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
THE FIRST INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1885.
Bal Gangadhar Tilak
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 walks with support of two young marchers
Abbas Tayyabji marches with a smiling Mahatma

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

Dharasana

Mahatma Gandhi Picks up Salt at Bhimrad.

Mahatma Gandhi Leads The Salt March to Dandi

Mahatma Gandhi at the start of the Salt March.
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 socialist at first (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”