

Revolutionary Activities in India [1905-1947]

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ABSTRACT

Revolutionary nationalism emerged as a radical and dynamic stream within India's freedom struggle, offering an alternative to moderate constitutional methods and Gandhian non-violence. Rooted in a spirit of defiance against British colonial oppression, revolutionary activities involved armed resistance, underground networks, political assassinations, and daring acts of protest. The movement gained early momentum following the Partition of Bengal, with the rise of secret societies such as Anushilan Samiti, Jugantar, and Abhinav Bharat in Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab. Visionaries like Aurobindo Ghosh, V.D. Savarkar, and Khudiram Bose laid the ideological and organizational groundwork for this phase. In later decades, especially the 1920s and 1930s, the revolutionary struggle matured through the efforts of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), led by iconic figures such as Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, and Batukeshwar Dutt. Their actions—most notably the Lahore Conspiracy Case and the Central Assembly Bombing—reflected a blend of nationalism and socialist ideology. Parallel to the domestic movements, revolutionary fervor was echoed abroad through the Ghadar Party, the Berlin Committee, and Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army during World War II. Despite facing brutal crackdowns, executions, and surveillance by the British state, the revolutionaries left an indelible impact on the national psyche. Their courage, ideology, and martyrdom galvanized youth, intensified anti-colonial sentiments, and acted as a catalyst for India's eventual independence.

Keywords: Revolutionary Nationalism, Indian Independence Movement, Anushilan Samiti, HSRA, Bhagat Singh, INA, Subhas Chandra Bose, Ghadar Party, Political Extremism, Anti-Colonial Resistance, British Repression.

INTRODUCTION

Revolutionary activities have long been catalysts for profound societal change, often arising when established systems of governance, culture, and power fail to address the needs and aspirations of the people. Revolutions are not mere acts of rebellion; they are movements that challenge the status quo, confront entrenched injustices, and pave the way for new social, political, and economic orders. From the streets of Paris during the French Revolution to the vast expanses of Russia in 1917, revolutionary movements have reshaped nations and left an indelible mark on history.

At their core, revolutions are driven by the desire for change. Whether in response to oppressive regimes, economic inequality, or the struggle for human rights, revolutionary activities reflect a collective yearning for a better, more just society. These movements have often emerged from the most marginalized segments of society, uniting individuals with diverse backgrounds under a shared cause of resistance. They have sparked new ideologies, altered global power structures, and redefined the very concept of liberty and justice.

This project seeks to explore the multifaceted nature of revolutionary activities by analyzing key revolutions across different historical periods and geographical contexts. From the early revolts against colonial powers to modern-day movements, we will investigate the complex interplay between ideology, leadership, and popular support in driving change. In doing so, we will consider the lessons learned from these revolutions—the successes and failures, the unintended consequences, and the enduring legacies that continue to shape our world.

By examining the origins, developments, and aftermaths of revolutionary activities, this project aims to provide a deeper understanding of the forces that drive political and social upheaval. It challenges us to reflect on how power, resistance, and the quest for justice have evolved over time, and how the spirit of revolution continues to influence contemporary struggles for freedom and equality.

"The opponents of revolution mistakenly believe that revolution means violence with arms, weapons and such other means. But revolution is not confined to this process. It may be that these are used as instruments but it should not be forgotten that

behind them, it is the solid strength and spirit of the revolution and that strength is the will, the aspiration of the people to demand and get a change, a revolution in the current economic structure, the shape and form of Political Government of the nation. Our idea of the revolution has never been simply the bloodshed of some individuals. It is to end the present regime of exploitation of man by man and to secure to our nation absolute right of self-determination. That is the ultimate objective of our idea of revolution." 1

-Sardar Bhagat Singh.

Causes Of The Birth Of Revolutionary Movement

In the early 20th century, Indian freedom fighters like Surendra Nath Banerjee, Madan Mohan Malaviya, and Gopal Krishna Gokhale tried to convince the British government to grant India independence through peaceful means. They wrote petitions, attended meetings, and prayed for the British to listen to their demands. However, the British government ignored their pleas, and these freedom fighters were left disappointed.

The British government's decision to divide Bengal into two provinces in 1905 made Indians angry. The famine and plague that ravaged Maharashtra also added to the growing resentment against the British. Leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal felt that peaceful methods were not enough to achieve India's freedom. They believed that Indians needed to fight for their rights and use forceful methods to get the British to listen.

Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh launched Peasants' Movement in the Punjab in 1906-07. Bal Gangadhar Tilak revived the memories of Vedic past and persuaded the people to celebrate Shivaji festival and Ganesh festival. In one of his meetings he said:

"We are at present clamouring for Swaraj and therefore Shivaji festival is the most fitting one for us to celebrate. If Shivaji was able to establish Swaraj two centuries ago, we too may expect to achieve it some day. Swaraj belongs to us by birth right.... We are masters of our fortunes and can govern them if we only make up our minds to do so. Swarajya is not far off from us, It will come to us the moment we learn to stand on our own legs."2

Tilak also sponsored the Swadeshi Movement, which encouraged Indians to use Indian-made goods instead of British goods. This movement aimed to boycott British products and promote Indian industries. When the British divided Bengal, Indians all over the country protested through meetings, processions, and demonstrations. Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh launched the Peasants' Movement in Punjab in 1906-07. This movement aimed to unite Indian peasants and farmers against the British government's oppressive policies. The movement gained momentum, and soon, peasants and farmers from all over India joined in to demand their rights.

The Indian freedom struggle was gaining momentum, and leaders like Tilak, Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal were at the forefront of the movement. They inspired Indians to fight for their freedom and to stand up against British oppression. The British government, instead of considering the legitimate demands of the Indian people, responded with force and repression. This led to widespread resentment and anger among Indians, who felt that their aspirations and desires for freedom were being trampled upon.

As a result, revolutionary groups began to emerge, advocating for the use of armed struggle to achieve independence. These groups held secret meetings, spread nationalist ideas, and recruited young men who were willing to fight for India's freedom.

As Curzon, the Viceroy, put it in 1905: 'Gokhale either does not see where he is going, or if he does see it, then he is dishonest in his pretensions. You cannot awaken and appeal to the spirit of nationality in India and at the same time, profess loyal acceptance of British rule.'3 Or, as George Hamilton, the Secretary of State, had complained to Dadabhai Naoroji in 1900: 'You announce yourself as a sincere supporter of British rule; you vehemently denounce the conditions and consequences which are inseparable from the maintenance of that rule.'4

The revolutionaries believed that the only way to end British rule was through force. They targeted specific British officers who had committed atrocities against Indians, such as Mr. Saunders, who had beaten Lala Lajpat Rai. The revolutionaries saw these officers as symbols of British oppression and believed that by targeting them, they could create fear among the British and ultimately bring an end to their rule.

