

Revolutionary Movement In India Study Materials

The revolutionaries believed in ousting the British from India by means of a mass uprising. They were against the slow and steady approach of the Congress extremists and they also disapproved of the assassinations and destruction of public property by the terrorists. They tried to convince the Indian troops to rebel and tried to get help from foreign countries hostile to Britain. They were active in gathering support for themselves in China, Japan, France, Germany, North America and even Britain. The important revolutionary movements were as follows:

The Gadar Movement

In 1907, Lala Hardyal came under the influence of the revolutionaries working in Oxford and started a weekly paper called *Gadar*. His subsequent associations with more leaders culminated into the formation of the **Gadar Party** in 1913, in North America. The Gadar movement planned to (a) temper the loyalty of the Indian troops, (b) assassinate the British officials, (c) court foreign enemies to Britain and (d) form secret societies and propagate seditious literature. The Gadar movement's anti-British sentiment was intensified because of the **Komagata Maru episode**. To challenge the discriminatory immigration law of Canada, Gadar activists hired a Japanese ship called *Komagata Maru* and took 500 passengers from India to Canada. The passengers who were mainly Sikh were led by **Baba Gurdip Singh** and had the full support of Lala Hardyal. When the ship reached Vancouver on 22 May 1914, it was refused permission to berth; the ship waited in vain for more than 2 months before returning to Kolkata on 26 September 1914. The police rounded up the passengers despite stiff resistance. The death toll that day reached 22, with many wounded. Most of the captured passengers were sent to jail. The Gadar movement got a fillip because of this incident.



Hindustan Republican Association(HSRA)Re-organised

On 9 and 10 September 1928, many of the major revolutionaries of northern India gathered secretly at Feroz Shah Kotla, set-up a new collective leadership, elected Chandrashekhar Azad as their creed, inserting the word 'Socialist' into their name. The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was rapidly moving from the phase of individual actions to one of building a revolutionary movement. Although their major action after the reorganisation was the assassination of the Assistant Superintendent of Police, John P. Saunders, who killed Lala Lajpat Rai, the motives behind the action were significant. For one, the action was taken because Lala Lajpat Rai's death had evoked enormous popular resentment. Secondly, the assassination was carried out as the HSRA's popularity and mass membership were growing.

The All-India Mutiny that Failed(1915)

The revolutionaries took their ideas to the army and the peasants, small mutinies in Ferozpur, Lahore and Rawalpindi garrisons cautioned the British officers of a possible revolt of greater magnitude. The activists had planned the All-India Revolt on 21 February 1915. However, the British got wind of the plans and were able to curb the revolt.

Other Revolutionary Events

- ❖ Murder of W.C.Rand and Lt.Ayerst by Chapekar brothers at Poona in 1897.
- ❖ Formation of the **India House in London** (1905) by **Shyamji Krishna Verma and V.D.Savarkar**.
- ❖ Establishment of the **Indian House in New York** by **Barkatullah and S.L.Joshi**.

- ❖ Attempted murder of **Lt.Governor Fuller** of East Bengal by **Barindra Kumar Ghosh** and **Bhupendranath Dutta** in 1906.
- ❖ The **Kennedy murder** in 1908, in which two English ladies were killed when **Khundi Ram Bose** attempted to kill Magistrate Kingsford of Muzaffarabad who escaped unhurt.
- ❖ **Madan Lal Dhingra** murdered Curzon-Willie, an official in the British India Office at London.
- ❖ Attempted assassination of Lord Hardinge when he was approaching Delhi in 1912. **Rash Bihari Bose** and **Sachin Chandra Sanyal** missed their target.
- ❖ Formation of the **Berlin Committee in Germany** (1914) by **Virendranath Chattopadhyaya, Dr.Avinash Chandra Bhattacharya** and other prominent activists who formed the Anushilan and Yugantar groups in India.
- ❖ 'Bagha Jatin'. **Jatin Mukherji** carried out the **Plan of Bengal** in 1915. This aimed at disrupting the rail and communication network in Bengal and seizing Fort William. The plan failed because of the lack of coordination and the death of 'Bagha Jatin' in 1915.
- ❖ Formation of **Indian Independence Committee** in 1915 under the **Zimmerman Plan** organised by the German official at Berlin. The committee included **Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Lala Har Dayal** and **Bhupendranath Dutta**.
- ❖ Appointment of the **Provisional Government of Free India** with **Raja Mahendra Pratap** as the president and **Barkatullah** as the prime minister, with support from Germany, Afghanistan and the Sultan of Turkey. However, the Czar of Russia did not approve of the government because of the defeat of Germany in the World War.
- ❖ In 1915, revolutionaries looted a train which carried government cash at a place called **Kakori** (between Lucknow and Shahjahanpur). The involved activists were arrested and sentenced to death by the British.

