

An Examining The Role Of Several Organizations And Individuals In India's Struggle For Independence



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Abstract

A wide range of organisations and people contributed to the long-lasting and intricate fight against British colonial control that constituted the Indian Independence movement. The movement used a variety of methods and techniques, such as armed conflict, civil disobedience, and peaceful resistance. Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian National Congress and a leading proponent of nonviolent resistance, Jawaharlal Nehru, the nation's first prime minister following independence, and Subhas Chandra Bose, who founded the Indian National Army and fought alongside the Japanese against the British during World War II, were some of the most notable figures in the Indian Independence movement. The All-India Muslim League, which fought to defend the rights of Muslim populations in India, and the Indian Communist Party, which promoted a socialist future for India, were only two of the parties and organisations that contributed to the success of the Indian Independence struggle. Along with Sarojini Naidu, a well-known poet and political activist, and Annie Besant, who created the Home Rule League and promoted Indian self-government, many other women also played significant roles in the movement. Ultimately, the battle for Indian independence was intricate and multidimensional, including the contributions of several organisations and people, each of whom had a significant impact on the development of India's history.

Keywords: India, Independence Movement, British Colonial Rule, Group, Individual

Introduction

The struggle for India's independence from British colonial control was fought by a wide range of organisations and people, and it was an important historical event. From peaceful resistance to armed conflict, the movement used a variety of methods over the course of many decades. A wide variety of people and organisations, including political parties, religious organisations, and social movements, supported the complicated and varied Indian Independence movement. Famous individuals who had a significant impact on the development of Indian history, like Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Mahatma Gandhi, spearheaded the campaign.

In addition to these leaders, many more women contributed significantly to the movement, dismantling stereotypes and questioning societal conventions in the process. Millions of common Indians helped the revolution along the way, and their bravery and fortitude in the face of oppression and bloodshed were really inspiring. Ultimately, the Indian Independence movement served as a tribute to the effectiveness of group effort and the tenacity of the human spirit. In the parts that follow, we'll look at the contributions made by the many organisations and people that were a part of the movement and consider how their efforts finally resulted in the end of British colonial control in India.

A diverse variety of organisations and people participated in the Indian Independence movement, and each of them was vital to the effort to overthrow British colonial control. The following list includes some of the movement's most important organisations:

1. **The Indian National Congress:** An significant player in the campaign for Indian Independence, the Indian National Congress was a political party. The party was established in 1885 and played a key role in coordinating activities and demonstrations against British rule, such as the Quit India Campaign and the Non-Cooperation Movement.
2. **Mahatma Gandhi** was a proponent of nonviolent resistance and a pivotal player in the Indian Independence struggle. He took the lead in a number of significant campaigns, such as the Quit India Campaign and the Salt Satyagraha.
3. **Jawaharlal Nehru:** Jawaharlal Nehru was the first prime minister of independent India and a well-known figure in the Indian National Congress. He was an outspoken supporter of socialism and had a significant impact on the political and economic development of India.

4. Subhas Chandra Bose: During World War II, Subhas Chandra Bose, an extreme nationalist, organised the Indian National Army and fought with the Japanese against the British. Despite being a contentious individual, he continues to represent India's battle for independence.
5. The All India Muslim League was established in 1906 with the goal of defending the rights of India's Muslim populations. Pakistan was created out of India following independence, and the league was essential in this process.
6. Sarojini Naidu was a well-known poet and political activist who was instrumental in the campaign for Indian independence. She was a strong supporter of women's rights and the first woman to hold the office of Indian National Congress president.
7. Annie Besant: An influential player in the Indian Independence struggle, Annie Besant was a British-born writer and activist. The Home Rule League was established by her, and she promoted Indian self-government.

These are only a few instances of the many diverse organisations and people that supported the cause for Indian independence. Each contribution to the movement, which was characterised by a rich tapestry of accomplishments, was crucial in influencing India's history.

Indian Diaspora before Independence

As 1905 saw significant political developments not just in India but also across the globe, it is considered a watershed year in the history of the Indian liberation fight. This year saw the division of Bengal into two sections in India and Japan's victory over Russia in the world. The first nationalist mass struggle against the British administration was carried out by the Bengali people in 1905. Benoy Kumar Sarkar, a prominent Indian scholar, said that 1905 marked the start of a new era for India as a result (Sarkar, 1922). In the same year, Bengal saw the emergence of the Swadeshi movement and other protest activities. The Swadeshi movement was put down by the British administration, which responded harshly. Because to this response, many educated Indians left India and immigrated to other nations, where they helped lead the Indian independence struggle (Tine, 2007). Indians living abroad had a significant impact on the Indian national movement. In several nations on the continents of Africa, Asia, and America, the British had created colonies. The Brits relocated several Indians to various colonies. These Indians were transported to various colonies as labourers, but some of them had a good education and formed their own businesses there. They had made a lot of money in this manner. Indian politicians visited the various colonies throughout the 20th century to meet with the Indian diaspora and asked them to support the Indian national cause. Lala Lajpat Rai asked Indians to join the battle for Indian independence while visiting Canada and

the United States of America. Several Indians were interested in Indian nationalist activities as a result (Jaffrelot, 2007). Till 1914, the Panjabi diaspora had settled in North America. From Jalandhar and the Hosiarpur area of Panjab, a significant Panjabi community immigrated to this region of America. The majority of them were peasants and British army soldiers. Punjabis who served in the military have the chance to comprehend the circumstances of their modern society. Since the white men in these colonies did not like the Indians, they encountered numerous difficulties. While many Indians moved to Canada, the Canadian government nonetheless imposed a variety of restrictions on them. The diaspora of Indians opted to help the Indian liberation fight because they did not enjoy this kind of treatment (Chandra, 1998).