One notable example of this was the assassination of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the former Governor of Punjab, by Sardar Udham Singh. O'Dwyer had been responsible for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in which hundreds of unarmed Indian protesters were killed by British troops. Udham Singh's actions were seen as a form of revenge for this atrocity.

The British government responded to the rise of revolutionary groups with further repression, passing laws that allowed for the arrest and detention of suspected revolutionaries without trial. However, this only served to fuel the flames of rebellion, as more and more Indians became convinced that armed struggle was the only way to achieve independence.

Eventually, the British government began to feel the pressure of the growing nationalist movement. They realized that they needed to make concessions to the Indian National Congress, which had become the dominant force in Indian politics. The Congress, led by figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, had been advocating for peaceful, non-violent resistance to British rule. As a result, the British government passed the Act of 1909, which made some concessions to Indian demands for self-government. However, this was seen as too little, too late by many Indians, who continued to demand full independence. The revolutionaries, meanwhile, remained committed to their goal of achieving independence through armed struggle.

Aims of The Revolutionary Movement

The aims of the revolutionary movement in India were multifaceted and evolved over time, but they were primarily focused on challenging British colonial rule and achieving independence. The British Authorities and Historians dubbed the Revolutionaries as saboteurs, murderers and bandits. They were justified in their own way because the Goal of the Revolutionaries was to uproot the British Rule.⁵ These movements also sought to address social, political, and economic issues that affected the Indian population. Below are the key aims of the revolutionary movement in India:

The primary goal of the revolutionary movement in India was the complete liberation of the country from British colonial rule. Revolutionaries aimed to overthrow British control and restore India's sovereignty.

Revolutionary movements sought to promote nationalism and unity among the diverse population of India. They aimed to unite various linguistic, religious, and regional groups in the fight for independence, creating a shared Indian identity.

The movements also aimed to address social justice and equality, focusing on the removal of caste discrimination, untouchability, and the exploitation of marginalized communities. The goal was to establish a more just and equal society.

Economic independence was another key aim. Revolutionaries sought to dismantle the economic structures that benefited the British at the expense of India, promoting self-reliance, fair distribution of wealth, and the end of exploitation.

Many revolutionaries sought to revive India's cultural and religious heritage, emphasizing the importance of Indian traditions, languages, and customs, and countering the colonial narrative that portrayed Indian culture as inferior.

Revolutionaries fought for political and civil rights, demanding the right to vote, freedom of expression, and the ability to form political parties. They wanted to end British-imposed laws and have Indians govern their own country.

A democratic system of governance was an important aim, with revolutionaries advocating for a government led by Indians that was representative of the people, ensuring self-determination and fair governance.

The movement had both violent and non-violent factions. While Mahatma Gandhi's leadership focused on non-violent protests, civil disobedience, and non-cooperation, others like Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose adopted more direct, armed resistance against the British.

Revolutionaries aimed to end racial discrimination and imperialism, seeking equality and the dismantling of the British-imposed racial hierarchy, both in India and across the British Empire.

First Phase of Revolutionary Activities [1905-1917]

"The time has come when the Indian youth must rise, not to beg for reforms, but to demand freedom."⁶ During this time, radical nationalists and revolutionaries began adopting more militant methods to confront British rule. The early part of this period witnessed the formation of several secret societies, the rise of prominent revolutionary leaders, and acts of defiance against the British, including bombings, assassinations, and armed resistance. The first phase of revolution in India was not confined to the urban elite but spread across the countryside where peasants and tribal communities rose up in revolt against oppressive policies.⁷

This era witnessed a shift in tactics from traditional political methods of petitioning and protest to more radical and violent forms of resistance. Some of the key events, movements, and activities during this time are outlined below:

The Rise of Revolutionary Nationalism (1900-1910)

The Swadeshi Movement(1905-1908), which started in 1905, was a response to the Partition of Bengal by the British, aimed at dividing the people of Bengal along religious lines to weaken the nationalist struggle. The Swadeshi Movement became a powerful expression of Indian resistance to British colonial rule. It urged Indians to boycott British goods and promote the use of indigenous products, such as khadi (homespun cloth).

Many young radicals, especially in Bengal, adopted the Swadeshi Movement as a stepping stone for revolutionary activities. The movement's call for a boycott of British goods led to increased protests, including public burnings of foreign goods and the boycott of foreign institutions. It also played a crucial role in galvanizing the youth and intellectuals to take up arms against the British.

During this period, several revolutionary organizations, such as the Anushilan Samiti (formed in 1902) and the Jugantar (founded in 1906), became centers of resistance. These organizations actively sought to recruit young people and train them in the use of arms. They also believed in the use of bombs and assassinations as tools to terrorize the British officials and disrupt colonial rule.

Anushilan Samiti (1902-1930):

Anushilan Samiti, founded in 1902 in Bengal, was one of the most prominent revolutionary organizations in India's struggle for independence. It aimed to prepare young Indians for armed resistance against British rule, emphasizing military training, physical fitness, and a spirit of nationalism. The organization, initially led by figures like Aurobindo Ghosh and Pramathanath Mitra, believed in violent resistance as the only way to drive out the British. It became a hub for secret activities, with its members involved in bombings, assassinations, and other acts of defiance against British authorities.

One of the most notable events involving the Samiti was the Alipore Bomb Case (1908), where revolutionaries planned to assassinate British officials. The plot was exposed, leading to the arrest of several members, including Aurobindo Ghosh, who was later acquitted. Despite facing heavy repression, including arrests and exile, the Samiti continued its activities and inspired many other groups. Figures like Bagha Jatin and Surya Sen carried forward its legacy, with their actions contributing to the ongoing struggle for independence. The Anushilan Samiti played a pivotal role in the growth of the revolutionary movement in Bengal. It was during the early 1900s that the group started implementing radical methods, inspired by the increasing failures of constitutional movements.⁸

Aurobindo Ghosh was initially a moderate nationalist and a prominent leader of the early Congress movement. However, he soon became a key figure in the revolutionary movement after his disillusionment with the British government's attitude toward Indian aspirations. Aurobindo was associated with the Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar organizations, which aimed at training young Indians for armed resistance. He advocated for violent means to overthrow British rule and was involved in the Alipore Bomb Case of 1908. After being acquitted, he turned towards spiritualism but continued to influence the nationalist movement.

