REVOLT OF 1857

- On March 29, 1857, an Indian sepoy of 34 Native Infantry, Mangal Pandey, killed two British officers—Hugeson and Baugh—on parade at Barrackpore (near Calcutta).
- The 7th Avadh regiment was disbanded as it defied its officers.
- The mutiny really started at Merrut on 10th May 1857. The 3rd Native Infantry revolted.
- The occasion was the punishment of some sepoys for their refusal to use the greased cartridges. The soldiers along-with other groups of civilians, went on a rampage shouting ‘Maro Firangi ko’. They broke open jails, murdered Europeans, burnt their houses and marched to Delhi after sunset.
- The appearance of the marching soldiers next morning (i.e. 11th May) in Delhi was a signal to the local soldiers, who in turn revolted, seized the city and proclaimed the 82-year old Bahadur Shah ‘Zafar’, as Shahenshah-i-Hindustan (i.e. Emperor of India).
- Within a month of the capture of Delhi, the revolt spread to the different parts of India.
- South India remained quiet and Punjab and Bengal were only marginally affected.
- The British allies during the revolt were Sindhia, the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Begum of Bhopal.
- Major Centres of Revolt of 1857
  - Delhi – Led by Bahadur Shah II ‘Zafar’ and Bakht Khan
  - Kanpur – Nana Sahib and his loyal Commander Tantiya Tope
  - Lucknow – Begum Hazrat Mahal
  - Jhansi – Rani Laxmi Bai
  - Allahabad – Liyaqat Ali
  - Jagdishpur – Kuer Singh and Amar Singh

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

- The Indian National Union was formed in 1884 by A.O. Hume, an Englishman and a retired civil servant, in association with various national leaders who called for a conference in Pune in December 1885.
- The venue was shifted to Bombay for various reasons (esp. outbreak of plague at Pune).
- Indian National Union was later renamed as Indian National Congress.
- The first session of the Indian National Congress was held at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay under the presidency of W.C. Bannerji and it was attended by 72 delegates from all over India.
- Bengal was partitioned by Lord Curzon on October 16, 1905.
- As a reaction to the partition, there was strong disagreement among the members of the INC. As a result, the INC split into two groups – the Moderates and the Extremists – in the Surat session of 1907.
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- The Extremists: Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Sri Aurobindo Ghosh

**Swadeshi Movement**

- On Aug 7, 1905, a resolution to boycott British goods was adopted at a meeting of the INC held in Calcutta.
- Many social and political organizations mushroomed up during the Swadeshi wave in Bengal.
- Bone fire of foreign goods was conducted on a large scale in all major cities.
- Tilak took the movement to different parts of India especially in Pune and Mumbai.
- Ajit Singh and Lala Lajpat Roy spread the Swadeshi message in Punjab and other parts of Northern India.
- Syed Haidar Raza set up the agenda in Delhi. Rawalpindi, Kangra, Jammu, Multan and Haridwar witnessed active participation in the Swadeshi Movement.
- Chidambram Pillai took the movement to Madras Presidency which was also galvanized by Bipin Chandra Pal’s extensive lecture tour.

**Formation of the Muslim League**

- In December, 1906, All India Muslim League was set up under the leadership of Aga Khan, Nawab Salimullah of Dacca and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk at Dacca.

**Calcutta Session of INC (1906)**

- In Dec. 1906 at Calcutta, the INC under the leadership of Dada Bhai Naoroji adopted ‘Swaraj’ as the goal of Indian people. Naoroji in his presidential address declared that the goal of the INC was ‘self government of Swaraj like that of United Kingdom’.

**Morley-Minto Reforms (1909)**

- Morley-Minto Reforms were introduced in 1909 during the period when Lord Minto was the Viceroy of India while Morley was the secretary of the state.
- The reforms laid the foundation of institutionalized communalism as per the policy of divide and rule by introducing the separate electorates for Muslims. As per the provisions of the reform Muslims could only vote for Muslim candidates.

