

Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

## Chapter 14 India's Struggle for Freedom

In this chapter we will study about the events which took place in India after Mahatma Gandhi came back to India from South Africa.

In 1915-16 the Home Rule Movement started under the leadership of Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant. They demanded the grant of Home Rule or self government. The Home Rule Leagues focused on creating awareness among the people. But later on as the leaders were arrested the movement had to be suspended.

The annual session of the Congress was held in 1916 in Lucknow. It is important from two point of view. The Moderates and the Radicals who parted ways in Surat, reunited here in Lucknow. The Congress and the Muslim League signed the Lucknow Pact as a mark of unity among the people of the two communities putting up common demands before the government.

The first experiment of Satyagraha by Gandhiji in India was the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917. Gandhiji took the cause of peasants who were forced to grow

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indigo on their plantation. The peasants did not get right price of the indigo grown by them. Due to Gandhiji's support the peasants problem was reduced.

The second campaign was in Ahmedabad where the workers were getting less wages. Gandhiji told the workers to go on a strike and it was due to his efforts only that the workers wages were increased by the mill owners.

The third campaign was in Kheda where the peasants were forced to pay the land revenue even though the crops had failed that year. It was due to Gandhiji's intervention that revenue was remitted and only those peasants paid the revenue who could do it.

In 1919 Rowlatt Act was passed. According to this Act any person could be arrested without warrant and kept in prison without any trial. It was an attempt to weaken the national movement in India. All the leaders condemned this unfair Act.

The Khilafat Movement was started by Ali Brothers - Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali. In 1918 the First World War ended and Turkey was defeated. The Sultan of Turkey was also considered as Caliph, i.e. Head of Muslim community all over the world.



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The Indian Muslims supported the Caliph and launched the Khilafat Movement. Gandhiji also supported it and together with this Non-Cooperation Movement was also launched under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Non-Cooperation was launched in stages. Firstly the Indians gave up their titles. The students left government controlled schools and colleges, the lawyers boycotted the court and candidates boycotted the elections to the Legislative Councils. People also boycotted foreign goods which in turn encouraged the local made goods. The movement took different forms among different sections of the society.

The Non-Cooperation movement was called off due to an unfortunate incident in Chauri-Chaura in Uttar Pradesh. Here the movement turned violent as a crowd of people set fire on a police station in which twenty-two policemen died. As Gandhiji was against violence, he decided to call off the movement. He was criticized by some leaders for calling off the movement at a time when it was at its peak.