However, by the 1910s, Anushilan Samiti's influence began to wane due to increased British repression and internal divisions within the revolutionary movement. Although the group lost momentum, its emphasis on armed resistance and its role in training young revolutionaries had a lasting impact, influencing later movements like the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). The Samiti's legacy of defiance and radical nationalism left a mark on the Indian freedom movement, inspiring future generations of revolutionaries .

Jugantar (1906-1910):

Jugantar was a radical nationalist organization founded in Bengal in 1906, focused on using violent methods to resist British colonial rule in India. The group, which emerged from the broader nationalist sentiment stirred by the Swadeshi Movement, aimed at overthrowing British rule through armed resistance, including bombings, assassinations, and attacks on British officials. It believed that peaceful protests were ineffective and that direct action was necessary to achieve Indian independence. Jugantar was led by prominent revolutionaries such as Jatindranath Mukherjee (Bagha Jatin) and worked closely with other groups like the Anushilan Samiti.

Jugantar's members were involved in several major acts of violence, the most notable being the 1908 attempt to assassinate British officials. In the early 1900s, the organization became a significant force in Bengal's revolutionary movement, attracting young nationalists eager to take up arms. Its members believed in the philosophy of "Swaraj" (self-rule) and sought to create an atmosphere of fear and disruption among the British through their activities. The Jugantar group was instrumental in introducing the idea of armed resistance into the nationalist movement. Its members carried out daring attacks, including bombings of British officials and police stations, seeking to create a climate of fear and resistance.⁹

However, Jugantar faced heavy repression after the failure of several of its operations and the arrest of its leaders. Notably, Bagha Jatin was captured and martyred after an attempt to raid a British armory in 1915. Despite its decline, Jugantar's legacy as one of the first organized revolutionary movements in India persisted, influencing future generations of revolutionaries and contributing to the radical shift in the Indian independence struggle.

Bhagat Jatin (Jatindranath Mukherjee) was a prominent revolutionary in the Indian freedom struggle. Born on December 7, 1879, in Bengal, he was deeply involved in the Anushilan Samiti, a secret society that advocated for armed resistance against British rule. Known for his bravery and leadership, Jatin played a key role in organizing revolutionary activities. He was involved in several confrontations with British authorities and died on September 10, 1915, in a gunfight with British forces. Bhagat Jatin is remembered as a martyr and a symbol of courage in the fight for India's independence.

Revolutionary Activities (1907-1917)

The Alipore Bomb Case (1908): The Alipore Bomb Case of 1908 was one of the most significant events in the history of India's revolutionary movement against British colonial rule. It was centered around a group of Bengali revolutionaries from the Anushilan Samiti, who had plotted to assassinate British officials and disrupt the colonial administration through acts of violence. The case took its name from Alipore, a district in Kolkata, where many of the conspirators were arrested.

The plot was exposed when a bomb, which the revolutionaries were preparing to use, exploded prematurely in a house in the Mahatma Gandhi Road area of Kolkata. The accidental blast killed several revolutionaries and alerted the British authorities. As a result, the police launched a widespread investigation, leading to the arrest of several key members of the Anushilan Samiti, including Aurobindo Ghosh, one of the most prominent leaders of the movement. His brother Barindra Kumar Ghosh and other associates were also arrested. The revolutionaries had planned to kill key British officials and officials in the Indian administration in a bid to create panic and force the British government to acknowledge the nationalist movement. Aurobindo Ghosh, though an intellectual and ideologue, had become deeply involved in the revolutionary cause and was later accused of conspiring to manufacture and distribute bombs. The **Alipore Bomb Case** of 1908 involved the arrest and subsequent trial of several revolutionary leaders from Bengal. Among those arrested was **Aurobindo Ghosh**, who was charged with conspiring to kill British officials. The case underscored the increasing radicalization of the Indian nationalist movement, leading to widespread repression by the British authorities.¹⁰

The trial was a highly publicized event, and the British authorities used it as an opportunity to crush the growing revolutionary sentiment in Bengal. Despite overwhelming evidence against the conspirators, Aurobindo Ghosh was acquitted due to a lack of direct evidence linking him to the bombing. The trial, however, did not diminish the impact of the Alipore Bomb Case. It became a rallying point for nationalist sentiment in Bengal and across India.

While Aurobindo was acquitted, his associates faced severe punishments. It was during this case that the public saw the rise of figures like **Aurobindo Ghosh** as leaders of the armed struggle.¹¹ Barindra Ghosh and others were sentenced to life imprisonment or death. The case itself highlighted the increasing use of violence in India's struggle for independence and represented a shift in the nationalist movement away from moderate methods towards more radical and militant tactics. The Case had long-lasting effects on the Indian independence movement. It garnered widespread attention, not only for the dramatic courtroom events but also for the martyrdom of many revolutionaries involved. The case also brought attention to the influence of secret societies like the Anushilan Samiti and the emerging revolutionary terrorism that would shape the struggle for freedom in the coming decades.

Madan Lal Dhingra (1909): On July 17, 1909, Madan Lal Dhingra shot and killed Sir Curzon Wylie, the British official and the Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India, at a public event in London. Wylie was seen as a symbol of British oppression in India, and Dhingra's act was a deliberate attempt to strike a blow against the colonial system. Madan Lal Dhingra's assassination of Sir Curzon Wylie was a direct challenge to the British government. The act was a reflection of the growing impatience of young revolutionaries who felt that non-violent methods were insufficient for gaining independence.¹² The assassination was carried out in a well-planned manner, and Dhingra, after shooting Wylie, was immediately arrested.

Dhingra's motivations were deeply rooted in his belief that violent resistance was necessary to end British rule and that the assassination of British officials would create a sense of fear and disrupt colonial operations. His act was also a response to the oppressive policies of the British government in India and was intended to inspire other Indians to take up arms in the struggle for independence. During his trial, Dhingra stood firm in his belief, refusing to apologize for his actions. He defended his decision as an act of patriotism and a contribution to India's freedom struggle. Despite his young age, he was sentenced to death and executed on August 17, 1909.

Madan Lal Dhingra's assassination of Sir Curzon Wylie marked a critical moment in the rise of radical nationalism in India, shifting the focus of the independence struggle towards armed resistance and individual acts of defiance. Though his life was short, Dhingra's courage and sacrifice made him a symbol of resistance against British imperialism, and he remains remembered as one of India's early revolutionary martyrs.

