

# India in World War II (1939-42)

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- Congress was unsure whether to support British in WWII.
- British involved India in the war without consulting Indians.
- Congress ministries resigned in protest (1939).
- Muslim League gained British support during this period.
- Divide and Rule became more intense after 1939.



# Rise of Muslim League and Demand for Pakistan

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- • League promoted separate electorates for Muslims.
- • Congress rejected coalition with League in 1937.
- • Pakistan idea was initially dismissed, gained strength later.
- • Pakistan Resolution was passed in 1940 (Lahore).
- • League grew popular among Muslim masses (1940–46).

# Quit India Movement (1942)

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- Gandhi launched 'Do or Die' call against British rule.
- British arrested Congress leaders immediately.
- Underground activities led by youth and socialists.
- Inspired popular uprisings across the country.
- Demonstrated mass resistance despite WWII context.

# Role of Subhash Chandra Bose and INA

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- • Bose formed Indian National Army (INA) with Japanese help.
- • Recruited Indian POWs captured by Japan.
- • INA fought alongside Japanese in Burma and NE India.
- • Bose's death remains a mystery.
- • INA trials evoked mass sympathy in 1946.

# Naval Revolt and Mass Uprisings (1946)

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- • Royal Indian Navy Ratings revolted in Bombay.
- • Joined by civilians and mill workers.
- • Tebhaga movement in Bengal for land share.
- • Telangana peasants rose against landlords.
- • Massive unrest across urban and rural India.

# Negotiations and Cabinet Mission (1946)

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- • Cabinet Mission proposed united India with 3-tier structure.
- • League and Congress initially agreed, later disagreed.
- • League called for Direct Action Day (August 16, 1946).
- • Riots broke out in Calcutta and spread elsewhere.
- • Talks failed; violence escalated by 1947.

# Partition and Independence (1947)

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- • Mountbatten Plan led to India's division into India and Pakistan.
- • Punjab and Bengal were partitioned.
- • Pakistan formed on 14 August; India on 15 August.
- • Around 1.5 crore people migrated; over 2 lakh killed.
- • Gandhi did not celebrate independence due to violence.

# Gandhi's Martyrdom (1948)

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- Gandhi campaigned for peace after Partition riots.
- Fasted to stop communal violence.
- Assassinated by Nathuram Godse on 30 January 1948.
- Gandhi's last words: 'Hey Ram'.
- Hindu Mahasabha lost support after his death.

# Integration of Princely States

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- 550 princely states existed in 1947.
- Sardar Patel led the integration efforts.
- Most states joined India by August 15, 1947.
- Hyderabad, Junagadh, and Kashmir joined later.
- Privy purses were later abolished in 1971.

# Legacy and Challenges of a New India

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- • New India inherited poverty and underdevelopment.
- • Nation-building was both a challenge and an opportunity.
- • Commitment to secularism and democracy was reaffirmed.
- • Partition left deep emotional and political scars.
- • India emerged as a sovereign, united Republic.