Indian Freedom Movement

The Indian independence movement was a series of activities whose ultimate aim was to end the British Raj and encompassed activities and ideas aiming to end the East India Company rule (1757-1858) and the Raj (1857-1947) in the Indian subcontinent. The movement spanned a total of 90 years (1857-1947) considering movement against British Indian Empire. The Indian independence movement includes both protest (peaceful and non-violent) and militant (violent) mechanisms to root out British Administration from India.

The first organised militant movements were in Bengal, but they later took root in the newly formed Indian National Congress with prominent moderate leaders seeking only their basic right to appear for Indian Civil Service (British India), examinations, as well as more rights, economic in nature, for the people of the soil. The early part of the 20th century saw a number of freedom movements both British and Indian established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the course of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613. Over the course of the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries, the British defeated the Portuguese and Dutch, but in 1705, the British established trading posts on the subcontinent, with the first English trading post set up at Surat in 1613.
Rise of organised movements

The decades following the Rebellion were a period of growing political awareness, manifestation of Indian public opinion and emergence of Indian leadership at both national and provincial levels. Dadaebhai Naoroji formed the East India Association in 1867 and Surendranath Banerjee founded the Indian National Association in 1878. Inspired by a suggestion made by A.O. Hume, a retired British civil servant, they were mostly members of the educated classes, consisting of literate middle-class Indians, prominent at the official level, such as officers, university professors, and a few middle-class professionals. They were the first organized political association of the Indian civil servants, engaged in professions such as law, teaching and journalism. At its inception, the Congress had no well-defined ideology and commanded few of the resources essential to a political organisation. Instead, it functioned merely as a meeting place where members met to express their loyalty to the British Raj and passed resolutions on issues, such as civil rights or opportunities in government (especially in the civil service). These resolutions were submitted to the Viceregal Council, but the Congress's early gains were slight. Despite its claim to represent all India, the Congress voiced the interests of urban elites; the number of participants from other social and economic backgrounds remained negligible. However, this period of history is essential because it represented the first political mobilisation of Indians, coming from all parts of the subcontinent and the first articulation of the idea of India as one nation, rather than a collection of independent princely states. The nationalistic sentiments among Congress members led to the movement to be represented in the bodies of government, to have a say in the legislation and administration of India. Congressmen launched a movement for Muslim regeneration that culminated in the founding in 1875 of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh. These movements were to have significant impacts on the empire's future. However, as the Indian National Congress was a moderate body, its immediate aim was to work within the political machinery and, in the process, gain more rights for Indians. They were not a revolutionary group, and its leaders, who were educated professionals, were not interested in violent actions. In 1907, the Congress was split into two factions: the Swaraj party and the Muslim League. The Swaraj party, led by Surendranath Banerjee and Bipin Chandra Pal, called for self-government within the framework of the British Empire. The Muslim League insisted on its separateness from the Hindu-dominated Congress, as the voice of “a nation within a nation”. The Khilafat and the Jallianwala Bagh massacres affected the Muslim League, which was formed in 1906, in the context of the circumstances that were generated over the partition of Bengal in 1905. The council had no real power or authority, and included a large number of un-elected pro-Raj loyalists and Europeans. Nevertheless, Jinnah was instrumental in the passing of the Child Marriages (Restraint) Act, the legitimisation of the Muslim personal laws (religious endowments), and was appointed to the Sandhurst committee, which helped establish the Indian Military Academy at Dehradun. During the First World War, Jinnah joined other Indian moderates in supporting the British war effort. The British government, The Empire, wrote: "Khediram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling." Khudiram Bose was one of the youngest Indian revolutionaries tried and executed by the British. His popular sentence “Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it” became the source of inspiration for Indians. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the first Indian nationalist to embrace Swaraj as the destiny of the nation. Tilak deeply opposed the then British education system that ignored and defamed India's culture, history and values. He represented the denial of freedom of expression for nationalists, and the lack of any voice or role for ordinary Indians in the affairs of their nation. For these reasons, he considered Swaraj as the natural and only solution. His popular sentence “Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it” became the source of inspiration for Indians. The British government, The Empire, wrote: "Khediram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling." Khudiram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling. The British government, The Empire, wrote: "Khediram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling."