Madan Lal Dhingra was a revolutionary martyr who became widely known for his act of defiance against British colonial rule in 1909. Born in Punjab in 1883, Dhingra was a student in London when he became inspired by the growing nationalist movement in India and the atrocities committed by the British colonial rulers. He was particularly influenced by the writings of Indian freedom fighters and leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal, who advocated for the liberation of India through self-rule.

Howrah Gang Case of (1910): The Howrah Gang Case of 29 January, 1910 involved a group of Bengali revolutionaries who attempted to rob a train carrying government funds near Howrah (close to Kolkata) to finance their revolutionary activities. Led by Jatindranath Mukherjee, the plot aimed to seize money for purchasing weapons and funding the anti-British struggle. However, the plan went awry when British authorities were alerted, and the revolutionaries were caught during the robbery attempt. While 47 Indian Nationalist of Anushilan Samiti were arrested and sentenced to death, the case marked an important shift in the revolutionary movement, demonstrating the growing use of armed resistance against British rule.

Delhi Lahore Conspiracy Case(1912): The Delhi Conspiracy Case of 1911 was a significant event in the history of India's revolutionary movement, marked by a failed attempt to assassinate the British Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, as a part of the larger struggle for Indian independence. The plot was orchestrated by a group of revolutionaries, primarily led by Rash Behari Bose, a prominent figure in the revolutionary circles of Bengal. The year 1910 was a turning point in the revolutionary movement, as it marked the increasing number of young revolutionaries turning to violence. Groups like Jugantar, having already launched attacks on British officials, laid the ideological groundwork for the Hindustan Republican Association, which would later coordinate several acts of violence in the 1920s.¹³

In December 1912, Lord Hardinge was traveling in a grand procession through the streets of Delhi to attend the Delhi Durbar, a British ceremonial event to mark the formal transfer of the capital from Kolkata to Delhi. The revolutionaries, who were part of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), planned to throw a bomb at the Viceroy's carriage, intending to kill him and strike a blow to the British authority in India. On the day of the event, the revolutionaries positioned themselves near the Chandni Chowk area of Delhi, hoping to target Lord Hardinge as he passed by. However, the conspiracy did not go as planned. One of the conspirators, Binay Badal Dinesh, threw the bomb, but it missed Lord Hardinge and hit the people surrounding him. Several British officials were injured, but the Viceroy himself escaped with minor injuries. Despite the failure of the assassination attempt, the British authorities immediately launched an investigation, which led to the arrest of several key members of the revolutionary group. The authorities cracked down on the revolutionaries, and many of them were arrested, interrogated, and put on trial. Rash Behari Bose, the leader of the plot, managed to evade capture and fled to Japan, where he continued to be active in the struggle for India's independence.

Rash Bihari Bose was a prominent Indian revolutionary and leader of the Indian independence movement. Born on May 25, 1886, in Kusumgram, Bengal, he is best known for his role in organizing the Ghadar Conspiracy and for his leadership in the Indian National Army (INA) during World War II. Bose was involved in various revolutionary activities against British colonial rule, including the Bombay-Lahore Conspiracy. He later fled to Japan, where he continued his efforts to seek support for India's independence from foreign powers. Rash Bihari Bose is remembered as a key figure in the struggle for India's freedom, with a legacy of dedication to the cause of independence.

Though the Delhi Conspiracy did not succeed in its primary objective, it was a significant event in the history of India's resistance against British rule. It marked the growing intensity of the revolutionary movement, which sought to achieve independence by force and direct action rather than peaceful negotiation.

Bagha Jatin and the Chittagong Armoury Raid (1915): Bagha Jatin (Jatindranath Mukherjee) was one of the most prominent figures in Bengal's revolutionary movement during the early 20th century. Known for his courage and leadership, he earned the title "Bagha" (meaning tiger) after a heroic incident in which he fought off a tiger with his bare hands. Jatin became a symbol of bravery and selfless dedication to the cause of Indian independence. His involvement in revolutionary activities was deeply rooted in the belief that armed resistance was essential for driving out British colonial rule. One of the most significant events in which Bagha Jatin played a crucial role was the Chittagong Armoury Raid of 1915. The raid was part of a larger plan to seize weapons from the British authorities to equip revolutionaries for an armed uprising. Jatin and his associates, primarily members of the Jugantar group, aimed to raid the Chittagong armoury, seize

arms and ammunition, and initiate a wider rebellion against British rule. The plan was strategically designed to disrupt the British military infrastructure in the region and create a sense of fear and chaos among the colonial authorities. The raid was meticulously planned and led by Jatin and his companions, but it ultimately ended in failure. While the revolutionaries successfully attacked the armoury and seized some weapons, they were unable to hold their position for long. The British authorities, who were already on high alert due to growing revolutionary activities, quickly responded with military force. The revolutionaries were surrounded, and a fierce gunfight ensued. Bagha Jatin, who was leading the raid, was mortally wounded during the battle.

After the failed raid, Jatin and his comrades tried to escape, but they were soon captured by the British forces. Jatin, gravely injured and surrounded, was eventually killed in an encounter with the British police on September 10, 1915. Despite his death, the Chittagong Armoury Raid became one of the most iconic events in the Indian revolutionary struggle, symbolizing the spirit of sacrifice and defiance against British colonialism. Bagha Jatin's martyrdom had a profound impact on the revolutionary movement, inspiring countless young nationalists to take up arms in the fight for independence. The raid, though unsuccessful, exemplified the growing trend of radical nationalism and the belief that armed struggle was essential to achieve independence.

The Ghadar Conspiracy (1915): The Ghadar Conspiracy of 1915 was one of the most significant and ambitious revolutionary movements in India's struggle for independence, particularly involving Indians living abroad. The Ghadar Party was founded in 1913 by a group of Indian immigrants in California, United States, with the primary aim of overthrowing British rule in India through armed rebellion. The party was established by Lala Har Dayal, along with other key figures such as Sohan Singh Bhakna, Taraknath Das, Rash Behari Bose, and Chandrashekhar Azad. The Ghadar Party's name, derived from the word "Ghadar" meaning "mutiny" or "rebellion," reflected its goal of instigating a mass uprising in India against British colonial rule.

Lala Har Dayal (1884–1939) was born in Delhi and educated at St. Stephen's College and Stanford University. He became a key founder of the Ghadar Party in 1913, aiming to overthrow British rule in India. Known for his intellectual brilliance and nationalist zeal, he played a major role in mobilizing Indian expatriates for the independence movement. Exiled due to his revolutionary activities, he spent much of his life in Europe, Japan, and the U.S. He died on March 4, 1939, in Philadelphia, leaving behind a lasting legacy in India's struggle for freedom.

