

## The Role of Mahatama Gandhi in Indian Freedom Movement

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**Abstract:** In this topic I covered, the role of Gandhi in India freedom movement. I considered all the movement of Gandhi from 1918 to 1947, like Kheda Satyagraha, Chamapran Agitain in 1918, Non Co-operation movement in 1920 to 1922, Dandi March on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1930, Harijan Movement on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1933, Quit India Movement on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1942 and I also analysis's all the movement and find out its effect.

All the information is collected from differed sources like different websites, differed journal and different books. I have not collected the information as Primary sources. It is based on only secondary sources. I take care that all the information will be right. All the information is in systematic way. First of all abstract then instruction and then main body and the last conclusion. All the resources are reliable.

**Keywords:** Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Independence, Struggle.

**Introduction:** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1869. He was the leader of the Indian Independence movement against British Rule Employing nonviolent Civil disobedience, Gandhi led India to Independence and inspired movement for civil rights and freedom across the world. He is also called Bapu and Gandhi. He is unofficially called the Father of Nation. Events turning him to an all India leader:-M.K. Gandhi, was an important leader in the freedom struggle, he spearheaded the Pacifist role of the Indian Movement for independence and managed to capture the imagination of the western world, especially in the realms of imperialism.

The Swadeshi Movement declined by 1907. There was also a split in the congress in 1907 and Tilak was imprisoned and de-

portal in 1908. Aurobidno Ghosh and Bipin Chandra Pal retired from politics and Lala Lajpat Rai left India for some time.

All these developments led to a decline in the nationalist movement. It remained dormant for a few years but was revived during the First World War Annie Besant and Tilak started the Home Rule Leagues and the two wings of the Congress United in 1916.

The war also witnessed the Gadar Movement started in the United States by some Indian revolutionaries, which sought to overthrow the British Rule in India. However, the most important development was the arrival of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, from South Africa.

In South Africa, Gandhi had fought for the rights of the Indians against the racist regime. From 1919 to 1947, when India attained independence, Gandhi remained the foremost leader of the national movement.

Gandhi arrived in India on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1915. Initially, he spent a year visiting various places in India to move an understanding of the situation. His political engagement

started in the 1917-18 period, when he took up the issue of Champion Indigo Formers, the Ahmadabad Textile workers and the Kheda peasants.

### **Mahatma Gandhi and His Non-violent**

**ways:** He first employed the non-violent approach in South Africa, where he was serving as an expatriate lawyer. He was hurt and angry when he witnessed discrimination and exploitation of colored people under whites rule. He organizes non-violent protests in the country, which gained him fame and support from the people of South Africa.

### **Non-cooperation, Khilafat Movement and**

**Chammparan:** Gandhi had already learnt a great deal of pacifism and protest in South Africa. He held regular correspondence with Leo Talstoy and decided to start a peaceful non-violent method to attain Swaraj or self-rule. In Champaran Village (Bihar), farmers were forced to grow Crash crops and pay heavy taxes, even in face of famine. Gandhi led a non-voilent protest and managed to secure farmer right. He was also able

to provide Muslim support for the INC. he did this by upholding the right of Islamic

Caliphs to enlist within Turkey and hence got support from various sections of the Society. Following incidents like Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, his resolve strengthened and he became responsible for mobilizing large number of people.

He held up the notion that the British held India only via the co-operation of the Indians and called for a nation-wide non-cooperation movement. The movement called for boycotting all British goods and services. The nation-wide movement was able to shock the British into action, leading to the Chaurie-Chowra incident. Gandhi was afraid that the revolts may turn violent and called of the movement. However, he was able to gain populist support for the nationalists.

**Kheda:** When Kheda, a village in Gujarat, was badly hit by floods, the local farmer appealed to the rulers to waive off the taxes. Here, Gandhi started a signature Campaign where peasants pledged non payment of taxes. He also arranged a social boycott of the mamlatdars and talatdars (revenue officials). In 1918, the Government relaned the conditions of

payment of revenue for until the famine ended.

**Khilafat Movement:** Gandhi influence on the Muslim Population was remarkable. This was evident in his involvement in the Khilafat Movement. After the First World War, the Muslims feared for the safety of their caliph or religious leader and a worldwide protest was being organized to fight against the collapsing stature of the caliph. Gandhi became a prominent spokesperson of the All India Muslim Conference and returned the medals, he had received from the Empire during his India Ambulance Corps days in South Africa. His role in the Khilafat made him a national leader in no time.

**Salt March:** Also known as the Dandi Movement, Gandhi's Salt March is considered to be a Povotal incident in the history of freedom struggle. At the Calcutta of 1928, Gandhi declared that the British must grant India dominion status or the country will erupt into a revolution for complete independence. The British did not pay heed to this. As a result, on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1929 the India Flag was unfurled in

Lahore and the next January, 26 was celebrated as the Indian Independence day. Then Gandhi started a Satyagraha campaign against the Salt Tax in March, 1930. He marched 388 Kilometers from Ahmadabad to Dandi in Gujarat to make salt. Thousands of people joined him and made it one of the biggest marches in Indian history.

**The Quit India Movement:** Quit India Movement began on August 8, 1942, during World War II. The Indian Congress Committee, under the urging of Gandhi, called for a mass British withdrawal and Gandhi made a "Do or Die" speech. British officials acted immediately and arrested nearly every member of the Indian National Congress Party. England, with a new Prime Minister, offered some concessions to the Indian demands such as the right to make independence provincial constitution, to be granted after the war, they were not accepted. The nation once again entered mass Civil disobedience marked by anti-war speeches and refusal to assist in the war efforts. This movement introduced the idea to the British that they might be unable to maintain control of India.

**Impact of Gandhiji's struggle on the Government:** All the great movements led by Gandhi failed politically. Nevertheless, he could make the British realize that their rule in India was wrong and unjust. The government realized that Gandhiji and the Congress could arouse the masses against the government at any time. His struggle led the rulers to think of the transfer of power into Indian hands.

After much sacrifices and efforts, India gained its independence on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. It was an emotional moment when the whole nation stood together and celebrated in independence of India.

**Conclusion:** Before concluding this topic, we have also to mention the other forces, which facilitated the declaration of independence in 1947, the rise of nationalism and democracy all over the world. The rise of the communist movements all over the world and as supported by communist Russia, the basic humanitarianism and liberalism of Great Britain, etc. In this manner, the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi was indeed immense, provided we keep in view that he was

the perfect embodiment of the traditions of India and also the heritage of all who walked before him in the freedom struggle of our country. That is way the concluding sentence of Dr. R.C. Majumdar is the following, “..... while Gandhi will live in history as one the greatest apostles of peace and nonviolence in war-stricken world, the credit now given to him for his political acumen which led the Indians to the final victory, cannot command immediate assent and needs a great deal of objective thinking.”

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