Nationalism in South Asia

Independence, Partition, and Nation-Building

(1914 to Present)
Major Organizations

- **Indian National Congress (INC) began in 1885**
  - Originally it was comprised of high-status, educated Indian men of the Hindu faith
  - Originally wanted reforms, not independence or “home rule”
    - Indians in the Indian Civil Service
    - Direct economic reforms

- India’s religious and cultural diversity led to splits into other movements
  - **All India Home Rule League** - promoted violence to achieve independence (led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak)
  - **Muslim League** - formed in 1906 due to INC’s mostly Hindu leadership
Response to Political Organization

- The British respond to the creation of the INC and Muslim League by promising increased Indian “Home Rule” during the early 1900s
  - By 1917 – British Government planned to have Indians working in more British Indian colonial government posts
  - Advisory Councils – elected to advise colonial government

- However, British responses were deemed incomplete and ineffective by most political activists, resulting in:
  - Swadeshi Campaigns = tax/tariff protests
    - Boycotts of British goods
    - Encouragement of the production/use of Indian-made goods
  - Strikes
Affect of World War I on Nationalism

- 1914 – 1920
  - Rising price of food and commodities
  - Rising voices of nationalists calling for independence
- 1919 - Rowlatt Acts passed by Parliament
  - Limited freedom of press and of assembly
  - Allowed for jailing of protesters without trial or charges for up to 2 years
- 1919 – Amritsar Massacre
  - Started as peaceful demonstration against Rowlatt Acts
  - British troops fired into demonstrators killing about 400 and wounding about 1200
  - Increased calls for independence as a result
Amritsar Massacre
Mohandas K. Gandhi

- British trained lawyer
- Published *Hind Swaraj* in 1909 (while still in South Africa) – urged Indian peoples to take pride in their culture and resist the British rule
- Returned to India in 1915
- Goals and Tactics:
  - **Create unity** by increasing membership and inclusiveness in INC (all classes, religious groups, and women)
  - **Satyagraha** (“Truth Force”) – passive, non-violent resistance aimed at showing the British the inhumanity and immorality of their ways
  - **Ahimsa** – non-violence (from Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism)
  - **Civil Disobedience** – refusal to obey unjust laws
  - **Creation of an Ashram** (communal headquarters) and a press corps to cover protests
Mohandas K. Gandhi

- Took control of the INC and revamped its policies in the 1920s
  - Made members pay dues to fund programs
  - Created an executive committee:
    - Jawaharlal Nehru – Gandhi’s “right hand man”
    - Mohammed Ali Jinnah
- Changed his image to promote the nationalistic movement and the INC
  - Made and wore homespun clothing
  - Lived like an ascetic & practiced celibacy
  - Led protests based on ahimsa and Satyagraha
  - Periodically led hunger strikes
Gandhi’s Major Protest Movements

- **Non-Cooperation Campaign (1920-22)**
  - Boycotting of British colonial schools, courts, and jobs; British-made goods; and even taxes
  - Gandhi jailed from 1922 – 1930 but I.N.C. continued working without him

- **Salt March Campaign (1930 – 32)**
  - Led over 200 mile long walk to the Sea to make Salt (violating British monopoly on salt making)

- **Quit India Campaign (1942)**
  - Urged Indians to not support Britain’s efforts in World War II
The Salt March - Route Map

The Salt March, 1930
Distance 241 Miles
Participants 79
From 12th March 1930 to 5th April 1930,
Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi
- Night Halt
- Midday Halt

Mahatma Gandhi Leads
The Salt March to Dandi

Mahatma walks with support of two young marchers
Abbas Taysahi marches with a smiling Mahatma

Sarojini Naidu receives the Mahatma at Bharuch.
Marchers Crossing the Narmada.

