

IAS Academy UPSC Civils Daily Mains

Question 1st August -2021

[Leave a Comment](#) / [Daily Mains Questions](#) / By

The 1931 Poona pact is an evidence of fundamental difference of Gandhi's reading of caste from Ambedkar. Comment.

The 1931 Poona Pact shaped India's Dalit political representation, and its implications are felt even in today's parliamentary elections. At the heart of it lay a fundamental difference in the points of view of Gandhi and Ambedkar. While Gandhi saw untouchability as a social issue, Ambedkar understood caste as a political one.

An evidence of fundamental difference of Gandhi's reading of caste from Ambedkar

- Ambedkar's reading of caste pivoted on seeing the Dalit question as a political issue, and not only a social one, as Gandhi did.
- Ambedkar insisted, for the first time in India's modern history, that caste was a political question, and couldn't be addressed by social reforms only
- While Ambedkar preferred a rights-based approach, Gandhi's approach was through faith and spirituality.
- "Unlike Ambedkar, Gandhi felt that any exploitative relationship could be rectified only when the exploiter had a change of heart. So he worked with upper castes to change their mindset,"
- In his writing and speeches, Ambedkar insisted that a political democracy was meaningless if the so-called depressed classes were not equal participants in it.
- For Ambedkar, the ability of the depressed classes to elect their own representatives was a way to achieve full potential of democracy. For this, voting in an electorate free from the influence of caste Hindus was required.
- Gandhi showed "remarkable irreverence" towards untouchability at a young age, and frequently ate with people from other castes. In his ashrams, the settlers came from all castes and religions and there was no strict division of labour.

Impact of Poona pact at present

- For India's 300 million scheduled caste people, the legacy of the Poona Pact lives to this day, and many Ambedkarite scholars have argued, fundamentally distorted the form of representation of Dalits.
- India today reserves seats in Parliament and assemblies for SCs in proportion to their population.
- But Dalits are not concentrated in any specific area, so in a majority of these seats, they form a minority of the electorate.

- The current system was very different from the one the Poona Pact envisioned. "It is neither Gandhi's nor Ambedkar's plan

IAS Academy UPSC Civils Daily Mains

Question 02nd August -2021

[Leave a Comment](#) / [Daily Mains Questions](#) / By

Indian Renaissance Movement paved the foundation of national consciousness in the 19th century India. Analyse

Indian Renaissance movement was a cultural, social, intellectual and artistic movement in the Indian subcontinent during the period of the British Indian Empire, from the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century for bringing reforms in the prevalent socio-religious conditions. This period is generally considered as the dawn of a golden era in the history of India because of the presence of great men like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayananda Saraswathi, Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Vivekananda.

It is said that Indian Renaissance Movement paved the foundation of national consciousness. A national consciousness is a shared sense of national identity; a shared understanding that people group shares a common background. Indian Renaissance movement was pivotal in foundation of national consciousness; however there were many other factors which were responsible for national consciousness.

Indian Renaissance Movement paved the foundation of national consciousness

1. **Religious and Cultural Awakening in Indian Society:** Indian Renaissance Movement brought about a renaissance in the realm of religion and philosophy which resulted in a widespread national awakening, manifesting itself in a patriotic feeling of pride in the great spiritual traditions of the country.
2. **Spiritual renaissance:** Swami Vivekananda believed that knowledge resided within the individual himself and everyone is entitled to perfection. Education was the right of the underprivileged and the marginalized. By bringing it to the forefront, all Indians were knot with a single thread leading to unity of India as a nation, thus bringing national consciousness.
3. **Political awakening:** Radical thinkers such as Henry Louis Vivian Derozio ignited the political awakening in India. His patriotic poems such as **"My Native Land"** exhorted the words "freedom from British rule". Such acts of rational thinking and patriotism initiated the Political awakening
4. **Emphasis on Humanism:** The central inspiration of the Indian renaissance movement was humanism. By bringing man to the centre stage, humanism spurred the creative energy in all spheres of social existence. The central figure of this cultural awakening was Raja Rammohan Roy, also known as the "father of the Indian

Renaissance. An awakened society is primary factor for creation of national consciousness.