Sohan Singh Bhakna (1881–1975) was a prominent revolutionary and a key leader in the Ghadar Party. Born in Punjab, India, he became deeply involved in the movement against British colonial rule. Bhakna was one of the founding members of the Ghadar Party in 1913 in California, aiming to spark an armed revolution for India's independence. He played a significant role in mobilizing Indian expatriates and organizing protests and activities against the British government.

The Ghadar Party aimed to overthrow British colonial rule in India through armed insurrection, and it drew inspiration from the growing discontent among Indian soldiers in the British Army, as well as the increasingly militant strategies of Indian revolutionaries. The primary objective of the Ghadar Conspiracy was to incite an armed rebellion in India, with the hope of mobilizing Indian soldiers stationed in various parts of the British Empire, especially in the army bases in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) and Singapore, to rise against their British officers. The plan involved seizing weapons, attacking British military installations, and taking control of key cities to cripple British authority and spark a nationwide uprising.

The Ghadar also contained references to the contributions of Lokamanya Tilak, Sri Aurobindo, V.D. Savarkar, Madame Cama, Shyamji Krishna Varma, Ajit Singh and Sufi Amba Prasad, as well as highlights of the daring deeds of the Anushilan Samiti, the Yugantar group and the Russian secret societies.¹⁴ But, perhaps, the most powerful impact was made by the poems that appeared in *The Ghadar*, soon collected and published as *Ghadar di Goonj* and distributed free of cost. These poems were marked as much by their secular tone as by their revolutionary zeal, as the following extract demonstrates:

Hindus, Sikhs, Pathans and Muslims,
Pay attention ye all people in the army.
Our country has been plundered by the British,
We have to wage a war against them.
We do not need pandits and quazis,
We do not want to get our ship sunk.
The time of worship is over now,
It is time to take up the sword. 15

They coordinated with Indian soldiers, distributing weapons and ammunition and planning for simultaneous revolts across multiple regions. The party spread nationalist literature and recruited people for their cause, emphasizing the idea of a united, independent India free from British rule. However, the conspiracy began to unravel when British intelligence caught wind of the plans. In early 1915, the British authorities cracked down on the Ghadar Party, arresting several key members and preventing the rebellion from being launched in India. In addition, the British also took action against Ghadar Party sympathizers among Indian soldiers, who were stationed in places like Singapore and Mesopotamia, foiling the plot before it could fully materialize.

Although the Ghadar Conspiracy failed in its immediate goals, it had a profound and lasting impact on the Indian independence movement. The conspiracy inspired future generations of revolutionaries and demonstrated the potential for armed uprisings as a means of challenging British rule. The British government's heavy-handed response, including the arrest, torture, and execution of several Ghadar leaders, further ignited the nationalist sentiment across India. The failure of the Ghadar Conspiracy did not diminish its legacy; instead, it helped sow the seeds for future armed struggles, including the Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930) and the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

Lucknow Pact of (1916):The Lucknow Pact of 1916 was not a revolutionary activity in the sense of armed resistance or violent protest, but it marked a significant political development in India's struggle for independence. It was an agreement between the Indian National Congress (INC) and the All-India Muslim League, two major political organizations in India. The pact represented the first major collaboration between these groups, aiming for political and constitutional reforms. The key provisions included demands for greater Indian representation in legislative councils, separate electorates for Muslims, and increased self-governance for India. While the pact did not involve direct action or armed rebellion, it was revolutionary in the political sense, as it showed the possibility of Hindu-Muslim cooperation and laid the foundation for a united political front against British colonial rule. The Lucknow Pact helped in forging a united front between the Congress and the Muslim League, although the future political trajectory of India would see both groups diverge once again.¹⁶ The Lucknow Pact was a crucial step in India's political movement, signaling a shift towards demanding greater autonomy and self-rule through negotiations and collaboration, alongside the more radical revolutionary activities taking place during this period.

Second Phase of Revolutionary Activities [1918-1936]

The revolutionary movement in India during the 1920s marked a new phase of intense struggle against the British, driven not just by the pursuit of political freedom, but by a desire to shake off the shackles of colonial subjugation through direct action and defiance.¹⁷ It saw the rise of a more radical and organized approach to the freedom struggle, building on the foundations laid by earlier revolutionary movements. This phase was marked by increasingly bold and often violent actions against British colonial rule. Bhagat Singh's acts of defiance were not mere symbols of rebellion but were deeply rooted in his belief that freedom could only be achieved through the dismantling of the imperialist structure by revolutionary means.¹⁸ The main revolutionary groups during this period included the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), Jugantar, Anushilan Samiti, and others. Below are some of the most significant revolutionary activities during the second phase:

Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) (1924): The Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), founded in 1924, was a revolutionary organization aimed at securing India's independence from British rule through armed struggle. It was an attempt to mobilize a youth-led movement dedicated to overthrowing British rule through armed struggle. It marked the beginning of an organized, armed resistance to British imperialism, distinguishing itself from earlier, more isolated acts of rebellion.¹⁹ It was established by prominent leaders like Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Ashfaqulla Khan. The HRA gained attention for its bold actions, including the Kakori Train Robbery of 1925, where revolutionary members looted a train carrying British government funds to finance their activities. Despite facing brutal repression, including arrests and executions of key members like Bismil and Ashfaqulla Khan, the HRA's legacy continued through the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), which carried forward its goal of an armed struggle against British rule. The HRA remains a significant part of India's freedom struggle, symbolizing courage and defiance against colonial oppression.

Chandrashekhar Azad was a fearless revolutionary and one of the most iconic figures in India's fight for independence. Born on July 23, 1906, in Bhabra, Madhya Pradesh, he became a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). Azad was known for his bravery, and his motto was "I will never be captured alive." He played a crucial role in several revolutionary activities, including the Assembly Bombing Case and the Chandni Chowk shootout. On February 27, 1931, surrounded by the police in Alfred Park, Allahabad, he chose to die by his own hand rather than surrender, cementing his legacy as a martyr in the Indian independence movement.