The 1885 partition of Bengal had a profound impact on India, as it divided the provinces into two parts: East Bengal & Oude (now Bangladesh and Eastern Uttar Pradesh). The Bengal rebellion was a result of the partition of Bengal and the implementation of the Government of India Act 1858. The British government, The Empire, wrote: "Khediram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling."

The British government, The Empire, wrote: "Khediram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling."

The British government, The Empire, wrote: "Khediram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling."

The British government, The Empire, wrote: "Khediram Bose was executed this morning;...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling."
Gandhi arrives in India

Gandhi had been a leader of the Indian nationalist movement in South Africa. He had also been a vocal opponent of basic discrimination and abusive labour treatment as well as suppressive police control such as the Rowlatt Acts. During these protests, Gandhi had perfected the concept of satyagraha in January 1914 (well before the First World War began) successfully. The legislation against Indians was repealed and all Indian political prisoners were released by General Jan Smuts. Gandhi accomplished this through extensive use of non-violent protests, such as boycotting, protest marching, and fasting, as well as his personal moral authority.

Gandhi arrived in India on 9 January 1915, and initially entered the political fray not with calls for a nation-state, but in support of the unified commerce-oriented territory that the Congress Party had been asking for. Gandhi believed that the industrial development and educational development that the Europeans had brought with them would have to be appeased or all of India's problems. Toopl Krishna Dhakhoo, a veteran Congressmen and Indian leader, became Gandhi's mentor. Swaraj, however, initially appeared impractical to some Indians and Congressmen. In Gandhi's own words, "civil disobedience is a civil breach of immoral statutory enactments." It had to be carried out non-violently by withdrawing co-operation with the corrupt state.

Gandhi was sentenced in 1922 to six years in prison, but was released after serving two. On his release from prison, he set up the Khilafat movement as well as for dominion status. The first satyagraha movement urged the use of khadi and Indian material as alternatives to those shipped from Britain. He also urged people to boycott British educational institutions and law courts, which saw the death of twenty-two policemen at the hands of an angry mob.

In 1919, the Viceroy had been introduced as early as 1930, very few had responded to it. The Indian political spectrum was further broadened in the mid-1920s by the emergence of both moderate and militant parties, such as the Swaraj Party, Hindustan Socialist Congress, and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Regional political organisations also continued to represent the interests of non-Brahmins in Madras, Maharashtra, and the South in general. The rioting of 1917 opened a rift that could not be bridged short of complete self-rule. The conflict between the Congress and the Muslim League had become unbridgeable as each pointed the finger at the other for the deadlock in the time of the Kheda and Champaran satyagrahas.

The agitation unleashed by the acts led to British attacks on demonstrators, culminating on 13 April 1919, in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (also known as the Amritsar Massacre) in Amritsar, Punjab. The British military commander, Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, blocked the main, and only entrance, and ordered his soldiers to fire into an unarmed and unsuspecting crowd of some 15,000 men, women and children. They had assemblled peacefully at Jallianwala Bagh, a court yard, but Dyer had wanted to execute the imposed ban on all meetings and proposed to teach all Indians a lesson the harsher way. A total of 1,600 were killed, firing 379 pellets (as according to an official British commission; Indian officials' estimates ranged as high as 1,499 and wounding 1,137 in the massacre.) Dyer was forced to retire but was hailed as a hero in Britain, demonstrating to Indian nationalists that the Empire was beholden to public opinion in Britain but not in India. The episode dissolved wartime hopes of home rule and goodwill and opened a rift that could not be bridged short of complete self-rule.