5. **Embodiment of confidence in masses through glorification of ancient India:** Important feature of the movement was an inquiry into the past and its glorification to instill pride in masses about India's history. Raja Ram Mohan Roy's use of Hindu scriptures, or Narayana Guru's advocacy of universalism all examples of instilling required confidence in masses that united them as children of glorious ancient India. This confidence provided impetus to national consciousness.
6. **Social quest for modernity:** The origin of modernity in India is often attributed to the intellectual and cultural efflorescence associated with the renaissance. Swami Vivekananda put his weight behind the happy blending of western sciences and the Indian spiritual philosophy. This quest for modernity enriched the national consciousness with liberal ideas and thoughts.
7. **Emergence of Conscious Middle Class:** The awakening of India resulting in the reconstruction of the nation in sociopolitical and cultural fields was the result of historical forces unleashed by colonialism. The first and foremost among these forces was the emergence of a new middle class. This new class was to become a foundation stone for the Indian national movement.
8. **Modern Western education and ideas:** Modern Western education was used as a major instrument to spread modern ideas in the country. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was associated with the foundation of the Hindu College in Calcutta (which later came to be known as the Presidency College). These colleges led to the spread of modern ideas and western education contributing to national consciousness.

The national consciousness or Nationalism did not follow the Indian renaissance movement

1. **National movement kept the struggle on social issues outside its political agenda:** The national movement took the precaution to keep the struggle on social issues outside its political agenda and to control it through measured interventions. Gandhiji's role in the Vaikom Satyagraha, for instance, was that of a mediator and not a participant, even if his sympathy was with the satyagrahis.
2. **National Unification dominated the Social Unification:** The political movement for national unification gained an upper hand and the social unification was relegated to the background. The rise and decline of the Indian Social Conference is a good example.
3. **Limited rural outreach:** Widespread illiteracy in the rural areas and absence of modern communications systems, Indian renaissance movement had a limited urban outreach leaving the masses in darkness.
4. **Communalization:** National consciousness is defined by unity of all Indians and is secular in nature. In contrast, the Indian renaissance movement was focused on religion and past, thus was defined by religion. This created a notion of two separate segments of people and increased communal consciousness.

5. **Caste movement gained momentum:** The tendency of the reformers to portray the glorious past and on scriptural authority led to feuds between religions as also alienating high caste Hindus from lower caste Hindus.

Indian renaissance movement which preceded the political struggles, are considered as a necessary precursor for nationalism or national consciousness. With other factors combined together, national consciousness is conceptualized as a natural outcome of the renaissance.

IAS Academy UPSC Civils Daily Mains

Question 03rd August -2021

[Leave a Comment](#) / [Daily Mains Questions](#) / By

Discuss the impact of Europeans on Indian art and architecture. Further, trace the development of Modern school of Indian art from the 19th century.

Indian art and architecture is an amalgamation of indigenous and outside influences, yet having a unique character and distinctiveness of its own. The most endearing aspects of Indian art and architecture prior to colonization have been the strong impact of folk idioms and folk art on courtly art.

Colonial rule had a great impact on Indian art and architecture. As a whole, the European advent was marked by a relative insensitivity to native art traditions:

