The History of India from 1858

British Imperialism in India (British Raj): A Detailed Summary

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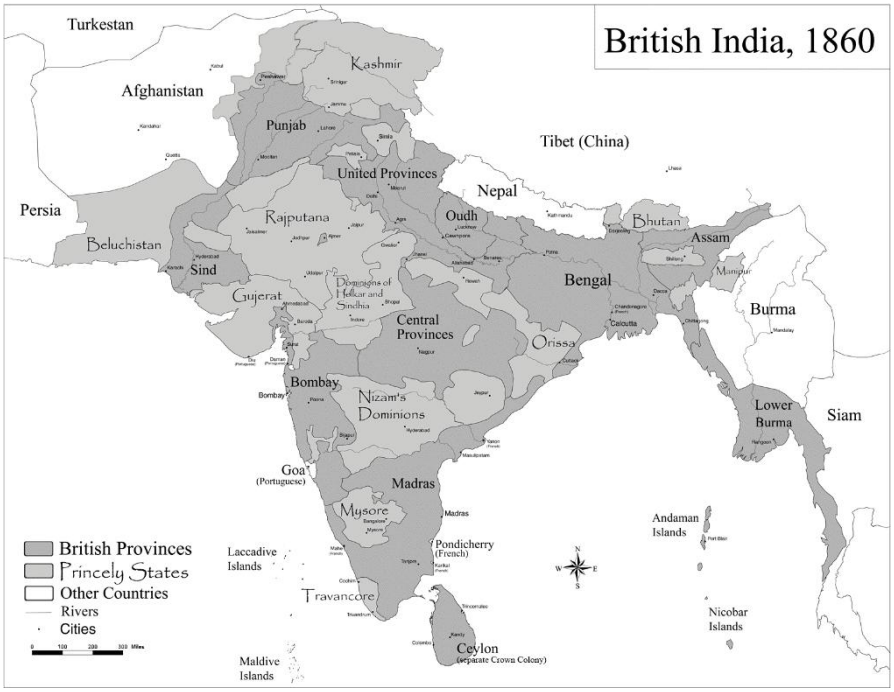
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The British Raj refers to the period of British rule over India from 1858 to 1947, during which India was governed directly by the British Crown following the end of the British East India Company's control.

The term ‘British Raj’ refers to the time period in which Britain ruled over India as a colony of the British Empire. This is generally considered to have occurred from 1858 until 1947. As such, the timeframe of the British Raj is significant to the overall time of British Imperialism in India. The British government did not take over India until 1858 when it assumed control from the British East India Company. The British East India Company lost its power in India in 1858 following the Sepoy Rebellion (the company itself was formally dissolved in 1874), which was an uprising of Indian soldiers and citizens against the British East India Company. When this dissolution occurred, the British government took over administrative power in India and began to rule the country as a colony of the British Empire. In fact, the word ‘raj’ translates to ‘rule’ in the languages of northern India.



Overview of the British Raj

At its height, the British Raj controlled almost all of modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Furthermore, under direct British control, India was divided into approximately thirteen different provinces that were controlled through British administrative officers. These provinces made up what historians refer to as British India. With that said, there were also other states controlled by local Indian rulers that were loyal to the British. These states are generally referred to as 'Princely States' or 'Native States', and there were a few hundred of them during the time of the British Raj. However, the Princely States did not make up much land, as they were often much smaller than the provinces of British India.

British India was ruled over by the British in a very formal structure. Formally, Queen Victoria of Britain also became the 'Empress of India' on May 1st, 1876. However, this title was symbolic as the British Monarchy took little or no direct control in India, and the real power was held by the British Parliament in London, England. The ruling political parties of the time would appoint a cabinet minister for British rule in India, as well as operate a council of advisors called the Council of India. These people would propose and pass policies related to India and the role of the British government. However, the British also appointed a Viceroy in India that ruled over the affairs of the country from Calcutta. This person acted on behalf of the British Monarchy and controlled British interests in the region, while also helping to administer a unified policy for the country. Beyond that, the British also established Lieutenant-Governors in each of the provinces to rule over more local affairs and carry out policies administered either from the Viceroy or the British Parliament. It is important to note, that this British structure of government in India worked alongside and with local Indian rulers.

During the years of the British Raj, which was from 1858 until 1947, the British carried out a series of significant projects and pieces of legislation in India. For example, the British expanded the transportation networks in India by building extensive roads, canals and railways. This was important for the British because it allowed them to more easily extract resources from the region while also improving their ability to exert control over the different provinces. Furthermore, the British established universities, passed a penal code and promoted taxation models that benefited British economic interests in the region. They also promoted English language education throughout the country.

Princely States were smaller territories in India ruled by local Indian rulers who remained loyal to the British during the British Raj. They existed alongside the directly controlled provinces of British India but were generally much smaller in size.

in a sentence: There were a few hundred Princely States operating under local rulers during the British Raj.