First non-co-operation movement

From 1920 to 1922, Gandhi started the Non-Cooperation Movement. At the Kolata session of the Congress in September 1920, Gandhi convinced other leaders of the need to start a non-co-operation movement in support of Khilafat as well as for dominion status. The first satyagraha movement urged the use of khadi and Indian material as alternatives to those shipped from Britain. It also urged people to boycott British educational institutions and law courts, which saw the death of twenty-two policemen at the hands of an angry mob.

Gandhi's ideas and strategies of non-violent protest were lauded by the All-India Muslim League, which saw the death of twenty-two policemen at the hands of an angry mob. Many women participated in the movement, including Kasturba Gandhi (Gandhi's wife), Bakramarn Amrit Kaur, Muthulaxmi Reddy, Aruna Asaf Ali, and many others.

Purna Swaraj

Following the rejection of the recommendations of the Simon Commission by Indians, an all-party conference was held at Mumbai in May 1928. This meant to instil a sense of Liberation among people. The conference appointed a drafting committee under Motilal Nehru to draw up a constitution for India. The Kardag/temporary assembly of the Indian National Congress asked the British government to accord dominion status to India by December 1919. A constituent assembly would be formed to frame the constitution. This proposal was met with a mixed response from the British government.

In 1930, the Indian political spectrum was further broadened in the mid-1920s by the emergence of both moderate and militant parties, such as the Swaraj Party, Hindustan Socialist Congress, and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Regional political organisations also continued to represent the interests of non-Brahmins in Madras, Maharashtra, and Ajanta in general. Many Indian politicians and Indian revolutionaries of a wide spectrum united to oppose the day with honour and dignity.

In March 1931, the Gandhi/Pearson Pact was signed, and the government agreed to set all political prisoners free (Although, some of the great revolutionaries were not set free and the death sentence for Bhagat Singh and his two comrades was not taken back which intensified the agitation against Congress not only outside it but within the Congress itself). For the next few years, the Congress and the government were locked in conflict with a clear majority in five provinces and held an upper hand in two, while the Muslim League performed poorly.

The Indian National Congress emerged as the dominant party. The British themselves adopted a "carrot and stick" approach in recognition of India's support during the war and in response to renewed nationalist demands. In August 1917, during the war demanded a reward, and demonstrated the Indian capacity for self-rule. In 1919, the Congress succeeded in forging the Dhaka Anushilan Samiti, marking the beginning of widespread, although not nationwide, popular discontent.

The agitation unleashed by the acts led to British attacks on demonstrators, culminating on 13 April 1919, in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (also known as the Amritsar Massacre) in Amritsar, Punjab. The British military commander, Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, blocked the main, and only entrance, and ordered his soldiers to fire into an unarmed and unsuspecting crowd of some 15,000 men, women and children. They had assemblled peacefully at Jallianwala Bagh, a court yard, but Dyer had wanted to execute the imposed ban on all meetings and proposed to teach all Indians a lesson the harsher way. A total of 1,600 were killed, firing 379 pellets (as according to an official British commission; Indian officials' estimates ranged as high as 1,499 and wounding 1,137 in the massacre.) Dyer was forced to retire but was hailed as a hero in Britain, demonstrating to Indian nationalists that the Empire was beholden to public opinion in Britain but not in India. The episode dissolves wartime hopes of home rule and goodwill and opened a rift that could not be bridged short of complete self-rule.

Electors and the Lahore resolution

The Government of India Act 1935, the voluminous and final constitutional act governing Britain, articulated three major goals: establishing a loose federal structure, achieving provincial autonomy, and safeguarding minority interests through separate electorates. The federal provisions, intended to unite princely states and British India at the centre, were not implemented because of ambiguities in safeguarding the existing privileges of princes. In February 1937, however, provincial autonomy became a reality when elections were held; the Congress emerged as the dominant party in all provinces except Bengal.

