**British Withdrawal from India,**

**1945 – 1947**

**The Struggle for Indian Independence & Creation of Pakistan**

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***"A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."***

Jawaharlal Nehru

**Jawaharlal Nehru**

(1889 – 1964)

***‘Pandit’*** (Teacher)

***Prime Minister of India,***

*1947 - 1964*

**Mohandas ‘Mahatma’ Gandhi**

(1869 – 1948)

***‘Bapu’*** (Father of the Nation) &

**Prominent leader of the Indian National Congress (INC)**

**Mohammed Ali Jinnah**

(1876 – 1948)

***‘Quad-e-Azam’*** *(Great Leader)*

**Former member of the Indian Congress Party and leading advocate of Muslim separation & statehood (Pakistan)**

**Section I: Britain & India 1885 - 1920**

* **British ‘Raj’ & Demographics of Religion in India**
* **Key Personalities**
* **The Movement for Indian Independence: 1885 – 1916**
* **Government of India Act (1919)**
  + **Simon Commission (1927)**

**Section II: India 1920 - 1946**

* **Mohandas Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru & the Congress Party: 1920 - 1935**
* **Government of India Act (1935)**
* **India during World War II**
* **Muslim League calls for independent Pakistan: 1940 – 1946**
  + **Lahore Resolution**
* **British Labour Government: 1945**
  + ***“morally committed to speed up the process of independence for India”***
* **Provincial Elections: 1946**

**Section III: British Withdrawal from India 1945 - 1947**

* **Lord Louis Mountbatten, Viceroy of India: 1947 – 1948**
  + **The Mountbatten ‘Partition Plan’ 1947**
* **Indian Independence Act (1947)**
* **Sir Cyril Radcliffe & the Boundary Commission: 1947**
* **British Withdrawal: 17th August 1947**
* **The dispute over Kashmir 1947 – 1948**
* **Legacies: India & Pakistan**

**Key Personalities**

*Write a short synopsis on the career& roles of each of the following key personalities in relation to the Independence & Partition of India.*

**Mohandas ‘Mahatma’ Gandhi** (Indian Congress Party)

**Jawaharlal Nehru** (Indian Congress Party)

**Mohammed Ali Jinnah** (Muslim League & former Congress Party)

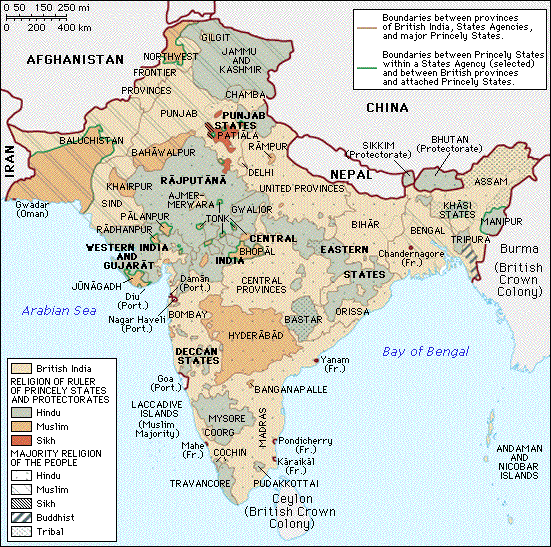
**Lord Louis Mountbatten** (Viceroy of India, 1947 – 1948)

**Section I**

1. **The British ‘Raj’ in Asia**

* British rule in areas of Bangladesh, Burma, India & Pakistan was known as the British ***‘Raj’***
* Direct Rule of ¾ of the population by British ***Viceroy*** (representing the King of Britain in India.
* Also, a ***Secretary of State for India*** was included in the British Government Cabinet.
* The remainder were ruled by local **Princes**, divided into generally two different categories:
  + Hindu Native States were run by local Hindu **‘Rajas’** or **‘Maharajas’** (majority)
  + Muslim Native States also run by Muslim **‘Nawabs’** (minority)

**Religious Demographics of India**

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**Religions**

***Hindu***: 250 million

***Muslim***: 90 million

***Sikh***:

***Christian***: 25 million

***Buddhist***:

* British-ruled area was divided into states and ruled by a **governor**, supported by an **Indian Civil Service**
* Small **British Settler** presence (168,000 in 19331). These settlers were most often employed as Governors, civil servants, businessmen, soldiers and their families.
* Conservative Party of Britain strongly supported British Rule in India (Imperialism)
* Labour Party & Liberal Party were more progressive and supported greater **local** autonomy and equality for Indians.