**Home Rule Movement (1915-16)**

- In 1915 B.G. Tilak founded Indian Home Rule League at Pune on 28 April, 1916. Annie Besant, inspired by the Irish rebellion, started Home Rule Movement in India in Sep., 1916. The leagues advocated passive resistance and civil disobedience.
- In 1916 through the Lucknow Pact, Congress and Muslim League joined the hands. The congress accepted the separate electorate and both organizations jointly demanded ‘dominion status’ for the country.
MONTAGU DECLARATION (AUGUST DECLARATION OF 1917)
- Montague made the landmark statement in the context of self rule in India in 1917. He said that the control over the Indian government would be transferred gradually to the Indian people.

ROWLATT ACT AND JALLIAWALLA BAGH MASSACRE
- The Rowlatt Act was a law passed by the British in colonial India in March 1919. Gandhi gave a call for Satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act on April 6, 1919 and took command of the nationalist movement for the first time.
- On April 6, a "hartal" was organized where people suspended all the business and fast as a sign of their hatred for the legislation. This is known as the Rowlatt satyagraha.
- In Punjab the protest movement was very strong, and on April 10, two outstanding leaders of the congress, Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, were arrested and taken to an unknown place.
- Several protests took place against their arrest across Punjab. A protest was held in Amritsar, which led to the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- At Jallianwala Bagh the British General Dyer opened fire at the peaceful protest meeting without any warning. Gandhi returned back the title Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal and Rabindra Nath Tagore return back his “Knighthood” to protest against Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

KHALIFAT MOVEMENT
- In November 1919, The All India Khilafat Conference at Delhi called for the non-cooperation and elected Gandhi as its president.
- The main objective of the Khalifat movement was to force the British Government to change its attitude to Turkey and restore the Turkish Sultan to his former position.

NON COOPERATION MOVEMENT (1920-22)
- The Non cooperation was the first mass movement launched under the leadership of Gandhi. The program of non-cooperation included: surrender of titles, boycott of government affiliated educational institutions, boycott of courts of law, boycott of foreign cloth, and non-payment of taxes.

CHAURA CHOURI INCIDENT (1922)
- On 12th February 1922, the Non Cooperation Movement was called off by Gandhi because of an unfortunate incidence at Chaura Chauri in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh. In this incidence the crowd participating in the Non Cooperation and Khalifat procession indulged into the violence with the police. As a result the crowd burnt a Police station and in the incidence 22 policemen were killed.
THE SWARAJ PARTY (1922)
- After the withdrawal of the Non Cooperation movement, there was widespread demoralization and disorganization in the nationalists' rank. During this time a new political strategy; to carry forward the struggle against the colonial rule; was advocated by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru.
- They put forward this changed strategy in Gaya session (1922) of the Congress.
- However this proposal was defeated in the Gaya session. C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru resigned from the Congress and formed the Swaraj Party.

SIMON COMMISSION (1927)
- The Conservative Government formed Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as the Simon Commission to recommend whether India was ready for the further constitutional progress and on which lines.
- The peculiar feature of this commission was that no Indian was included in this commission which was about to play a crucial role in deciding the future of India.
- The Commission was boycotted in India, not only by Congress but also by Liberal Federation, Hindu Mahasabha and large section in Muslim League.

NEHRU’S REPORT (1928)
- Lord Birkenhead, the Conservative Secretary of the State challenged Indians that they were not capable to formulate a concrete scheme of the constitutional reforms which had the support of wide section of political parties.
- To meet this challenge All Parties Conferences were held in 1928. A scheme was finalized which is popularly called “Nehru Report” as Motilal Nehru was its chief architect.

14 POINTS OF JINNAH (MARCH 9, 1929)
- Jinnah, the leader of Muslim League, did not accept the Nehru Report. Jinnah thereafter drew up a list of demands, which was called ‘14 points of Jinnah’.