British Raj and Economics in India

India was an important part of the British Empire in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In fact, India was often considered to be Britain's most important colony from an economic standpoint and as a result was referred to as the 'Jewel in the Crown'. The economic importance of India to Britain is heavily related to the emergence of the Industrial Revolution in England. The Industrial Revolution is one of the most significant events in all of world history and had a profound impact on the modern world. It began first in Britain in the 1700s and transformed society throughout the 1800s with the growth of the factory system. In fact, the factories in England that emerged during the Industrial Revolution came to play an important role in British imperialism in India. This is because India served two important functions for Industrial England. First, Britain viewed India as a source of raw materials that could be used to fuel the factories in England. At the time, India's economy was largely cantered around agriculture, which would then be exported to England. The most common of these agricultural resources included: jute, cotton, sugar, tea, coffee and wheat. Second, India proved to be an important market for the goods that were developed in British factories. As a result, the British benefitted from selling goods to the people of India.

Britain's economic interference in India during the time of the British Raj is a heavily debated topic. Some argue that the British helped to develop the country of India, which benefitted it by the end of the British Raj. For example, some historians have argued that Britain helped India transform to a more modern economy, following the stagnant policies of the Mughal Empire. Specifically, Britain developed many canals, roads and railways across India. In fact, during the time of the British Raj, India developed the fourth largest rail network on the planet with the help of British engineering. This infrastructure benefitted India in that it allowed the country better transportation networks that ultimately helped it transport goods and people across the country. Whereas, others argue that British economic policies in India were repressive and benefitted the British Empire over the people of India. For instance, Britain promoted the export of many of India's natural resources, especially to industrial England. The British benefitted from this system because the Indian resources fuelled the factory system present in England during the time of the Industrial Revolution. In fact, the British passed laws in India at the time that forced Indian citizens to produce crops for use in English factories instead of producing food crops. This is controversial, because India was stricken by several severe famines at the time, that some suggest could have been lessened with different economic policies. In fact, it is estimated that as many as 55 million Indians died from famine during the years of British rule in India. For example, the Great Famine, which is said to have occurred from 1876 to 1878, led to the death of 6 to 10 million people. As such, these criticisms of British imperialism in India led to a growth in Indian nationalism and a call for independence from British control.

The Mughal Empire existed approximately from 1526 until 1857 and at its height included most of the territory in modern India, parts of Pakistan and parts of Bangladesh.

British Economic Policy in India: Development or Exploitation?

Development

India built the fourth largest rail network on the planet during the British Raj, aided by British engineering.

British-funded canals and roads gave Indian farmers and traders better transportation across the subcontinent.

The British established universities and promoted formal education, creating a class of Indian-educated professionals.

Britain helped shift India away from the slower agricultural economy of the late Mughal period toward wider trade networks.

Opening Indian goods to global markets gave some regions new export income from crops like tea, cotton, and jute.

Exploitation

British laws forced crop production for English factories, requiring farmers to grow export crops instead of food.

Approximately 55 million Indians died from famine during the years of British rule, with some historians linking this to those policies.

The Great Famine of 1876 to 1878 alone killed 6 to 10 million people in India.

Britain used India mainly as a source of raw materials to fuel its Industrial Revolution factories in England.

Selling British factory goods back to India drained Indian wealth to England and limited India's ability to develop its own industries.

Place names – old and new

Find these on a map of India:

Chennai – previously Madras

Kolkata – previously Calcutta

Mumbai – previously Bombay

British Raj and the Indian Independence Movement

British control over India faced several struggles in the late part of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. This was due to several factors including the emergence of the Indian Independence Movement. Historians consider the Indian Independence Movement to have occurred over a period of about 90 years from 1857 until 1947. This time period mirrors the period of the British Raj, which is when the British government ruled over India as a colony of the British Empire. In fact, the Sepoy Rebellion of 1857 is considered to be one of the earliest examples of Indian revolt against British rule in India. With that said, the Indian Independence Movement gained steam throughout the 1880s and beyond due to the establishment of the Indian National Congress.

The Indian National Congress was founded on December 28th, 1885 in Bombay, India. In general, the Indian National Congress emerged out of a growing sense of Indian nationalism in the late 1800s. At the time, the British (first the British East India Company and later the British Government) had controlled India for almost two centuries. However, during the second half of the 1800s, a large group of educated Indians began to express nationalistic feelings cantered around Indian independence. As such, this Indian Independence Movement led to the eventual creation of the Indian National Congress in 1885. The initial goal of the Indian National Congress was to promote Indian nationalism and give a voice to the independence movement that was aimed at British imperialism in India. In fact, the early actions of the Indian National Congress focused on promoting self-government for Indian people. The concept of self-government in India is referred to as 'swaraj'. The term swaraj became particularly important to Mahatma Gandhi in the 20th century, as he and the Indian National Congress tried to achieve independence for India from British imperial rule.