Kakori Train Robbery (1925): The Kakori Train Robbery occurred on August 9, 1925, near Kakori, a town in Uttar Pradesh, and was one of the most significant acts of resistance during the Indian freedom struggle. The robbery was masterminded by members of the HRA, a revolutionary group that sought to overthrow British colonial rule through armed resistance. The main objective behind the robbery was to seize funds from a British government train, which would then be used to finance revolutionary activities. The Kakori Train Robbery of 1925 was one of the boldest and most significant acts of defiance against British rule. Organized by revolutionaries like Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, and Roshan Singh, the operation aimed not only to procure funds for the revolutionary activities but also to send a clear message that the Indian youth would no longer passively tolerate British oppression.²⁰

The plan was to stop the Lahore-Delhi passenger train near Kakori, where a large sum of money was being transported by the British government. The group successfully intercepted the train, and the revolutionaries seized the money from the British officials. The robbery itself was well-executed, and it was initially successful, with the revolutionaries escaping with the money.

However, the British police quickly investigated the incident, and many members of the HRA were arrested. Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, and several others were apprehended and tried. The British government sought to make an example of the revolutionaries to deter future acts of rebellion. The robbers were sentenced to death, and some were executed. Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqulla Khan were among those executed on December 19, 1927. The Kakori Train Robbery was a well-planned and executed strike against the British Empire, intended to raise funds for revolutionary activities. While the operation was successful in terms of its immediate goals, it also triggered widespread repressive measures by the British, leading to the arrest, trial, and execution of several key members of the revolutionary group.²¹

Ram Prasad Bismil (1897–1927) was a prominent revolutionary in India's freedom struggle, known for his courageous and daring acts against British colonial rule. Born in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Bismil became deeply influenced by the ideas of Swami Vivekananda and nationalist leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai. He joined the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), a revolutionary group that sought to overthrow British rule through armed struggle. Bismil was arrested and sentenced to death for his involvement. He was hanged in 1927 along with fellow revolutionaries Rajendra Lahiri and Ashfaqulla Khan. Bismil is remembered as a courageous martyr and a symbol of defiance in India's fight for independence.

Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) (1928): The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) was a revolutionary organization founded in 1928 with the goal of securing India's independence from British colonial rule through radical and armed struggle. It emerged as a response to the perceived ineffectiveness of the moderate nationalist movements, such as the Indian National Congress (INC), in achieving real political change under British rule.

The HSRA, under the leadership of Chandrashekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh, grew out of the HRA, with a more radical agenda focused on the establishment of a socialist India. Their focus was not merely on the expulsion of the British but also on the overthrow of the existing socio-economic structures, believing that political independence would be hollow without social justice.²² The group sought to replace British colonial rule with a socialist republic in India, where power would be vested in the hands of the people, and the oppressive systems of exploitation and class differences would be abolished.

The HSRA was also deeply influenced by international socialist movements, particularly the Russian Revolution of 1917. Members of the HSRA believed that armed struggle, coupled with revolutionary ideas, was necessary to overthrow both the British and the feudal systems in India. They rejected the methods of non-violent resistance espoused by leaders like Gandhi and believed that the colonial government could only be defeated through force.

Some of the key members of HSRA included:

Bhagat Singh: One of the most famous revolutionaries of the HSRA, Bhagat Singh's actions and martyrdom turned him into a symbol of the youth-led revolutionary movement.

"The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) came into being as a result of the evolution of the HRA, with the realization that the struggle for freedom had to be intertwined with the goal of achieving a socialist society. Bhagat Singh, one of the key leaders of the HSRA, believed that the revolutionary movement must be rooted in Marxist ideologies, which was a departure from the more nationalist approach of the earlier HRA." ²³ - Bhagat Singh

Chandrashekhar Azad: Another iconic figure, Azad was instrumental in leading several actions and was known for his bravery and commitment to the cause of independence.

Rajguru, Sukhdev, Banshi Dyal, and Jatindra Nath Das were also prominent members.

The HSRA faced intense repression from the British, and many of its members were arrested, tortured, or executed. Key leaders like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were hanged in 1931, and many others were imprisoned or killed in action. The organization, due to the heavy British crackdown and internal challenges, gradually declined after the early 1930s, but its actions left a lasting legacy.

Shivaram Rajguru, born on August 24, 1908, in Khed, Maharashtra, was another courageous revolutionary who played a significant role in the assassination of John Saunders. As a member of the HSRA, Rajguru was driven by a desire for justice after the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. He was part of the group that planned and executed the attack on Saunders, who was seen as responsible for the lathi-charge on Lajpat Rai. Rajguru was arrested shortly after the attack and, along with Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev, was sentenced to death. He was executed by hanging on March 23, 1931, in Lahore, becoming a martyr for the cause of India's independence.

Sukhdev Thapar, born on May 15, 1907, in Lahore, Punjab, was a dedicated and determined member of the HSRA. Like Bhagat Singh and Rajguru, Sukhdev was deeply committed to the revolutionary cause, especially after the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. He played a key role in organizing revolutionary activities in Punjab and was involved in the planning and execution of the assassination of John Saunders. His involvement with Bhagat Singh and Rajguru in the Lahore Conspiracy Case led to his arrest, trial, and death sentence. On March 23, 1931, Sukhdev was executed alongside his comrades, leaving behind a legacy of sacrifice and courage that would inspire generations of freedom fighters.

Central Legislative Assembly Bombing (1929): On April 8, 1929, two young revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt, threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly to protest against the repressive laws of the British. The bombing was a symbolic act meant to awaken the Indian masses to the tyranny of British rule, and despite the non-lethal nature of the attack, it became a powerful statement of resistance.²⁴ Their intent was not to kill, but to protest against the oppressive British colonial government and to draw attention to the lack of political representation for Indians in the legislative process. Their aim was not to kill but to draw attention to the repressive nature of British rule. The symbolic nature of the act brought them widespread recognition, despite their arrest shortly after.²⁵ The Assembly was viewed by many as a symbol of British oppression, and the protest was meant to disrupt its proceedings and provoke the government into a response. This act of defiance was part of a broader movement led by revolutionary groups who believed in more direct action against British rule, rather than the gradual reforms advocated by the moderate leaders of the Indian National Congress. The bombing was carefully planned to avoid casualties, with the bombs being thrown in a way that would only cause noise and confusion, not harm. After the incident, both Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt were arrested without resistance, and their trial became a significant moment in the national struggle.

During the trial, Bhagat Singh used the courtroom as a platform to articulate his views on freedom, independence, and the need for revolutionary change. His acts of defiance and his commitment to the cause of Indian independence inspired countless others, particularly among the youth. This event marked a shift towards more radical methods of protest, as the Indian nationalist movement increasingly recognized the need for more assertive action against colonial rule. The bombing of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1929 and the subsequent trial of Bhagat Singh and his associates galvanized the Indian independence movement, contributing to the growing disillusionment with the British government and the demand for *Purna Swaraj* (complete independence). Bhagat Singh's courage, his ideas about revolution, and his willingness to sacrifice for the cause made him an enduring symbol of resistance against British oppression and a national hero.

