

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

The non-cooperation movement was launched in 1920 on 5th September. It was led by Mahatma Gandhi & focused on abolishing the use of British products, declining or resigning from British posts, educational institutions, prohibiting government regulations, courts, etc. The movement was non-violent & launched to withdraw the nation's cooperation after the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre & Rowlatt Act**. Mahatma Gandhi stated India could achieve independence within a year if this movement was a success. It was the transition of individuals to a mass movement. Non-cooperation was focused to get full independence also known as Purna Swaraj.

Features of Non-Cooperation Movement

The non-cooperation movement was based on two aspects majorly, struggle & rules of conduct. Here are some of its features:

- Renunciation from their titles and notable posts
- Non-cooperation movement pushed the use & manufacturing of goods & products made in India were encouraged more & interdict the use of British products.
- The most essential feature of the non-cooperation movement was to follow non-violent & peaceful to fight against the British rules.
- Indians were asked to refuse to take part in elections for the legislative council.
- Prohibiting & withdrawing British education institutions

Causes of Non-cooperation Movement

There was not just one reason behind initiating the Non-cooperation movement that happened over the past years before the non-cooperation movement was established. Here are some significant causes of this movement:

- **World War I** – During World War I Indian soldiers fought from the British side & though as a token for Indian support, Britishers might return the favor in the form of India's independence. Approximately 74,000 soldiers were sacrificed & in return, nothing was awarded.
- **Economical Issues** – After world war 1, there were several economical issues across India. Every product price was shooting up & on the other hand, farmers were not able to get the required wage for their agricultural products resulting in resentment toward the British government.
- **Rowlatt Act** – Rowlatt Act denied the freedom of Indians to another level. According to this act, Britishers can arrest anyone & keep them prisoned without the right to a proper trial. This led to one of the major causes of the Non-cooperation Movement.
- **Jallianwala Bagh Incident** – The incident that fueled & filled every Indian with rage was the jallianwala Bagh massacre that occurred in 1919, April 13. The minimal faith in the British government was shattered. In this massacre, 379 people died & 1200 injured unarmed civilians were harmed by the orders of Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer

- **Khilafat Agitation** – The religious head of Muslims at that time was considered the sultan of turkey. In the first world war when the turkey was defeated by the Britishers, a committee was formed known as the Khilafat movement led by Maulana Mohammed Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali, Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan, and Hasrat Mohani. This movement acted in unity between Hindus & Muslims as the leaders of the khilafat movement joined the non-cooperation movement.

Non-Cooperation Movement Suspended

The non-cooperation movement was one of the largest movements in the freedom struggle. Despite all the efforts, it was a success & due to certain reasons, it was suspended.

- Gandhiji called off the movement in February 1922 in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident.
- In Chauri Chaura, Uttar Pradesh, a violent mob set fire to a police station killing 22 policemen during a clash between the police and protesters of the movement.
- Gandhiji called off the movement saying people were not ready for revolt against the government through ahimsa. Several leaders like Motilal Nehru and C R Das were against the suspension of the movement only due to sporadic incidents of violence.

Non- Cooperation Movement and Its Impact

Even though the Non-cooperation movement was not a success but it left few impacts. Here are all the impacts of this movement:

- The movement developed an anti – British sentiment among the people that led to people trying to get rid of the British rule & leaders
- When the Khilafat movement was merged with the non-cooperation movement it brought unity in Hindus & Muslims.
- Boycotting of British goods & promotion of khadi products
- This was the first movement in which large masses took part, it brought people of different categories like peasants, merchants, etc together in the protest.

Spread of the Non-Cooperation Movement

- The Ali brothers and Mahatma Gandhi conducted nationwide student and political worker rallies and meetings. Thousands of students left colonial schools and colleges to enroll in over 800 national schools and colleges
- The academic boycott in Bengal was prominent. C.R Das played a significant role in promoting it, and Subhash Bose headed the Calcutta National Congress. This was also successful in Punjab, where Lala Lajpat Rai played the leading role
- Lawyers such as C.R Das, Motilal Nehru, Saifuddin Kitchlew, and M.R Jaykar boycotted the courts

- A campaign against Union Board taxes was launched in the Midnapore district of Bengal. No-tax movements also emerged in the Andhra district of Guntur in Chirala's Pirala and Pedanandipadu Taluka
- In Uttar Pradesh, a powerful Kisan Sabha movement was emerging. Jawaharlal Nehru was the leader of the non – cooperation movement
- In the Malabar region of Kerala, the Non – Cooperation and Khilafat propaganda aroused Muslim tenants, called Moplahs, against their renters.
- In Assam, tea plantation laborers called strikes.
- Andhra defied forest laws
- The Akali movement in Punjab was part of the Non – Cooperation Movement to resist the control of the gurudwaras from the corrupt mahants (priests)