In the early 20th century, the Indian National Congress began to face a crisis of sorts, in that some of the members expressed more radical leanings while others remained relatively moderate. The more radical members opposed any involvement of the British in India and wanted to work immediately to gain independence for India. Whereas, the moderates in the Indian National Congress sought to reform the role that Britain played by working with the British. The Swadeshi Movement also emerged around this time in India.

The Swadeshi Movement was a significant strategy used by Indian nationalists in the late 1800s and early 1900s to reduce British control over India. In general, it involved Indians

producing their own goods (or consuming domestically made goods) and rejecting foreign goods. At the time, Britain benefitted economically by selling goods to India from their factories in England. This arrangement deprived India of developing its own economy and sent large amounts of wealth back to England. As a result, members of the Indian National Congress began to express the importance of swadeshi. In fact, the Swadeshi Movement was a central strategy of the Indian Independence Movement and played an important role for the next several decades. For example, swadeshi was used prominently after the partition of Bengal in 1905. This was an event in which the British forced the Hindus and Muslims of Bengal to separate in 1905. The partition of Bengal angered Indians at the time, as they viewed it as a method of the British trying to divide and control the Indian people.

Indian nationalism grew further throughout the early 20th century, especially with the outbreak of World War I in 1914. While the First World War was primarily a European conflict, the colonies of the major European powers also came to play a role in the fighting. For instance, it is estimated that as many as 1.3 million Indian soldiers and workers participated in the war effort on the side of the British. Furthermore, Indian soldiers participated in conflicts throughout Europe, the Middle East and northern Africa. This helped to strengthen Indian nationalism, as it led to a sense of patriotism among people across India. In fact, supporters of the Indian Independence Movement began to argue that India's role in World War I should gain it some aspects of self-government. This idea continued to grow in popularity, especially with the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India in 1915.

What were the 4 key stages of the Indian Independence Movement under British rule?

1. Indian National Congress founded. Indians form the Indian National Congress on December 28th 1885 in Bombay to give the independence movement an organised political voice.

2. The Swadeshi movement. Indian nationalists encouraged Indians to buy Indian made goods and reject British factory goods, weakening the British control of the economy.

3. World War 1. Approximately 1.3 million Indian soldiers and workers served on the British side, and that strengthened the British national identity.

4. Independence in 1947.

Mahatma Gandhi and the British Raj

Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most important figures in India's history and played a vital role in both the Indian Independence Movement and Indian National Congress, especially during the final decades of the British Raj. In fact, the Indian Independence Movement expanded in 1915 when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India following his time in South Africa. Before arriving in India in 1915, Gandhi had helped lead an Indian nationalist movement in South Africa, in which he argued for more rights and better treatment of Indians there. He used this experience in South Africa to carry out similar actions in India. In fact, Gandhi became the leader of the Indian National Congress in 1920, and quickly began to organize and carry out protests calling for an end to British imperialism in India.

Gandhi's concept of independence is often referred to as 'swaraj'. In general, the term swaraj means self-government or self-rule and refers to the idea that Gandhi (along with other members of the Indian Independence Movement) wanted India to gain its independence from British imperial rule. He did this through several different ways, but Gandhi is most famous for his non-cooperation movement based on civil disobedience. In general, civil disobedience is when individuals refuse to follow the orders or laws of a society that they feel are unjust or discriminatory. Gandhi believed that India could gain its independence and achieve swaraj if it stopped cooperating with British laws, thus forcing the British to adapt to the Indian people instead of the other way around. He argued that the best way for India to obtain self-government (swaraj) was through a non-cooperation movement in which the Indian people refused to follow British laws.

Gandhi's non-cooperation campaign focused on protesting Britain's economic and political control over India. He argued that in order for Indians to force Britain out of India, the people of India had to practise civil disobedience through non-violence. As such, he advocated techniques such as hunger strikes and other forms of protest that did not involve the Indian people responding with violence.

Probably the most famous example of Gandhi's economic non-cooperation was the Salt March. This event took place from March 12th to April 6th in 1930 and saw Gandhi lead a non-violent protest against the laws of the British Raj related to salt harvesting in India. More specifically, the British effectively had total control over the harvesting of salt in India due to the 1882 Salt Act. Because of this act, Indians were forced to pay taxes on salt and could face harsh criminal punishments if they didn't follow the law. This law angered many in the Indian National Congress because salt had been freely available to Indians for centuries, especially for those who lived along the coastlines of India. As a result, Gandhi and other members of the Indian National Congress decided to carry out a non-violent protest of the law by carrying out a salt march. The goal of the salt march was to openly disobey the British law and gain momentum for the Indian Independence Movement that was being supported by both Gandhi and the Indian National Congress.