Lahore Conspiracy case (**Saunders's Murder**): The Lahore Conspiracy Case was a crucial chapter in the Indian independence movement, particularly in the rise of revolutionary nationalism. After the brutal lathi-charge on Lala Lajpat Rai during a protest against the Simon Commission in 1928, which led to his death, the anger among nationalists intensified. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), sought revenge against James A. Scott, the police officer they believed was responsible for Lajpat Rai's death. However, due to a case of mistaken identity, they ended up killing John Saunders, another police officer, instead. The assassination was a direct challenge to the British regime, meant to strike fear and raise awareness about the growing revolutionary movement in India.

The revolutionaries believed that merely peaceful protests were no longer effective against British tyranny, and violent resistance was necessary to make a statement. The British authorities arrested several members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), a revolutionary group to which Bhagat Singh and his associates belonged, in connection with the assassination of Saunders. They were charged with murder, conspiracy, and other crimes. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were eventually implicated in the Lahore Conspiracy Case. During the trial, Bhagat Singh used the opportunity to further his revolutionary ideals and oppose British rule openly. The trial gained significant attention and

became a symbol of defiance against British colonialism. Bhagat Singh and his companions boldly proclaimed their actions as part of a larger struggle for India's independence, refusing to seek mercy or compromise with the colonial authorities.

In October 1930, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were sentenced to death for their involvement in the assassination of John Saunders. Their defiant attitude during the trial and their unwavering commitment to their cause made them martyrs in the eyes of the nation.²⁶ Despite widespread protests and appeals for clemency, the British government carried out their execution on March 23, 1931, in Lahore Central Jail. The execution of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev galvanized the Indian freedom struggle, turning them into martyrs and national heroes. Their courage and sacrifice inspired a new generation of freedom fighters to take up the cause of independence through more radical means. Bhagat Singh's fearless stance in the face of his death sentence captured the imagination of millions.²⁷

Chittagong Armory Raid(1930): The British colonial government had imposed harsh rules and exploitation on the Indian populace, and by the late 1920s and early 1930s, many revolutionaries were disillusioned with the Congress' non-violent methods under leaders like Gandhi. A group of young revolutionaries, led by Surya Sen, a teacher by profession, believed that only armed resistance could drive the British out of India. Surya Sen, along with other prominent revolutionaries like Anant Singh, Nirmal Sen, and Lalit Naskar, formed a secret group known as the Chittagong Revolutionary Group.

Lalit Naskar was a Bengali revolutionary who played a key role in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). Born in Bengal, he became involved in the revolutionary movement during his youth. Naskar was known for his fearless commitment to the cause of India's independence and his belief in armed resistance. He was a member of the HSRA, an organization that aimed to overthrow British rule through direct action and violence. Naskar was involved in organizing revolutionary activities, particularly in Bengal, where he worked alongside other revolutionaries to strengthen the movement. Like many of his contemporaries, he believed that only by resorting to violence could India gain its freedom.

On the night of April 18, 1930, Surya Sen and his group of revolutionaries, numbering around 60 to 70, attacked the Chittagong Armory. The objective was to capture the arms, ammunition, and supplies from the British armory to equip themselves and other freedom fighters for future operations. The revolutionaries also targeted police stations to disarm the British forces and create widespread chaos. The attack on the British arsenal was the culmination of years of planning by Surya Sen and his associates, and even though it ended in defeat, it symbolized the growing willingness of the youth to resort to armed struggle in the fight for independence.²⁸

The raid was well-planned, with the group seizing control of the armory for several hours. However, they were unable to fully secure all their objectives. The British police soon retaliated, and the revolutionaries were forced to retreat. Though they were initially successful in seizing weapons, the British forces responded quickly and launched a counter-offensive, which led to a heavy crackdown on the revolutionaries. The Chittagong Armory Raid ultimately failed, as the revolutionaries could not maintain control of the armory. Many of the revolutionaries were arrested or killed in the ensuing manhunt by the British forces. However, the raid was significant for its boldness and the spirit of defiance it represented. Surya Sen and other leaders went into hiding after the raid, continuing to organize revolutionary activities against British rule. Though the raid was unsuccessful, it exemplified the determination of the revolutionaries and became a rallying cry for future resistance.²⁹

Though the immediate objective was not achieved, the raid inspired many young Indians to join the armed struggle against colonial rule. The Chittagong Armory Raid also marked a shift towards a more radical approach within the Indian independence movement, as revolutionaries increasingly resorted to armed resistance instead of relying solely on non-violent methods. Surya Sen, the mastermind behind the raid, was eventually captured by the British in 1933. After a trial, he was sentenced to death and executed on January 12, 1934, along with some of his associates. Despite their failure, the raid and Surya Sen's leadership became a symbol of bravery and the willingness to fight for India's freedom at any cost.

Impact of Revolutionary Movement In India

The revolutionary movements in India had a profound and lasting impact on the country's struggle for independence. While these movements did not directly lead to India's independence, they played a crucial role in shaping public opinion, inspiring future generations, and intensifying resistance against British colonial rule. These movements marked a shift from peaceful, non-violent resistance, led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress, towards more radical methods. Revolutionary groups like the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), Anushilan Samiti, and Jugantar advocated armed resistance to overthrow British rule, inspiring many young Indians to join the struggle and take direct action against colonial oppression.

The revolutionary movements inspired the youth, with figures like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Subhas Chandra Bose, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Ashfaqulla Khan becoming national icons of courage and sacrifice. Their willingness to face death for India's freedom resonated with a new generation of Indians, fueling their commitment to the cause. The revolutionaries also introduced socialist and Marxist ideologies into the Indian independence movement. Leaders like Bhagat Singh, influenced by figures such as Karl Marx and Lenin, advocated for the creation of a socialist republic in India, where the means of production would be controlled by the people.

Although many of the revolutionary movements operated in isolated regions, they contributed to the unification of various regional independence efforts. Events like the Kakori Train Robbery (1925) and the Central Legislative Assembly bombing (1929) united revolutionaries from different parts of India in a common goal: to overthrow British rule. These actions helped foster a sense of solidarity and a shared vision for India's future. The British response to these movements was harsh, with brutal repression of revolutionaries. The executions of key figures like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Ashfaqulla Khan became symbols of the British government's cruelty, galvanizing public opinion against colonial rule and strengthening the resolve for independence.