- Former Indian patrons of art became less wealthy and influential, and Western art became more ubiquitous as the British Empire established schools of art in major cities.
- The Company style of paintings, for example, became common, created by Indian artists working for European patrons of the East India Company. Water colors were used for the first time in the painting.
- The fusion of Indian traditions with European style became evident in architectural styles after 1858, leading to the revival of Indo-Saracenic architectural style which drew elements from native Indo- Islamic and Indian architecture and combined them with Gothic revival and Neo-Classical styles favored in Britain.
- British architecture in the later phase tried to amalgamate Hindu ornamentation and Islamic symmetry as seen in viceregal palace. Development of modern school of Indian art:
- Modern Indian art typically shows the influence of Western style but is often inspired by Indian themes. Modern Indian art fuses multiple concepts and forms of media to express both traditional Indian and non-traditional themes
- Western and colonial influence replaced much of traditional Indian painting during the end of the 19th century until the Bengal School of Art, established by Abinandranath Tagore and E. B. Havell, consciously attempted to reconnect Indian artists with their past. Kalighat painting was the best outcome of it.
- By 1947, several schools of art in India provided access to modern techniques and ideas. This same year the Progressive Artist's Group, a group aimed at establishing new ways of expressing Indian art in the post-colonial era.
- After the compelling success of the Progressive Artists Group, the stage was set for tremendous transformations in the art scene of India. Liberated from the many

debilitating complexes and uncertainties, Indian artists began a quest for their individual styles.

IAS Academy UPSC Civils Daily Mains

Question 04th August -2021

[Leave a Comment](#) / [Daily Mains Questions](#) / By

The social and economic factors during World War I led to the emergence of Gandhi as an undisputed leader of masses. Examine.

Nationalist movement in India before the arrival of Gandhi has been described as “a movement representing the classes” as opposed to the masses. This implies that nationalist politics until this time was participated only by a limited group of Western educated professionals. One of the reasons why Gandhi’s philosophy and political programme had a wide popular appeal and led to the Gandhi’s emergence as an undisputed leader of masses was the social and economic environment of India during World War One.

Economic and social environment during the World War One:

- The most immediate outcome of war was a phenomenal increase in defence expenditure.
- The result was a huge national debt. This meant heavy war loans and rising taxes and since land revenue had been settled and could not be immediately enhanced, there was more indirect taxation on trade and industry. There were higher customs duties, an income tax, super tax on companies and undivided Hindu business families, excess profit tax and so on. Ultimately the burden of this new taxation fell on the common people, as it resulted in a phenomenal price rise.
- According to official calculations, price index on an all-India level rose from 147 in 1914 to 281 in 1920.
- This unprecedented price rise was partly due to taxes, partly due to transport and other economic dislocations.
- There was underproduction of food crops during the war period, caused by two extraordinary crop failures in 1918-19 and 1920-21, affecting large areas of United Provinces, Punjab, Bombay, Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa.
- When there was already serious shortage of food for home consumption, export of food to feed the army fighting abroad continued. This resulted in near famine condition.
- The miseries of the people were further compounded by the outbreak of an influenza epidemic.
- All the sections of rural society had already been affected by the economic impact of war.

- Between the years of 1914 and 1923 forced recruitment for the army was going on without interruptions, leading to a steady accumulation of popular resentment in the countryside.
- While prices of industrial and imported goods and food crops were rising, affecting poor peasantry, that of exported Indian agricultural raw materials did not increase at the same pace. The outcome was a decline in export, rising stockpiles and falling acreage for commercial crops, causing a crisis in the market in 1917-19. This adversely affected the richer peasantry.
- During this period, there was a marked increase in the number of peasant proprietors being dispossessed and turned into tenants-at-will, and land passing into the lands of the non-cultivating classes.
- In some areas the mounting economic distress of the peasantry found expression in organised peasant protests, such as the Kisan Sabha movement in UP which started in 1918.
- The other major economic development during World War One was the growth of industries.
- Due to fiscal requirements, economic necessities and nationalist pressure, there was a change in official policy towards industrialisation, leading to noticeable developments in the jute and textile industries.
- Big industrialists were loyal to British but the small and middle traders had a series of grievances against the war-time taxes and the fluctuating rupee-sterling exchange rates.
- Working class: The other important result of industrialisation was an expansion of the working class. The wartime and the post-war periods witnessed super profits for businessmen, but declining real wages for the workers. The obvious result was what Chelmsford described as a "sort of epidemic strike fever" that affected all the industrial centres in India.

