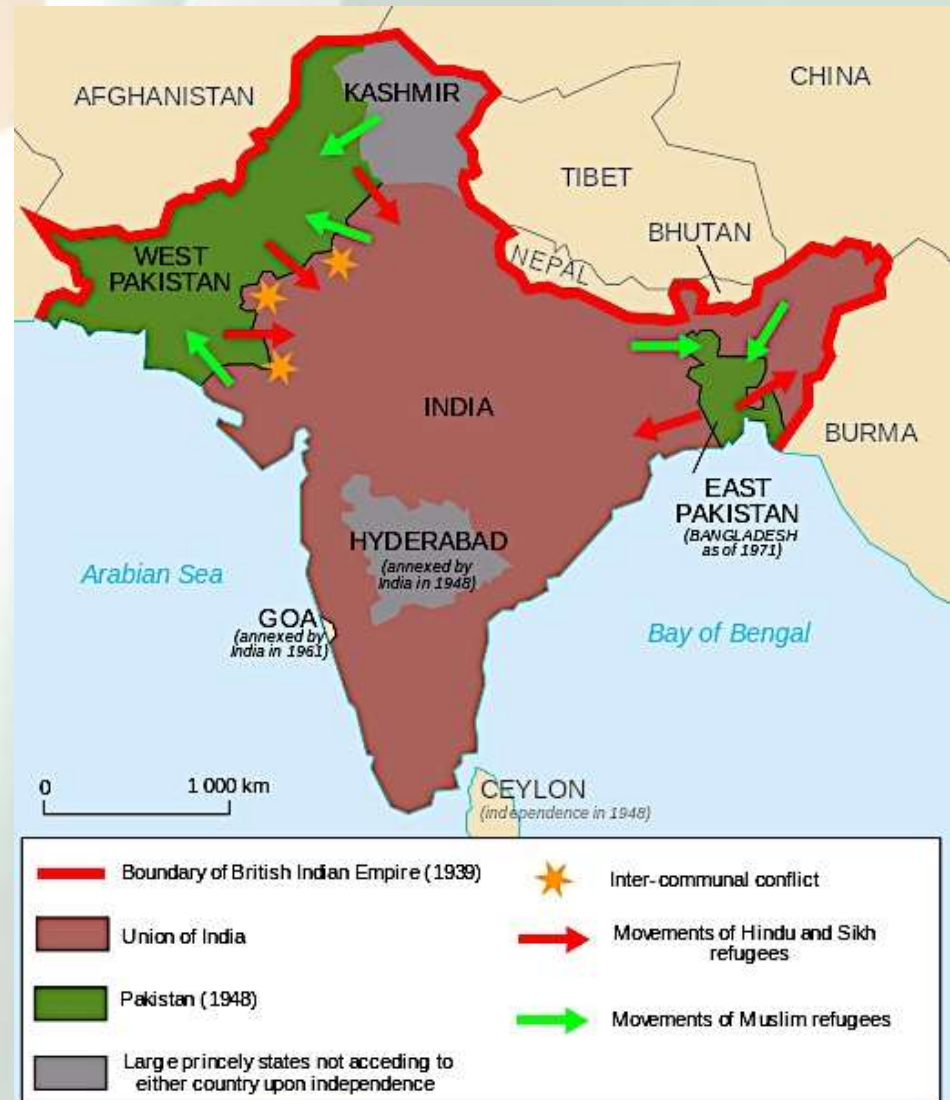


Gandhi launching the Quit India Movement in 1942.

- At start of WWII, the Brits. pulled India into the war without consulting the elected Indian representatives
- In response, all of the elected Indian officials resigned from the government
- In 1942, Gandhi and the INC launched the **Quit India Movement**, demanding immediate independence for India.
- In a speech entitled, "Do or Die," Gandhi urged the masses to act as an independent nation and not to follow the orders of the Brits.
- Many arrests, protests and demonstrations resulted

Independence & Partition 1947

- The drain on resources from WWII and the recovery from the that war, led the Brits. to give up their control of India by 1947
- Despite Gandhi's desire to keep India together, it was decided to divide the colony into two separate and independent nations: India and Pakistan
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** will lead India and **Muhammad Jinnah** Pakistan
- Immediately after partition, mass violence between Hindus and Muslims coupled with large scale migrations result
- Gandhi went on a hunger strike to try to end the violence



[Video Link](#)

Death of Gandhi 1948



- Mahatma (*Great soul*) Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948
- The assassin was a Hindu extremist
- He accused Gandhi of complacency towards Muslims, and blamed him for the sufferings of the partition
- Gandhi's assassin was sentenced to death and hung in jail in November 1949
- Gandhi died a martyr and his death was mourned around the world



Video Link 36:00 to
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