In 1939, the Viceroy declared India's entrance into the Second World War without consulting provincial governments. In protest, the Congress asked all of its elected representatives to resign from the government. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president of the All-India Muslim League, persuaded participants at the annual Muslim League session at Lahore in 1940 to adopt what later came to be known as the Lahore Resolution, demanding the division of India into two separate sovereign states, one Muslim, the other Hindu; sometimes referred to as the Two Nation Theory. Although the idea of Pakistan had been introduced as early as 1930, very few had corresponded to it.

In opposition to the Lahore Resolution, the All-India Azad Muslim Conference gathered in Delhi in April 1940 to voice its support for a united India. Its members included several Islamic organisations in India, including the Muslim Students' Federation, which emerged from congregations of local youth groups and gymnasams (Alkhai) in Bengal in 1925, forming two prominent and somehow independent arms in East and West Bengal identified Dhaka (modern day Bangladesh), and the Jagatgar (group centred at Calcutta) respectively, led by nationalists of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.
The Quit India Movement was a significant event in the Indian self-rule movement. It started on 8 August 1942, when the All India Congress Committee passed a resolution calling for the British to leave India. The movement was led by Mahatma Gandhi and aimed to force the British government to transfer political power to the Indian National Congress (INC). The Indian people were asked to engage in civil disobedience and non-violent protest to achieve their goal.

The Quit India Movement saw widespread acts of sabotage, with the Indian underground organisation carrying out bomb attacks on allied supply convoys, government buildings were set on fire, electricity lines were disconnected and transport and communications were disrupted. As the masses were leaderless, the protest took a violent turn. Large-scale protests and demonstrations were held all over the country. Workers remained absent en masse, and strikes were called. The movement reflected the common man resulting in the failure of the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj).

During the movement, Gandhi and his followers continued to use non-violence against British rule. This movement was where Gandhi gave his famous message, “Do or Die!” and this message spread across the nation and not to follow the orders of the British. The British, already alarmed by the advance of the Japanese army to the India-Burma border, responded the next day by imprisoning Gandhi at the Maidan in Bombay, since renamed Lala Hardayal.

The violence and radical philosophy revived in the 1930s, when revolutionaries of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) were hanged in 1931. Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil, who is remembered as the first martyr of the Quit India Movement, was shot in 1931 by the British. Lala Hardayal was also imprisoned by the British.

The British Raj, the Kalia, Pangde Stuggle is one of the most influential events in the Indian independence movement.
There was opposition to the Quit India Movement from several political quarters who were fighting for Indian self-rule. Hindu nationalist parties like the Hindu Mahasabha openly opposed the call and boycotted the Quit India Movement. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, the president of the Hindu Mahasabha at that time, even went to the extent of writing a letter titled "Stick to your Posts", in which he instructed Hindu Sabhaites who happened to be "members of municipalities, local bodies, legislatures or those serving in the army... to stick to their posts" across the country, and not to join the Quit India Movement at any cost.

The other Hindu nationalist organisation, and Mahasabha affiliate Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had a tradition of keeping aloof from the anti-British Indian self-rule movement since its founding by K.B. Hedgewar in 1925. In 1942, the RSS, under M.S. Golwalkar, completely abstained from joining in the Quit India Movement as well. The Bombay government (British) appreciated the RSS as such, by noting that, "The Sangh has scrupulously kept itself within the law, and in particular, has refrained from taking part in the disturbances that broke out in August 1942."

The British Government stated that the RSS was not at all supporting any civil disobedience against them, and as such their other political activities (even if objectionable) could be overlooked. Further, the British Government also asserted that at Sangh meetings organised during the times of anti-British movements started and fought by the Indian National Congress.

Speakers urged the Sangh members to keep aloof from the congress movement and these instructions were generally observed.

As such, the British government did not crack down on the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha at all.

The RSS head (sarsanghchakal) during that time, M.S. Golwalkar, later openly admitted to the fact that the RSS did not participate in the Quit India Movement. However, such an attitude during the Indian independence movement also led to the Sangh being viewed with distrust and anger, both by the general Indian public; as well as certain members of the organisation itself. In Golwalkar's own words, "In 1942 also, there was a strong sentiment in the hearts of many. At that time too, the routine work of the Sangh continued. Sangh decided not to do anything directly. 'Sangh is the organisation of inactive people, their talks have no substance' was the opinion uttered not only by outsiders but also our own swayamsevaks.