Disillusioned youth and unique politics of Gandhi:

- The war also brought disillusionment for the educated youth, long mesmerized by the glitter of the West; suddenly they discovered the ugly face of Western civilisation. The World War One thus brought in social and economic dislocations for nearly all the classes of Indian population and a climate of despondency greeted Gandhi, arriving in India with his background of a successful encounter with the British in South Africa. This accomplished the necessary social mobilisation for an impending mass upsurge under the leadership of Gandhi. Gandhi's novel political ideology appealed to few wholly, but to many partially", as everyone could find in it something to identify with.

IAS Academy UPSC Civils Daily Mains

Question 05th August -2021

[Leave a Comment](#) / [Daily Mains Questions](#) / By

Enumerate the peasant movements before the Gandhian phase. Also examine the impact of peasant movements during freedom struggle.

Peasant movement is a social movement involved with the agricultural policy, which claims peasants rights. Peasant movements have a long history that can be traced to the numerous peasant uprisings that occurred in various regions in India. Early peasant movements were usually the result of stresses in the feudal and semi-feudal societies, and resulted in violent uprisings. More recent movements, fitting the definitions of social movements, are usually much less violent, and their demands are centered on better prices for agricultural produce, better wages and working conditions for the agricultural laborers, and increasing the agricultural production.

Peasants revolt before Gandhian phase

Indigo revolt of 1859-1860:

- European planters persuaded the peasants to plant indigo instead of food crops. They provided loans at a very high interest. The price paid by the planters was meagre, only 2.5% of the market price.
- The farmers were totally unprotected from the indigo planters, who resorted to mortgages or destruction of their property if they were unwilling to obey them. Under this severe oppression, the farmers resorted to revolt.

Pabna movement:

- Some lords forcefully collected rents and land taxes, often enhanced for the poor peasants and also prevented the tenants from acquiring Occupancy Right under Act X of 1859.
- Due to the decline in the production of Jute in the 1870s, the peasants were struggling with famine. Some of the lords declared an enhancement of land taxes and that triggered the rebellion.

Deccan Riots:

- In May and June 1875, peasants of Maharashtra in some parts of Pune, Satara and Ahmednagar districts revolted against increasing agrarian distress.
- The rioters' specific purpose was to obtain and destroy the bonds, decrees, and other documents in the possession of the moneylenders.

Impact of peasant movements

- They created awareness among the Indians.
- The peasants developed a strong awareness of their legal rights and asserted them in and outside the courts.
- The Government appointed an indigo commission to inquire into the problem of indigo cultivation. Based on its recommendations, the Government issued a notification in November 1860 that the ryots could not be compelled to grow indigo and that it would ensure that all disputes were settled by legal means
- People felt a need to organise and fight against exploitation and oppression.
- Various KisanSabhas were formed to organise and agitate for peasants demands during Non-Cooperation Movement.
- The ideology of non-violence had given much strength to the peasants who participated in the movement. The movement also contributed to the growth of nationalism.

The economic policies of the British adversely affected the Indian peasants under the British government, protecting the landlords and money lenders while they exploited the peasants. The peasants rose in revolt against this injustice on many occasions.

IAS Academy UPSC Civils Daily Mains

Question 06th August -2021

[Leave a Comment](#) / [Daily Mains Questions](#) / By

The states people movement in the princely states was further strengthened by direct or indirect participation of nationalist leaders. Elucidate.

Post 1857, British developed a different kind of relation with the princely states. The rulers were subjected to dictates of British Resident and, in turn, they were granted absolute protection against internal and external threats.

Similar to provinces, these states also witnessed freedom movement in the form of States People's Movement or Praja Mandal Movement.

Reasons

- **Undemocratic government** – Unlike provinces, the princely states did not witness any constitutional reforms and were ruled autocratically.
- **Pitiable conditions of people of Princely States** – Many Princely States had backward education and social services. Civil rights were severely restricted and at the same time there was a high tax burden.
- **Lavish lifestyle of and extravagant expense by princes** – Rulers ignored the interests of their people and spent State revenues on their luxurious life-styles.
- **Educated middle class** – English education with its focus on rationalism, progressivism and humanism led to the growth of educated middle class, which in turn provided leadership to the movements in princely states.
- Further, states people's movement was greatly influenced by the nationalist movement.