British Imperialism in India: How It Worked

The 1930 Salt March was a campaign of non-cooperation led by Mahatma Gandhi to challenge the British Salt Act, which made it illegal for Indians to produce or sell salt without paying a tax to the colonial government.

1. Gandhi announced the march on March 2nd, 1930, leading approximately 80 followers on foot from Sabarmati Ashram toward the coastal town of Dandi, a distance of about 240 miles (386 kilometres).

2. As the marchers walked south through Gujarat over 24 days, crowds gathered in villages along the route and thousands of new supporters joined, growing the movement far beyond its original group.

3. On April 6th, 1930, Gandhi reached the shore at Dandi and picked up a small lump of natural salt from the beach, openly breaking the Salt Act in front of reporters and witnesses.

4.Indians across the country took the same symbolic action, making salt from seawater or buying untaxed salt, turning a single act of defiance into a nationwide campaign of civil disobedience.

5. British authorities arrested Gandhi and more than 60,000 Indians in the weeks that followed, but the mass arrests drew international attention to the Indian independence movement and weakened the moral standing of British rule.

End of the British Raj

The continued pressure on the British Raj, by Gandhi and the Indian National Congress, resulted in the famous Gandhi-Irwin Pact. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact was an agreement between Gandhi and the British government, which was represented by British conservative politician (and then Viceroy of India) Lord Irwin. In general, the pact had Gandhi and the Indian National Congress agree to end the protests related to the Salt March, in exchange for Indian participation in a Round Table Conference related to India's potential Independence. Gandhi agreed to the terms of the pact and soon made his way to England for the Round Table Conference.

During these conferences, the representatives of the Indian National Congress (including Gandhi) argued in Favour of Indian independence from British rule. However, for their part, the British tried to exploit the religious tensions in India (ex. Hindu vs. Muslim) and maintain their control over India. Gandhi opposed this as he saw it as a means of the British dividing Indians along religious lines. Gandhi returned to India and called for another round of non-

violent protests against the British. In response, the British officials in India had him imprisoned. While in prison, Gandhi began a hunger strike in opposition to the British.

The outbreak of World War II in Europe had a significant impact on British imperialism in India. For instance, Gandhi argued against Indians participating in the conflict because he did not agree with Indians fighting and dying to protect British democratic rights, especially when the British did not respect India's calls for self-rule. As the war progressed into the 1940s, he called for more non-violent acts of civil disobedience against the British. In fact, this most recent movement was referred to as the 'Quit India' movement. Again, British officials had him arrested.

At this point in history, India was facing an internal crisis based on religious divisions. Many people were calling for India to be divided along religious lines. For instance, some wanted a part of India that was only for Hindus, while others wanted a section that was only for Muslims. Gandhi had battled against the division of India since his return in 1915, however, the political climate had shifted and the tensions between the different religious groups were high. As a result, with British approval, India was partitioned in 1947. In fact, the country was divided into Pakistan, with a Muslim majority, and India, with a Hindu majority. With this act, British imperial rule in India had ended and India had gained its independence. The British Raj was no more.

Timeline

1858

The British Raj begins, and runs for eighty-nine years. The Indian Independence Movement begins the day the Raj does.

1869

Mohandas Gandhi is born in Porbandar.

1876

Queen Victoria is made Empress of India. The Great Famine kills six to ten million people.

1880

Average life expectancy in India is twenty-five years.

1882

The Salt Act gives Britain a monopoly on salt.

1883

Gandhi is married at thirteen.

1885

The Indian National Congress is founded.

1887

Gandhi finishes school at eighteen.

1888

Gandhi goes to London to study law.

1893

Gandhi goes to South Africa and stays twenty-two years.

1894

Gandhi helps found the Natal Indian Congress.

1900

A young Winston Churchill enters Parliament.

1905

Britain partitions Bengal and India answers with a boycott.

1915

Gandhi comes home. The First World War raises Indian expectations.

1920

Gandhi takes over the Indian National Congress.

1930

The Salt March begins. Gandhi reaches the sea and makes salt. Time makes Gandhi Man of the Year.

1931

Gandhi comes to London in a loincloth and a shawl.

1942

Quit India, and a Prime Minister who will not.

1946

Gandhi and Nehru plan for a country that does not exist yet.

1947

Mountbatten brings the date forward. India becomes independent. The border is published two days after independence

1948

Gandhi is killed.

1950

Thirty-five years of life, and what the record shows.

Key Vocabulary

British Raj

Sepoy Rebellion

Princely States

Swaraj

Swadeshi Movement

Civil disobedience

Salt Act

Questions

What was the British Raj?

Which countries of today did the British rule over? (Compare the map on page 1 with a modern-day map of the region.)

