

Indian Independence
World History
Kienast

Most important colony in British Empire was India

India was a source of wheat, cotton, tea, and cheap labor for mills
Increasingly, near slave labor used in Indian mills
Many products exported while Indians starved

Wanted home rule (independence)

Events and circumstances that led to independence:

Indian National Congress and Muslim League formed in early 1900's

Both organizations that worked toward independence for India

Did not press for independence in early 1900's because of World War

Indians supported Britain during World War I

Thought that they might be given more self-rule

Britain gave no such freedoms after the war

Separate organizations because India was split between two major religions, Hinduism and Islam

Hindus mainly worked within the INC and Muslims in the other

Amritsar Massacre, April 1919

10,000 unarmed Indians fired on during meeting about nationalism

At least 400 killed

Called attention to the massive problems in India

Mohandas Gandhi led successful drive for independence

Became leader of the Indian National Congress

Indians called him "Mahatma" or "great soul"

Efforts of Mohandas Gandhi

Used **Civil Disobedience**

Direct non-violent confrontation of injustice

Non-violent policy also called *Satyagraha* or "truth force"

Types of civil disobedience:

1. **Boycott:** When you don't buy or use something in protest
Gandhi boycotted British cloth...made his own

2. Marches

Salt tax protest, 1930

Gandhi protested the British Salt Acts

Salt Acts placed a tax on salt

Gandhi marched to the sea to produce salt

March called the **Salt March**

Gandhi's followers were beaten repeatedly on the march

Protest led to worldwide attention being focused on British injustice

Britain began to seriously consider Indian independence

India was given its independence in 1947

Gandhi could never get **Muslims and Hindus** to settle their differences

India was divided instead; called **Partition of India**

India originally divided into India and Pakistan

Today India divided into India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh

After India was divided mass migrations of Hindus and Muslims began

Violence broke out again between refugee groups

Gandhi was killed during this wave of violence by a Hindu that
believed he was too sympathetic to Muslims

Assassinated January 30, 1948

Jawaharal Nehru became the first prime minister of India in 1947

India and Pakistan have been subjected to massive violence since
independence

Both India and Pakistan fight each other constantly