**(B) Emergence of Indian Nationalism**

Two organisations were founded around the end of the 19th Century that reflected a growing widespread demand for Indian autonomy, while *underlining the role of religion in pre-determining early political divisions*:

**Indian National Congress**

(1885)

* Initially, a moderate party seeking greater equality for Indians in government jobs, education etc.

**Muslim League**

(1906)

* In response to the Hindu-dominated National Congress, Muslims formed their own group to protect Muslim rights.

***Lucknow Pact*** **(1916)**

A demand for greater self-government in India & separate electorates for Hindu & Muslim peoples.

**(C)** **Early British Response to Indian Nationalism**

In response to Indian organisations demanding greater autonomy and independence the British Government attempted to modernise its relationship with India, while simultaneously attempting to offset demands for independence.

* **1909**: wealthy Indians allowed to vote for provincial councils that advised Governors. 1st introduction of *separate electorates for Muslims & Hindus* **N.B.**
* **1919: Government of India Act.** This gave Indians a limited role in the running of local and regional affairs such as education & health.
* **‘Amritsar Massacre’** *(General Dyer orders his troops to open fire on a peaceful protest, killing 379 civilians)*

**REMEMBER:** *This was a turbulent period for Britain. Fighting a World War between 1914 & 1918, dealing with constant upheaval in neighbouring Ireland e.g. Home Rule Crisis 1912 – 1914, the 1916 Rising and Sinn Féin’s 1918 Abstentionist policy and the outbreak of the Irish War of Independence, 1919 – 1921. The British Empire was under almost constant attack and criticism. Attempting to hold the colonies together became more difficult politically.*

**Government of India Act (1919)**

* **‘Transferred List’**: Created a dual form of government – *‘dyarchy’* – whereby certain areas of government were enlarged and participation by Indians was increased. Agriculture, local government, health and education were some of the areas made more accessible to local Indian participation
* **‘Reserved List’**: Areas where the **Viceroy** continued to exercise control and administration were Defence, Foreign Affairs & Communications.
* Created a **High Commissioner for India**, who resided in Britain representing Indian interests within the Commonwealth.
* The **Imperial Legislative Council** was enlarged, creating a lower House and an Upper House. The Upper House contained representatives of the ‘Princely States’.
* This act covered the period 1919 – 1929. It was brought about as a result of India’s participation in World War One & also due to the continuing demand for greater autonomy by Indians.

**Reaction:**

General disappointment amongst Indians at the limited scope of change brought about by this Act. The Upper House of the Imperial Legislative Council became a tool for British indirect control of India, offsetting the political parties demanding greater independence for India.

**Simon Commission (1927)**

* Created to examine the effects of the Government of India Act (1919).
* No Indian representatives on the commission, therefore was **boycotted** by Indian nationalists.
* In response to this, the **Indian National Congress** called for a complete British withdrawal by 1929. The British Government flatly refused.

**Labour Party Government (1929)**

* Labour Party formed a government in 1929. Indian Nationalists saw an opportunity to further their demands for independence, as a large anti-colonial group existed within the Labour Party. However, round table talks in London between the Labour Government & Indian politicians failed to come to any agreement.

**India 1920 – 1946**

Ganghi espoused *‘satyagraha’* (peaceful non-cooperation)

This became official Indian Congress Party policy during the 1920’s. There were some incidences of violence amongst Congress supports.

By the 1930’s, there were 4.5 million supporters of the Indian National Congress.

(1930’s) Congress Party aim: ***‘Purna Swaraj’*** (complete independence) & a secular state. **Why?\*\***

*What were the British fears concerning Indian Independence?:*

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**Government of India Act (1935)**

* **Right to Vote in provincial Assemblies extended to 1/6 of population**
* **Provinces gained more control of their own local affairs**

**1937 Elections**

* Indian National Congress decided to run in provincial elections
* Recorded a massive, sweeping victory

**World War II**

1. India was crucial to the British & Allied War effort in the East.
2. Japanese entry to the war in 1941 stiffened Indian Nationalist support
3. Some Indian Nationalists sided with the Japanese (***Subhas Chandra Bose***)
4. Offer of ‘dominion status’ or independence offered by Sir Stafford Cripps to be enacted after WWII to ensure Indian support for Allied War effort
5. Indian National Congress wanted immediate independence: → **‘Quit India’** Campaign (1942)
6. **Most of the Congress leaders were arrested**.
7. 2.5 million Indians fought in WWII
8. Food shortages led to a famine in 1943 in Bengal (estimated 3 million deaths)

**Labour Party forms British Government in May 1945**

Labour Party won the British General Election in May 1945:

***“morally committed to speeding up the process of Independence for India”***

Advantages of Indian Independence:

1. Massive decrease in costs as troops would not be stationed in India
2. Trade would be unaffected if handled properly
3. An independent India would help to resist the spread of Communism in Asia.