Why did the British government take direct control of India in 1858?

Why was India called the “Jewel in the Crown”?

Who was Mahatma Gandhi and what did he do?

How did the British Raj come to an end?

The Partition of India and Pakistan, 1947

Following the end of the British rule over India, the year 1947 saw the division of British India into two self-governing countries, namely India and Pakistan. Eventually known as the Partition of India, this split was deeply rooted in the religious tensions between the Hindu and Muslim communities in the region. As a consequence, India became a predominantly Hindu country, while Pakistan became predominantly Muslim.

GREAT DIVIDE

In 1945, following the end of the Second World War and the election of Great Britain's Labor Party, British and Indian leaders resumed talks on independence.

The leaders of the Indian National Congress, along with Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, campaigned for a non-religious country that aims to guarantee the rights of all Indians, whether Hindus or Muslims, through constitutional protection and democratic practice.

However, the Muslim League, led by its spokesperson Muhammad Ali Jinnah, pushed for a partition and an independent Pakistan. Both nations gained independence from the British Empire on 15 August 1947.

This brought an end to 300 years of British rule, and with the drawing of new borders through parts of India, the new nation of Pakistan was created. While the creation of the two new nations was a cause for celebration for many, violence continued after the Partition of India. More than a million people were killed and some 14 million displaced from their homes.

It should have been the dawn of a proud new nation, but the first days of India's independence were among the darkest in its history. The rush to split the country into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan left millions stranded on the wrong side of the new border and this initiated the largest migration in history. Nearly 14 million refugees fled their homes as entire villages were killed.

To set itself apart from India, Pakistan — the world's largest Muslim nation in 1947 — changed its time zone with a 30-minute difference. Before the separation, India was composed of about 66 per cent Hindu and 24 per cent Muslim.

EAST AND WEST PAKISTAN

During the campaign for India's partition, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League originally desired the entire Bengal province, but later settled for an independent Pakistan, including East Bengal (present-day Bangladesh).

Pakistan was divided into two territories: East and West Pakistan. Separated by more than 1,600 kilometres, the two nations had language differences brought about by diverse ethnicities and traditions, even though they shared common religious roots.

RESULTS OF THE PARTITION

One of the most enduring outcomes of the Indian partition was its record-breaking human migration. About 12 to 15 million Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs needed to cross borders to live among people of the same religious orientation. Other accounts estimated that the partition resulted in 24 million refugees.

Mahatma Gandhi, who rejected the Indian division and campaigned to end the hatred among Hindus and Muslims, was also killed by a Hindu extremist five months after the partition had been declared.

Read the biography of Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi on the next page.

Questions

1. What was the root cause of violence before and after the Partition?
2. Who pushed for a partition?
3. Who was against the Partition? What did they want?
4. Why was there so much migration?
5. Imagine having to migrate from India to Pakistan on foot with just the possessions you could carry. What were the consequences for many?
6. The Muslim League originally wanted all of Bengal, (East India), but finally settled for just the Eastern section of Bengal. What is this country called today?
7. What were the main cultural differences between East and West Pakistan?
8. Why is Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi famous? What was his role in trying to solve the problems at the time of the Partition? What action did he take?
9. Draw a map showing India and Pakistan after the Partition.

Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi

Biography

Occupation: Civil Rights Leader

Born: October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, India

Died: January 30, 1948 in New Delhi, India

Best known for: Organizing non-violent civil rights protests

Biography:

Mohandas Gandhi is one of the most famous leaders and champions for justice in the world. His principles and firm belief in non-violence have been followed by many other important civil rights leaders including Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela. His renown is such that he is mostly just referred to by the single name "Gandhi".

Where did Mohandas Gandhi grow up?

Mohandas was born in Porbandar, India on October 2, 1869. He came from an upper-class Hindu family and his father was a leader in the local community. As was tradition where he grew up, Mohandas' parents arranged a marriage for him at the age of 13. Both the arranged marriage and the young age may seem strange to some of us, but it was the normal way of doing things where he grew up.

Mohandas' parents wanted him to become a barrister, which is a type of lawyer. As a result, when he was 19 years old Mohandas traveled to England where he studied law at the University College London. Three years later he returned to India and started his own law practice. Unfortunately, Mohandas' law practice wasn't successful, so he took a job with an Indian Law firm and moved to South Africa to work out of the South African law office. It was in South Africa where Gandhi would experience racial prejudice against Indians and would begin his work in civil rights.

What did Gandhi do?

Once back in India, Gandhi led the fight for Indian independence from the British Empire. He organized several non-violent civil disobedience campaigns. During these campaigns, large groups of the Indian population would do things like refusing to work, sitting in the streets, boycotting the courts, and more. Each of these protests may seem small by themselves, but when most of the population does them at once, they can have an enormous impact.