Influence of Nationalist movement

- Many revolutionary nationalists fleeing British authority came to the Princely States and started political activities there.
- During **non-cooperation movement**, the subjects of the princely states established people's organizations in the Princely States. Establishment of **PrajaPrishad** was mainly to counter the Chamber of Princes. The **Hitvardhak Sabha** was founded in Poona to solve the problems of the people of southern princely states.
- From the mid-1920s, the **Congress started taking keen interest** in the states' people's movements.

All India States Peoples' Conference was established in 1927 under the leadership of Balwantrai Mehta, Maniklal Kothari and G.R. Abhayankar.

- The **installation of the Congress ministries** in 1937 in British Indian provinces encouraged the Praja Mandal leaders to step up their political activities for demanding responsible government in the Princely States.
- Haripura session of Congress in 1938 considered the states to be integral parts of India and desired the same political, social and economic freedom in the States as in the rest of India. PurnaSwraj was declared the goal of whole of India including Princely states.
- During the Quit India movement, Congress formally extended the call for launching a struggle to the people of the States as well.

Thus, nationalist movement had a profound impact on movements in princely states. There was direct or indirect participation of nationalist leaders like Gandhi, Sardar Patel, J L Nehru, Bose etc. in movements like Rajkot Satyagraha, Mysore state movement, etc. These movements mobilized the consciousness among the people. They strengthened the cause of Nationalism and the ideas of nation making.

IAS Academy UPSC Civils Daily Mains

Question 09th August -2021

[Leave a Comment](#) / [Daily Mains Questions](#) / By

The outbreak of WW-II in 1939 raised different nationalistic movements in colonies across the world. In this light, discuss how nationalists were divided in India after WW-II. Also examine how this nationalistic movements led to launch of Quit India movement by INC.

After the beginning of WWII, The Government of India declared India to be at war with Germany without the consent of its people.

Indian leaders could not reconcile with this decision, however different point of view emerged among leaders. For example, the nationalists were then divided over the following course of action:

- On the question **whether to support the British in their war effort or not:**
 - **Gandhiji** was sympathetic towards the allies.
 - **Subhas Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru** and the **socialists** were against supporting the allies. Netaji Shubhash Chandra Bose considered it as an opportunity to defeat the imperial British government.

The Congress leadership decided that India would not join the war till the two conditions of a responsible interim government with immediate effect and promise of a constituent assembly immediately after war to decide upon the constitution of free India are met. This was rejected by the British. Then differences on the **question of starting a Mass Satyagraha immediately arose among leaders:**

- **Gandhiji** and other leaders were against this as they felt:
 - The cause of the allies to be just and did not want to trouble them in the time of war.
 - There was a lack of Hindu-Muslim unity because of which the civil disobedience movement could degenerate into civil war or communal riots.
 - The right atmosphere did not exist as masses and the Congress organisation was not ready.
- The **left wing groups** felt that this was an opportunity to achieve freedom with an all out struggle, and hence were in favour.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** was undecided about this till the last minute.

Though the Quit India Movement started in 1942, the events starting from 1939 played a role in its launch:

- The government had taken **draconian measures** and suppressed all civil liberties. All political activities, even peaceful, were declared illegal.
- Failure of **Cripps Mission** in 1942, which was unable to make any constitutional advance in favour of the Indian people. Its empty gesture convinced even leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, who were unwilling to hamper Britain's war effort, not to continue their silence.
- Increased **popular discontent** made the situation ripe for a mass movement.
- News of imminent British collapse due to the war
- Revamped Congress, consistent propaganda campaign, individual satyagraha.

Thus the context of events beginning with the WWII played a role in the INC launching the Quit India Movement.