

Non-Cooperation and Rise of Communalism (1920–27)

Background

After World War I, Indians expected freedom, but the British passed unfair laws like the **Rowlatt Act**. The **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** increased anger. Gandhi started the **Non-Cooperation Movement** in 1920 to end British rule peacefully. The **Khilafat Movement** (to protect the Ottoman Caliph) united Hindus and Muslims for a common cause.

Major Events

People **boycotted British schools, clothes, and offices**. Lawyers left their jobs, and students joined national schools. Many Indians started using **Swadeshi goods**. Farmers protested against high taxes, and the movement became popular across India. But after the **Chauri Chaura incident**, where protestors killed policemen, Gandhi stopped the movement.

Effects of Suspension

Many supporters were shocked when Gandhi ended the campaign. The British took advantage by **arresting leaders** and breaking unity. Although the goal of **Swaraj (self-rule)** was not achieved, Indians became **more politically aware**. Gandhi's leadership became more respected, but unity among Hindus and Muslims slowly weakened.

Growth of Communalism

After 1922, both communities started following **separate political interests**. The British **encouraged divisions** through their policies. Riots broke out in many cities, and organizations like **Hindu Mahasabha** and **Muslim League** grew stronger. The **trust between communities decreased**, leading to fear and suspicion.

Legacy

The Non-Cooperation Movement failed politically but succeeded in **spreading nationalism**. It showed the power of the masses but also the **fragility of communal unity**. The British continued to rule using religious differences. Still, this movement **prepared the nation** for future struggles like the **Civil Disobedience Movement** in the 1930s.