Among them were **Bhupendra Sanyal, S.N.Biswas, Ashfaqullah Khan and Thakur Singh**.

- ❖ **Chandrashekar Azad** joined hands with **Bhagat Singh** and formed the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Party** in 1928. It had two faces-the public face headed by Bhagat Singh. and a secret face. called Hindustan Socialist Republic Army. headed by Azad. It was the first organisation which envisioned free India to be secular. Its activists took note of the changing political structure of the nation.
- ❖ Bhagat Singh. Azad and Rajguru avenged the death of Lala Lajpat Rai by killing **General Saunders** in 1928.
- ❖ Bombing of the central Legislative Assembly by Bhagat Singh and his associates in 1929.
- ❖ Attempted bombing of the train in which Lord Irwin and his family was travelling in 1929 at Delhi.
- ❖ Issuing of an independence proclamation in the name of **Indian Republic Army** under the leadership of **Surya Sen** in 1930, when revolutionaries captured the **Chittagong Armoury**. Surya Sen was arrested in 1933. and executed.
- ❖ Execution of Bhagat Singh. Rajguru and Sukhdev on 23 March 1931, and the death of Chandrashekar Azad in a shooting episode in Allahabad 1931.
- ❖ Assassination of the **magistrate of Tippera** in Bengal. by the school going **Shanti and Suniti** in 1932.
- ❖ Formation of the **Indian Independence League** by **Ras Bihari Bose** in 1942, in Japan.
- ❖ Formation of the **All India Central Revolutionary committee** in Russia by **M. N. Roy** and other activists.
- ❖ **Other Prominent Revolutionaries who Operated outside India**-P.M. Bapat; **Madam Bhikaji Cama**, a parsee lady who was connected with the Paris Indian Society established by S.R. Rana under the inspiration of **Shyamji Krishna Verma**, who unfurled

the first tricolour flag at the International Socialist Congress (Germany), designed by Hem Chand Das in 1907: Sardar Sohan Singh, M.P.T.Archarya: Gyan Chand Verma; Obeidullah sindhi, the translator of V.D. Savarkar's book, Indian war of Independence in Tamil; V.V.S.Iyer and Harish Chandra.

Rise of Bhagat Singh

Bhagat Singh's group gained enormous popularity, not only in Punjab but throughout North India. It is no coincidence that, in the 1929 Congress, held in tahore- the centre of Bhagat Singh's activities-Jawaharlal

Nehru described himself as 'a socialist and a republican'; words that echoed exactly the same of Bhagat Singh's organisation, HSRA was responsible for a number of other major 'terrorist' actions, including an attempt to blow up Viceroy Irwin's train near Delhi in 1929, and a whole series of similar actions in Punjab and UP towns in 1930 [26 being recorded in Punjab that year alone]. However, their single most important action was the throwing of bombs into the Legislative Assembly by Bhgat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt on 8 April 1929. The bombs themselves were not intended to injure anyone (as indeed they did not), they were for demonstrative effect.

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