Mahatma Gandhi Picks up Salt at Bhimrad.
Results of Early Swaraj Period

• The British grant more rights to Indian home rule:
  • **Government of India Act of 1935**
    • Constitution for India colony created
    • expanded power of local legislatures and **gave more colonial (lower-level) bureaucratic positions to native Indians**
    • Local legislatures gained more control over agricultural, public works, and educational issues
  • British Government retained control over major, national issues
Muslim League Splits from INC

- Split occurred in 1937
  - Increasing tensions between Hindus and Muslims
  - Local legislatures seats mostly controlled by Hindu members of I.N.C.
  - Mohammed Ali Jinnah led the split (and the newly re-independent Muslim League)
- Gandhi and Nehru did NOT want this split to happen
Mohammed Ali Jinnah
Independence after World War II

- August 15, 1947 – India granted independence, but religious tensions caused a split
  - Immediately, Pakistan (under Jinnah) split from India – plan laid down by last British Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten
  - 6 million Hindus migrated from Pakistan to India
  - 6 million Muslims migrated from India to Pakistan
  - India and Pakistan have had a complex relationship since
- Gandhi Assassinated by a Hindu extremist on January 30, 1948
  - Extremist angered by Gandhi’s call for peace between Hindus and Muslims
Partitioning of India & Pakistan in 1947
Major Political Concerns: India (1947 to Present)

- The Congress Party & “Nehru Dynasty”
  - Jawaharlal Nehru (P.M. from 1947 – 64)
    - Nationalized major industries, utilities, and transportation
    - Allowed local businesses and farms to be privately owned
    - Restructured government into a British-style parliamentary democracy
    - Stressed religious freedoms
    - Worked to end restrictions against women and people of lower castes
  - Indira Gandhi (P.M. from 1966 - 74 & 80 - 84)
    - Daughter of Nehru (NO relation to Mohandas Gandhi)
    - Quite powerful and rather authoritarian
      - Tried to curb population growth through forced sterilization programs
      - Cracked down on political opponents
    - Was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984
The “Nehru Dynasty”

Jawaharlal Nehru  Indira Gandhi  Rajiv Gandhi
Economic Policies: India (1947 to Present)

- Mostly Socialistic at first – due to Nehru’s policies
- Increasing Privatization of Industry, Foreign Investment and rise of a middle class – continuation of Rajiv Gandhi’s policies
  - Benefits – entrepreneurialism and growth in white collar jobs
  - Problem – still a lack of industrialization due to lack of industrial workers and resources
- New Revolutions in Food Production:
  - The Green Revolution – introduction of new crop strains that are more productive and heartier coupled with modern agricultural techniques
  - The White Revolution – Dairy cooperatives to market and sell products
- Problems with these revolutions
  - Can be expensive – can further economic gap
  - Can be environmentally damaging
Gender in India (1947 to Present)

• Newer Positive Conditions for Women
  • Women’s Suffrage
  • More women in government (e.g. Indira Gandhi)
  • Beneficial Family Laws
    • Hindu Marriage Act: minimum age raised to 15
    • Hindu Succession Act: women can inherit property
  • Increased Female entrepreneurs
• Some Continuities in Conditions for Women
  • The Family Laws only affect Hindu women
  • Female Children still considered a burden in some places (Female Infanticide still practiced in some places
  • Female literacy rates lower than male literacy rates
Ethnic Tensions in India

• Ethnic/Religious/Caste divisions still present
  • Indian Government has tried to deal with these issues by
    • Rewarding local leaders who show loyalty to the government
    • Promoting a secular government
  • Still violence exists between groups
    • 1984 – Government put down Sikh uprising in Amritsar
    • 1992 – Fighting between Hindus and Muslims over control of holy city of Ayodhya
Civil War in Pakistan

- Separation of Bangladesh in 1971-72
  - Originally Pakistan consisted of Urdu-speaking West Pakistan and Bengali-speaking East Pakistan (separated by India)
  - East Pakistan began revolt to separate
    - India allied itself with East Pakistan
  - East Pakistan became Bangladesh
Key Issues in Modern Bangladesh

- **Unstable Government**
  - Frequent military rule
  - 2 leaders assassinated since independence
  - However...
    - Free Elections since 1991
    - Female Prime Ministers have been elected
      - 1996 – Sheikh Hasina Wazed elected (she was the daughter of Bangladesh’s “founder” Sheikh Mujibar Rahman)

- **Extreme poverty and overpopulation** (average per capita income of $150)

- **Natural Disasters** – especially seasonal monsoon flooding
Key Issues in Modern Pakistan

- Unstable Government
  - Limited Democracy & military rule
  - Tribal fragmentation – centers of fundamentalist Islamic factions
- Draining of resources due to increased military spending
Ongoing Tensions between India and Pakistan

- Conflict over the Kashmir region
- Nuclear Weapons
- “War on Terror”