LAHORE SESSION
- At its annual session held in Lahore in Dec, 1929, under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian National Congress passed a resolution declaring ‘Poorna Swaraj’ (Complete Independence) to be the goal of the national movement.
- On December 31, 1929, the newly adopted tricolor flag was unfurled and Jan 26 fixed as the Independence Day which was to be celebrated every year, pleading to the people not to submit to British rule any longer

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT
- On 31st January 1930, Gandhi gave his ultimatum to Lord Irwin with his 11 point demand.
Gandhi asked Irwin to either accept the 11 point demands else the Congress will launch Civil Disobedience.

The demands were ignored by the British government.

Thus Gandhi launched the Civil Disobedience Movement with the Dandi march. It was from Sabarmati to Dandi. Gandhiji along with his 78 followers broke the Salt Act.

**FIRST ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE**

- The first Round Table Conference was held on 9th July under the chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of Britain, Ramsay Macdonald.
- The congress along with most of the business leaders (except Homi Modi) kept away from the conference.
- Muslim leaders like Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Shafi, Aga Khan, Jinnah etc., Hindu Mahasabha leaders like Moonje and Jayakar, liberals like Sapru, Chintamani and Srinivas Shastri were present.

**GANDHI IRWIN PACT**

- The government made a gesture of goodwill by releasing Gandhi and other Congress leaders. The Viceroy Irwin directly held talks with Gandhi.
- In Feb. 1931, the talks ended with the famous Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
- The British gave Indians the right to make salt and to peaceful picketing. In return the Congress agreed to withdrew the Civil Disobedience Movement and participate in the second Round Table Conference.

**SECOND ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE**

- Second Round Table Conference was held on September 7, 1931.
- Gandhi was the sole representative of the Congress.
- The separate electorates were now demanded not only by the Muslims but also by the depressed classes, Indian Christians and Europeans.
- After the failure of Second Round Table Conference, the working committee of the Congress resumed Civil Disobedience.

**COMMUNAL AWARD AND POONA PACT**

- Macdonald’s announced the communal awards in August 1932.
- This communal award provided separate electorates for each minority i.e. Muslim, Christians and Sikhs. Apart from these minorities the awards also provided the separate electorates to depressed classes.
- Gandhi began the fast unto death in opposition of the separate electorates for the depressed classes. He demanded that representatives for the depressed classes should be elected by the general electorates under a wide, if possible universal, common franchise. At the same time he also didn’t object to the demand for a larger number of the reserved seats for the depressed classes.
In the end the agreement known as Poona Pact broke the impasse; this agreement took place between Gandhi and Dr B.R. Ambedkar (the leader of depressed class). As per this Pact the idea of separate electorates for the Depressed Classes was abandoned but the seats reserved for them in the provincial legislatures were increased from 71 in the award to 147 and in the Central Legislature to 18% of the total.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935**
- The new Government of India Act provided for a federal type of government. It introduced provincial autonomy and abolished diarchy in provinces.

**PAKISTAN RESOLUTION/LAHORE RESOLUTION (MARCH 24, 1940)**
- It was 1930 that Iqbal suggested the union of the Frontier Province, Baluchistan, Sindh and Kashmir as Muslim state within the federations.
- The idealist Chaudhry Rehmat Ali developed this conception at Cambridge, where he inspired a group of young Muslims and invented the term ‘Pakstan’ (later ‘Pakistan’) in 1935.
- His ideas seemed visionary during that time, within 7 years they had been turned into a political programme by Jinnah with the new name as its slogan or banner.
- Pakistan Resolution was an important landmark in this context.
- The Lahore session of the Muslim League, held on March 24, 1940, passed Pakistan Resolution and rejected the Federal scheme an envisaged in the government of India Act, 1935.

**THE AUGUST OFFER (1940)**
- In order to win the public opinion in India, Linlithgow put up an offer to get the support of the nationalist in the World War “II”. The following were the major features of the August Offer:
  - A promise of Dominion Status in an unspecified future
  - A post war body to be created to enact a constitution, however this was to happen only after the approval from the British Parliament
  - Immediate expansion in the Viceroy’s executive council
  - Formation of a war advisory council

**INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA**
- The August offer shocked nationalists, and the Congress launched the individual Satyagraha. Vinobha Bhave was the first Satyagrahi while Nehru was second.