While the revolutionaries believed in direct action and violence, their actions created a powerful statement against British authority. These movements also contributed to the growing political discourse about India's future after independence, with many revolutionaries advocating for a socialist direction. The increasing revolutionary activity caught the attention of the international community, forcing the British government to confront not only domestic pressure but also the global implications of colonial rule being challenged by armed resistance.

Though there was tension between revolutionary movements and the non-violent leadership of the Indian National Congress, the revolutionary activities put additional pressure on the British government. The escalating frequency of revolutionary attacks contributed to the growing demand for self-rule, allowing leaders like Gandhi and the Congress to negotiate more forcefully with the British. The sacrifices made by the revolutionaries also left a lasting legacy in India's national consciousness, with their bravery celebrated annually, particularly on Martyrs' Day (March 23), commemorating the execution of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.

The revolutionary movement in India played a pivotal role in transforming the political landscape of the nation. Though the revolutionaries often met with failure and were suppressed by the British, their actions radicalized the youth and created a wave of enthusiasm for armed resistance. The movement's impact went beyond its immediate goals and inspired a new generation to stand up against colonial oppression.³⁰

The revolutionary movements, though often overshadowed by mass movements led by figures like Gandhi, influenced post-independence politics. Their push for land reforms, nationalization, and social justice played a role in shaping India's political and economic policies. The ideas of revolution and resistance became embedded in the national identity, influencing future struggles for change and progress in independent India. These movements, through their sacrifices and ideologies, contributed significantly to the eventual achievement of India's independence in 1947.

Decline of Revolutionary Nationalist Movement

The decline of the revolutionary nationalist movement in India can be attributed to several key factors that emerged in the decades following the height of revolutionary activity in the early 20th century. While the revolutionary movement played a significant role in India's fight for independence, its decline was influenced by both internal challenges and external factors. The revolutionaries were inspired by the noblest ideals and were full of courage, but their movement could not develop in strength because it lacked mass support. The British government, on the other hand, had the full power of the state behind it, and the revolutionaries could not sustain their efforts against such formidable forces.³¹ One of the primary reasons for the decline was the increasing repression by the British government. After events like the Kakori Train Robbery (1925) and the Central Legislative Assembly bombing (1929), the British authorities responded with brutal force. They arrested and executed many prominent revolutionaries such as Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Ashfaqulla Khan, which led to a sense of fear and loss of morale within the revolutionary circles. The execution of these leaders, particularly Bhagat Singh, was intended to serve as a warning, and it significantly impacted the revolutionary movement's momentum.

Another factor in the decline of the revolutionary nationalist movement was the lack of mass support. Although the revolutionaries were deeply committed to their cause, their methods of violence and armed struggle alienated large sections of the Indian population, including moderate nationalists and the leaders of the Indian National Congress (INC). The Congress, under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership, began to gain significant traction with its non-violent approach to resistance, which attracted a broader base of support, including peasants, workers, and intellectuals. The focus on non-

violent civil disobedience and mass movements made it difficult for revolutionary groups to gain the widespread support they needed to challenge the British government effectively.

Additionally, the growing influence of Gandhi's ideology of non-violence shifted the national discourse towards peaceful resistance. Many young revolutionaries, who were once committed to armed struggle, were drawn toward Gandhi's Quit India Movement in 1942, which called for mass non-violent resistance to end British rule. This ideological shift diminished the appeal of the revolutionary movement, as Gandhi's philosophy became the dominant force within the Indian independence movement.

The lack of resources was another major challenge faced by the revolutionaries. While the movement initially gained momentum with actions like the Kakori Train Robbery, the revolutionaries lacked sufficient financial and organizational support. Unlike the Congress, which had a robust organizational structure, the revolutionary groups were often scattered and fragmented, making it difficult for them to sustain long-term resistance against the British.

Additionally, the British response to these revolutionary movements involved not only executions but also widespread surveillance and infiltration of revolutionary groups. Many key leaders were arrested or forced into hiding, weakening the operational effectiveness of the revolutionaries. This also led to infighting and division within revolutionary groups, further contributing to their decline.

By the 1930s and 1940s, the rise of socialist and communist ideologies, particularly under the influence of the Indian National Congress and groups like the Indian Communist Party, also played a role in overshadowing the older, more militant forms of resistance. Many former revolutionaries either joined mainstream political movements or became part of the new socialist and communist factions that were advocating for a more inclusive and broad-based approach to independence, which ultimately diminished the revolutionary nationalist movement's influence.

CONCLUSION

The revolutionary activities in India, which spanned from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, played a crucial and transformative role in the country's struggle for independence. These movements, which were characterized by bold acts of defiance, armed resistance, and the pursuit of radical ideologies, significantly shaped the trajectory of India's fight against British colonial rule.

While the revolutionary approach was often marked by violence, it contributed to awakening the national consciousness and helped galvanize the youth of India to take part in the freedom struggle. Key events such as the Kakori Train Robbery, the Central Legislative Assembly bombing, and the Chittagong Armoury Raid showcased the resolve of young revolutionaries who believed that only direct action could oust British imperialists. Figures like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Ashfaqulla Khan became symbols of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism, and their martyrdom only intensified the demand for independence.

Despite the sacrifices made by the revolutionaries, the movement faced several challenges. It was often isolated, fragmented, and lacked the mass support enjoyed by the Indian National Congress and Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent movement. The British response to revolutionary activities was swift and brutal, leading to widespread arrests, executions, and repressive measures. Moreover, the ideological divide between the radical revolutionaries and the moderate nationalist leaders often hindered the unification of efforts.

Over time, the revolutionary movement began to lose steam as more people, particularly within the Congress, turned to non-violence and civil disobedience as the primary methods of resistance. Despite this decline, the revolutionary activities left an indelible mark on India's independence struggle. They served as a reminder that the freedom movement was not a monolithic effort, but one that saw different paths and methods being employed in the fight for self-rule. The courage and martyrdom of the revolutionaries inspired subsequent generations, and their actions became an integral part of India's narrative of resistance against colonial oppression.

In conclusion, the revolutionary movement, though not the primary force behind India's independence, played a crucial complementary role. It highlighted the diverse approaches within the independence struggle, shifted the national discourse toward direct action, and left a legacy that continues to inspire patriotic fervor. The revolutionaries' unwavering commitment and ultimate sacrifice contributed to creating an atmosphere of unrest and resistance, which eventually culminated in India's independence in 1947.

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