QUESTION: How to settle the conflicting demands of Hindus (***Indian National Congress***) & Muslims (***Muslim League***)

**Muhammed Ali Jinnah**

1. Muslim League President (1935)
2. Author of Lucknow Pact (1916)
3. Hindus = 70% of population
4. Jobs had been given to Congress supporters in the Provinces (usually Hindus)
5. Muslim feared for their own interests considering the few seats that they won in provincial assemblies, yet many Muslim leaders in the Indian National Congress Party.
6. By the early 1940’s, Jinnah had lost faith in the Indian National Congress’ ability to promote and secure Muslim interests.

**Lahore Resolution**

A resolution demanding an independent Muslim state to be called **PAKISTAN**

**P**: Punjab

**A**: Afghania  
KI: Kashmir

**S**: Sindh

**TAN**: Balochistan

***Would this really protect Muslim interests?***

***How would the formation of a new independent state (Pakistan) be brought about considering the vast spread of Muslims through India?***

**Lord Wavell** (British Viceroy) begins talks with Indian National Congress.

Ali Jinnah puts pressure on Wavell to ensure Muslims are not forced into an independent India.

**Provincial Elections (1946)**

* The separate Muslim electorate voted hugely (83%) for the Muslim League in the Provincial Elections of 1946.
* Bitterness became extreme between the **Indian National Congress** & the **Muslim League** throughout the campaign
* Ali Jinnah called for Muslims to ***“stand for Pakistan”***

***↓***

**Partition was now inevitable**

**Other attempts at brokering an agreement (1946)**

Cabinet Mission (1946)

Interim Government (containing representatives of Hindus & Muslims)

**Independence: Partition & Violence**

**1946 – 1947**

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**Appointment of Lord Mountbatten  
  
June 1948 announced as date of withdrawal by British**

Appointed in March 1947

Good relations with Nehru & Gandhi

Appeared ‘pro-Hindu’ to Muslims

Reputation as a *successful military commander*

Recognised **Partition** as only realistic option

Issue: Timeframe for Withdrawal & Solving ‘Contested Regions’ & mixed Populations

**Mountbatten made alterations to the frontier between India & Pakistan after objections by Nehru**

**Boundary Commission**

**Sir Cyril Radcliffe**

* *37 days* to conclude boundaries of Bengal & Punjab
* Used *out-dated maps* and *inaccurate census figures*
* Radcliffe had NEVER been to India before

**PUNJAB**

**Lahore Amritsar**

* Mixed populations in Punjab
* Majority of Muslims in west of Punjab
* Majority Sikh/ Hindu in East Punjab
* *PUNJAB was divided between the Lahore & Amritsar regions*

**3rd June 1947**: **Mountbatten Plan** published

**18th July1947**: **Indian Independence Act**

**15th August 1947**: **Date for British Withdrawal**

**15th August 1947: Radcliffe Recommendations published**

**August 1947: Radcliffe Boundary Recommendations Published**

1. Divided the Punjab & Bengal *= massive population movements/ conflicts due to ‘land-grabbing’/ conflict, starvation & death during population movements*
2. *‘Radcliffe Line’ was highly contentious due to the nature of both the necessary population movements & the lateness of the publication itself*
3. *Pakistan divided into two parts: East Pakistan & West Pakistan, both 1,000 miles apart.*

Causes of Violence:

* + *British Troops withdrawing on same day as publication of Radcliffe Plan*
  + *Large numbers of trained & experienced Indian soldiers who were now without British officers controlling them*
  + **Ethnic Cleansing** *occurred in Bengal & Punjab regions*
  + **Hindus & Sikhs** *robbed, attacked, raped & murdered in west part of province of Punjab*
  + **Muslims** *robbed, attacked, raped & murdered in east part of province of Punjab*
  + *General breakdown in law & order. Widespread confusion, resentment and anger, especially amongst Muslims due to some of Mountbatten’s actions.*
  + *Violence denounced by Muslim & Hindu leaders; however, some local leaders of both organizations were involved in the violence*
  + *Refugee camps on both sides of new border ill-equipped to deal with the numbers involved. Little international aid available also. (Lady Mountbatten)*

**Results of Violence & Displacement:**

1. 200,000 – 1,000,000 people died
2. 8 million Hindus & Sikhs fled to India
3. Little international aid to help refugees & displaced persons
4. Continued tension & further conflict between India & Pakistan
5. Ali Jinnah rejected Mountbatten as Viceroy of Pakistan