**CRIPP’S MISSION**
- The mission was sent to secure the active cooperation of Indians in war by promising some constitutional reforms.
The declaration promised India Dominion Status and a constitution making body after the war whose members would be elected by the provincial assemblies and nominated by the Princely States.

The demand for separate Pakistan was accommodated by the clause that any province which do not accept the constitution has right to secede.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT
- Quit India resolution was passed on 6th August 1942 at Bombay. Gandhi and all the leaders of the Congress working committee were arrested on the early hours of August 9, 1942.
- There was a three month strike in Ahmedabad, the Stalinguard of India
- Usha Metha ran an illegal radio station
- The three parallel governments were formed at: Ballia under Chittu Pandey, Tamkul under Jatia Sarkar of Satish Samant, and Satara under Prati Sarkar under Nana Patil

WAVELL PLAN
- After consultations with the British Government on the Indian problem, Lord Wavell, the Viceroy of India, issued a statement known as Wavell Plan.
- The Plan, which chiefly concerned Viceroy’s Executive Council, proposed certain changes in the structure of the council.
- One of the main proposals was that the Executive Council would be constituted giving a balanced representation to main communities in it, including equal representation to Muslims and Hindus.

SHIMLA CONFERENCE
- A conference of 22 prominent Indian leaders called at Shimla to consider the Wavell Plan, reached no decision.
- What scuttled the conference was Mr. Jinnah’s unflinching stand that Muslim approved only by the Muslim League should be included in the Executive Council

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY
- The idea of the INA was first conceived by Mohan Singh in Malay
- In 1943 at Singapore, Subash Chandra Bose took the command of Azad Hind Fauz or INA
- Rashbehari Bose who was living in exile in Japan since 1915, joined him
- INA also introduced a women’s regiment named Rani of Jhansi.
- In 1944, INA appeared on the border of Assam
- INA besieged Imphal with Japanese soldiers
- The collapse of Japan made INA soldiers prisoners again

THE REVOLT OF ROYAL INDIAN NAVY (RIN)
In Feb. 1946, Bombay Ratings of HMIS Talwar revolted against British and struck work. The racial discrimination and bad food was the immediate cause of the revolt. B.C Dutta scrawled Quit India on the ships. The HMIS Hindustan in Karachi also mutinied. By the end of February the strike had spread to naval bases all over the country involving about 20000 ratings.

**Cabinet Mission Plan**
- The Cabinet Mission which came to India on 19th March, 1946 comprised of three members: Lord Pathrick Lawrance, Sir Stafford Cripps, and A.V. Alexander.

**Direct Action Campaign (Aug, 16, 1946)**
- Provoked by the success of the Congress (in the voting for Constituent Assembly), the Muslim League launched a ‘direct action’ campaign on Aug. 16, 1946, which resulted in heavy communal riots in the country.

**Interim Government**
- On Sept. 2, 1946, an interim government was formed. Congress members led by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru joined it but the Muslim League did not as it withdrew its earlier acceptance of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

**Formation of Constituent Assembly**
- The Constituent Assembly met on December 9, 1946, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected its President.
- The Muslim League did not join the Assembly.

**Attlee’s Announcement**
- On Feb. 20, 1947, British Prime Minister Attlee announced that the British would withdraw from India by June 30, 1948 and that Lord Mountbatten would replace Wavell.

**Mountbatten Plan or 3rd June Plan**
- **Features**
  - Immediate transfer of power on the basis of granting Dominion Status
  - The transfer of power to the two Central governments
  - 15th August was decided as the day of independence leaving only 72 days
  - The boundary commission was to be headed by Radcliffe and the awards were to be announced after independence.

**The Indian Independence Act, 1947**
- The Bill containing the provisions of the Mountbatten Plan of June 3, 1947, was introduced in the British Parliament and passed as the Indian Independence Act, 1947.