Gandhi was put in prison several times for organizing these protests. He would often fast (not eat) while he was in prison. The British government would eventually have to release him because the Indian people had grown to love Gandhi. The British were scared what would happen if they let him die.

One of Gandhi's most successful protests was called the Salt March. When Britain put a tax on salt, Gandhi decided to walk 241 miles to the sea in Dandi to make his own salt. Thousands of Indians joined him in his march.

Gandhi also fought for civil rights and liberties among Indian people.

Did he have other names?

Mohandas Gandhi is often called Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma is a term that means Great Soul. In Hinduism It's a religious title, similar to "Saint" in Christianity. In India he is called the Father of the Nation and also Bapu, which means father.

How did Mohandas die?

Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948. He was shot by a terrorist while attending a Hindu prayer meeting.

More Facts about Mohandas Gandhi

The 1982 movie Gandhi won the Academy Award for best motion picture.

His birthday is a national holiday in India. It is also the International Day of Non-Violence.

He was the 1930 Time Magazine Man of the Year.

Gandhi wrote many books. The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi have 50,000 pages!

He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times.

https://www.ducksters.com/biography/mohandas_gandhi.php

India Today



India's political system facilitates a climate of discrimination toward religious minority communities. This includes Christians and Muslims. The enforcement of certain laws disproportionately targets and impacts religious minorities and their ability to freely practice their religion or belief as outlined in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

In 2023, India surpassed China as the world's most populous nation. India is therefore also the world's largest democracy. Political, economic, and social challenges all place a heavy burden on the government. Pray that the government will choose to build on the progress of recent decades, especially to preserve and protect human dignity, rights, and freedoms. The current government has been operating on a Hindutva (Hindu nationalist) platform. This has brought about intensifying persecution of other religions and the introduction of many barriers of foreign Christian mission in India. The government's aggressive stance to defend Hinduism – and persecute other faiths – has emboldened religious violence by radical Hindu groups.

The caste system remains a major issue. The Dalits/Bahujans/Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes together are 25% of the population. Others oppressed these groups for thousands of years, and used the caste system (and Hinduism) to justify their harmful actions. The UN, the Indian government, and international NGOs have all taken action to address the situation. Churches also work to establish human rights, education, health, and employment, and also for salvation of the Dalits. The Church has an opportunity to show that the love of Christ extends to all people, regardless of caste, race, language, gender, and economic status. The Caste system even exists in some churches and needs to be removed. The Dalit Freedom Network educates Christians about issues related to Dalit rights and freedoms.

Amidst all the suffering in India, it is women and children who suffer the most. State programs and caring Christian ministries to address these desperate needs. Of the 400 million children, possibly up to 35 million are orphans. 11 million are abandoned (90% are girls). 3 million live on the streets. Some families sell children into slavery to pay off family debts. Two-thirds of all children suffer physical abuse, and half suffer some kind of sexual harassment or abuse. Over 1 million end up in prostitution (mostly Nepalis and Bangladeshis). Society prefers male children, so some families abort, abandon, or even kill girl babies. The female population today lacks 35 million girls when compared with the male population. Women have lower rates of literacy and education, and domestic abuse is a widespread problem. Some young girls get dedicated to the ancient service of temple prostitution.

India has more unreached individuals than any other nation. The south and northeast have a higher proportion of Christians than the more populated north and west.

The North India Ganges plains, or the states through which the Ganges flows (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal). Together they account for close to 500 million people. None of these states is more than 1% Christian. However, the Church now grows here more than ever, with some megachurches and several networks of house churches. Some Christians had a vision for 1 million churches planted in the north by 2020. Although short of 1 million, the many thousands of new fellowships started are an indication of increasing fruit in areas previously regarded as immensely difficult for church planting.

The great cities, where the very rich live close to the very poor. Millions come from rural areas to cities every year, and most end up in slums. Mumbai and Hyderabad have significant Christian populations, while Kolkata, Delhi, Varanasi, and Lucknow have little Christian witness.

Madhya Pradesh was one of the last states to open up for missions. It is strongly Hindu, with strict laws that limit conversions to Christianity. Madhya Pradesh has many large tribal peoples, and more tribal groups than anywhere else in the world. Most practise a version of animism that was influenced by Hinduism. Many practise witchcraft, Shaktism (worship of female energy), and Saivism (worship of the god Shiva). Christians planted thousands of new

churches in 20 years. However, there are house church movements among some of the tribes. The whole state needs pioneer mission work and open doors for the gospel!

Odisha state has more intense persecution of Christians than anywhere else in India. In many districts, Christians must either reconvert to Hinduism, leave their village, or face death. Despite the troubles, the Church multiplies rapidly, mostly among tribal and Dalit peoples. 709 of the 799 people groups in Odisha have no Christians, according to a census. There is a need for the effective use of audio Scripture, and Christian radio and TV programs, as illiteracy is common.