Several Panjabi communities settled in America and Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries. They travelled there in pursuit of greater employment possibilities. Several of these Punjabis had served in the British army in Singapore and Hong Kong in the past. They thought the British government would treat them better, but Great Britain declared that all Indians would get the same treatment across all of its territories. These soldiers experienced inequity, injustice, and prejudice as a result. On a business trip in 1897, the first Sikh party arrived in Canada. They invited their family and friends since many of them had settled in Canada. Sikhs continued to quietly immigrate to Canada up until 1906, but the Canadian government put an end to it in that year. This led to the emergence of the Ghadar Movement (Nahal, u.d.). One of the most significant colonies of the British Empire was South Africa. Black people were transferred to South Africa when the Brits founded their colonies there. British officials asked the British Indian administration to send additional labourers since these colonies required more employees. On November 16, 1860, the first group of Indian indentured labourers arrived in Natal. Following thereafter, South Africa received a big shipment of Indian labourers from India. The Europeans in South Africa used the term "coolies" to refer to indentured labourers (Gandhi, 1928). These people came from several regions of India, including the United Province, Bihar, Maharashtra, the Coromandel Coast, Malabar, and Orissa. Several of them came straight from India, while others were already employed as labourers in other colonies. Hugh Tinker estimates that between the 1830s and 1917, 1.3 million Indians were sent outside of India as indentured labourers. Only in Natal were more than 1.5 lakh Indian labourers deployed. The whole Indian population in South Africa throughout the 20th century made about 3% of the country's overall population (Tinker, 1974). In the British army during the First World War, many Indians were enlisted. According to A. K. Tiwari, there were around 5, 52000 Indian troops sent to different parts of the globe during the First World War (Tiwari, 2019).

Leadership of Indian Diaspora in Indian National Movement

The Indian Diaspora, which consists of Indian-born persons residing outside of India, was crucial to the success of the Indian National Movement. While being geographically far from India, they were nonetheless affected by the hardships of their countrymen and women. The Indian Diaspora supported the cause in a variety of ways, including by collecting money, educating people about the Indian independence movement, and offering moral and political support.

Lala Lajpat Rai was one of the most well-known leaders of the Indian Diaspora. While Lala Lajpat Rai was born in Punjab, India, he eventually moved to the US. He assisted in the founding of the Indian Home Rule Association while living in the US, and he utilised his influence to highlight the suffering of Indians living under British colonial authority. Also, he was crucial in helping to raise money for the Ghadar Party and the Indian National Congress, two revolutionary groups started by Indian immigrants in the US.

Dadabhai Naoroji was yet another significant figure in the Indian diaspora. Naoroji was a Parsi who immigrated to the UK in the late 19th century from Bombay, India. He was the first Indian elected to the British parliament and a fervent advocate for Indian independence. Naoroji believed that India should be given self-government since British colonial authority was hurting its economy. Taraknath Das, who established the Indian Independence League in the US and supported the use of violence in the fight for Indian independence, and Shyamji Krishna Varma, who established the India House in London as a gathering place for Indian students and revolutionaries, are two other notable figures from the Indian Diaspora.

The Indian National Movement benefited greatly from the contributions of the Indian Diaspora. Leaders of the Indian diaspora supported the fight for Indian independence financially, politically, and morally while being geographically separated from India. Their efforts were crucial in creating a worldwide movement for Indian independence and in spreading awareness of the country's freedom fight.

Conclusion

A notable example of a wide range of organisations and people banding together to fight against colonial control and secure independence for their nation is the Indian Independence movement. The movement was characterised by a rich tapestry of contributions, ranging from the nonviolent resistance of Mahatma Gandhi to the armed struggle of Subhas Chandra Bose, from the advocacy of the All-India Muslim League to the socialist vision of the Indian Communist Party, and from the leadership of men like Jawaharlal Nehru to the activism of women like Sarojini Naidu and Annie Besant. The leaders and supporters of the Indian Independence movement persisted in their efforts despite the difficulties and barriers they encountered, using a range of techniques and methods to

further their cause. Their relentless efforts finally resulted to the end of British colonial authority in India and the emergence of a new country. The heritage of the Indian Independence struggle still motivates those working for freedom, justice, and self-determination today. The contributions of the many organisations and people who took part in the movement are evidence of the effectiveness of collaborative efforts and the continuing human spirit of hope and resilience.

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