Uttar Pradesh (UP) is the home of Hinduism, and has a long historical connection to Buddhism and Jainism also. Sadly, it has given no home to the gospel.

Millions of Hindu pilgrims visit Varanasi, the holy city of Hinduism on the Ganges River. But very few find the living water only Jesus can give. This key state needs vast amounts of prayer, and thousands more Christian workers.

The scale of human need and suffering here is immense. Water-borne diseases are widespread. Most of the world's polio cases occur in Uttar Pradesh. The majority of children are undernourished. Christian witness must go together with acts of mercy.

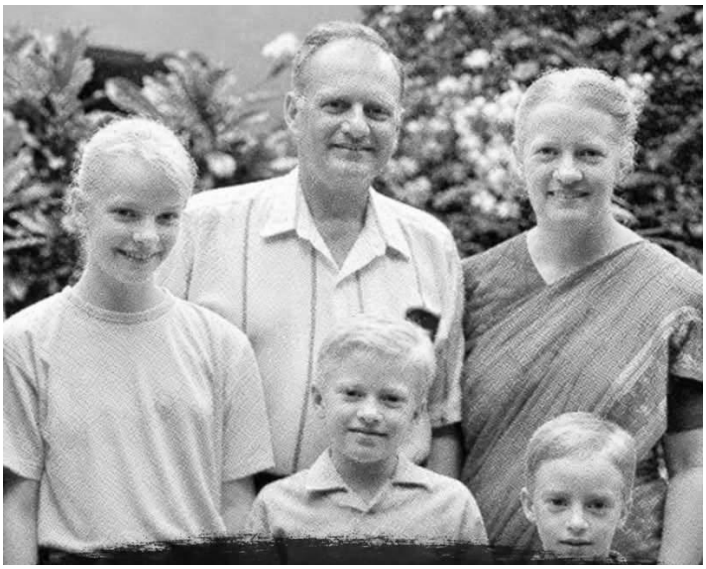
If Uttar Pradesh were its own country, it would have the third-largest unevangelized population in the world. 191 groups remain unreached and unengaged. This single state likely represents the world's greatest missionary challenge.

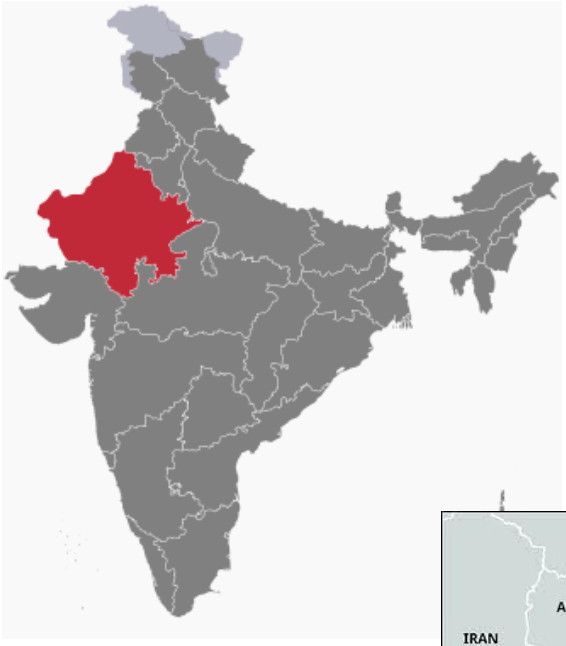
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Activities

1. Which two religious groups are most persecuted?
2. Locate the states of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh on the map. Explain the different problems or openness to Christianity in each of these states.
3. What is the significance of the Ganges River to Hindus?
4. What problems exist for women and children in some states?
5. What is the Caste system? What kind of discrimination exists within the Caste system?
6. Where is church growth highest in India today?

The missionary who was burnt with his sons

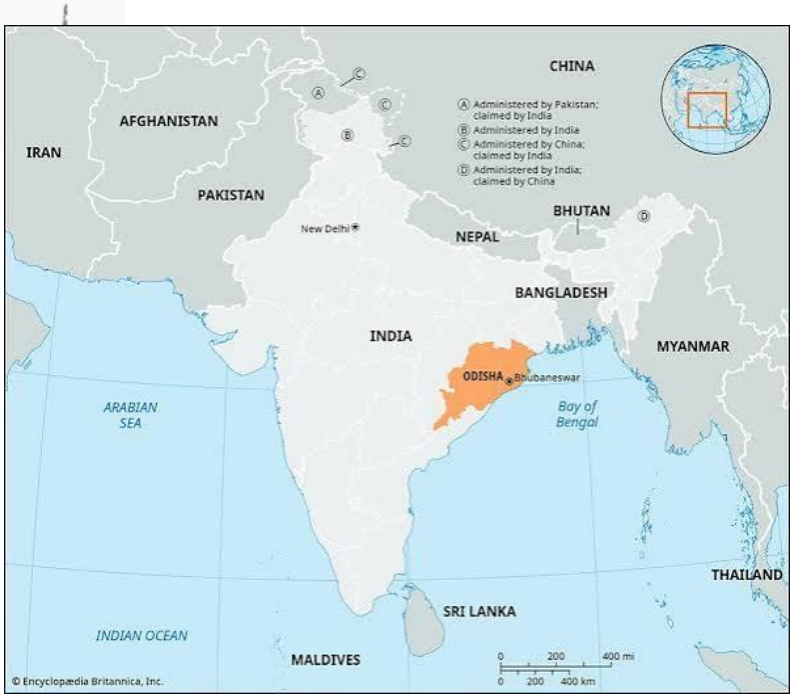




Manoharpur

Religion

Rajasthan's residents are mainly Hindus, who account for 88.49% of the population. Muslims make up 9.07%, Sikhs 1.27% and Jains 0.91% of the population.



Baripada

The missionary who was burnt with his sons

Graham Stuart Staines (known as Graham Staines) was married to Gladys and had 3 children (Esther & Philips and Tony). Being a native of Australia, Staines and his family have a long history of social work. As a missionary, Graham Staines visited India for the first time in the year 1965.

Graham Staines moved to Baripada, India and settled there. He along with his family committed themselves to help poor and needy people and they found solace in India.

In rural areas of India around the 1980s, Leprosy was not just a disease but a curse. Graham Staines saw many of villagers being cast out of the society. Graham Staines took up the leper patients and started a shelter home to provide treatment. He also taught many poor people skills of making handmade baskets etc and as a charity, he sold them and used that money to buy medicines for them.

People in India were seeing many foreigners converting poor rural people into Christianity by force or by offering money, which is/was not legal BTW. The same allegations were made on Graham Staines as well. Since people around Staines started following Christianity, many people spread the news that Graham helped people only if they accept Christianity.

A few cases were filed against Graham Staines but he didn't care much. He continued helping people with his charity deeds. Many reporters tried hard to find evidence against Graham Staines's forced conversion but nothing was found. But this rumor made a lot of communal groups bloodthirst for Staines.

On 23rd of Jan 1999, when Graham Staines was at Manoharpur with both of his sons in his van. A group of people led by Dara Singh who claimed to belong to a communal group called Bajrang Dal attacked Staines. They burnt the van and Staines along with both of his sons died. It was one of the saddest days of Indian Society as many lives were dependant upon Graham Staines & his family.

Here comes the most inspirational part of the story. Gladys Staines continued her service to the patients with the same enthusiasm. She didn't let a few people who killed her husband and kids to affect everyone who's dependant upon the Staines family.

She never looked upon accused with anger & vengeance. She continued saying, "Do not give hope, pray for India" (In fact in the red colored pic above, you can see the burnt van in the background)

In 2005, the convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment by the supreme court of India. (which was changed to sentence to murder in 2011)

Gladys Staines moved back to Australia with her daughter in 2004. She was also awarded multiple honors for her (and her family's) service and contribution to India.

The true hero of the Graham Staines story is Gladys, who showed a real example of how one can be determined about helping people, no matter what happens. I repeat NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

Graham Staines's story is very much inspiring for everyone who wants to be beneficial for society. What Staines & his family did for needy people is worth reading.

Culture and Religion of Tribes of Baripada

The tribes that are the residents of Baripada and the nearby areas of Baripada are very much religious and have faith in many gods and goddess. As per some of the orthodox tribes they believe the Sun to be the creator of the world and hence is the most important source of life on earth. They also believe the Sun to be their father and the land or the earth is said to be there mother. The earth is the only one which grooms them up and gives them the food to eat when they cultivate it on the lands. The Sun is also worship in these tribes but with different names in all the tribes.

These are some popular names of the Sun given by the tribes of Mayurbhanja, 'Thakur Jew', 'Bhagaban', 'Singabonga', 'Maranburu' etc. Similarly, the mother earth is also given various names by these tribal communities which are, 'Basuti Mata', 'Bhumidevata', 'Dharitree Maa', 'Basumata' etc. These tribes are mostly orthodox and also believe in the ghosts and black magic and several other tantric rituals as well.

Like most of the other Adivasi which are spread all over the state of Odisha, the Lodha tribe of Baripada are believed to be the worshipers of a God but they also believe in the sorcery and the witchery to which they protect themselves by worshiping the God in many ways. The Hindu Goddess Kali is also being worshipped by many of the tribes such as the Bhumija, Bathudi and the Bhuyans. The tribes of the villages and nearby areas of Baripada believe very much in the immersion of the dead bodies in the Ganga River which is said to be the one of the most holy rivers as per the Hindu Mythology.