Overall, the Quit India Movement turned out to be not very successful and only lasted until 1943. It drew away from Gandhi's tactic of non-violence; it eventually became a rebellious act without any real leader.

Christmas Island Mutiny and Royal Indian Navy Revolt

After two Japanese attacks on Christmas Island in late February and early March 1942, relations between the British officers and their Indian troops broke down. On the night of 10 March, the Indian troops assisted by Sikh policemen mutinied, killing five British soldiers and imprisoning the remaining 21 Europeans on the island. Later on 31 March, a Japanese fleet arrived at the island and the Indians surrendered.

The Royal Indian Navy Mutiny encompasses a total strike and subsequent mutiny by Indian sailors of the Royal Indian revolt on board ship and shore establishments at Bombay (Mumbai) harbour on 18 February 1946. From the initial flashpoint in Bombay, the mutiny spread and found the remaining 21 Europeans on the island and the Indians surrendered.

The agitation, mass strikes, demonstrations and consequently support for the mutineers, therefore continued several days even after the mutiny had been called off. Along with this, the assessment may be made that it described in crystal clear terms to the government that the British Indian Armed Forces could no longer be universally relied upon for support in crisis, and even more it was more likely itself to be the source of the sparks that would ignite trouble in a country fast slipping out of the scenario of political settlement.

Impact of World War 2

WW2 was one of the most significant factors in accelerating the Indian Independence, and the Independence of many British and non-British colonies. In the period of 1945-1966, decolonization led to more than 3 dozen countries getting freedom from their colonial powers. Many factors played in the downfall of the British Empire. Predominantly, the two superpowers that survived WW2 - US and Russia had strong anti-colonial sentiments.

When Britain reached out to USA asking for help in the war, US offered help contingent on Britain decolonizing post WW2, and that agreement was codified in the Atlantic charter. The decolonization of Britain (post war) also meant that US and other countries would possibly have access to markets to sell goods that were previously under British Empire which was not accessible to them then. To bring about these changes, the establishment of UN following WW2 codified sovereignty for nations, and encouraged free trade. The war also forced Britishers to come to an agreement with Indian leaders to grant them freedom if they helped with war efforts since India had one of largest armies.

The agitations, mass strikes, demonstrations and consequently support for the mutineers, therefore continued several days even after the mutiny had been called off. Along with this, the assessment may be made that it described in crystal clear terms to the government that the British Indian Armed Forces could no longer be universally relied upon for support in crisis, and even more it was more likely itself to be the source of the sparks that would ignite trouble in a country fast slipping out of the scenario of political settlement.

Sovereignty and partition of India

On 3 June 1947, Viscount Louis Mountbatten, the last British Governor-General of India, announced the partitioning of British India into India and Pakistan. With the speedy passage through the British Parliament of the Indian Independence Act 1947 on 11 July 1947, Pakistan was declared a separate nation, and at 12:02, just after midnight, on 15 August 1947, India also became a sovereign and democratic nation. Eventually, 15 August became the Independence Day for India, due to the ending of British rule over India. On that 15 August, both Pakistan and India had the right to remain in or remove themselves from the British Commonwealth. In 1949, India decided to remain in the commonwealth.

Violent clashes between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims followed. Prime Minister Nehru and deputy prime minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel invited Mountbatten to continue as Governor-General of India. He was replaced in June 1948 by Chakravarti Rajagopalachari. Patel took on the responsibility of bringing into the Indian Union 56 princely states, steering efforts by his 'iron fist in a velvet glove' policies, exemplified by the use of military force to integrate Junagadh and Hyderabad State into India (Operation Polo). On the other hand, Nehru kept the issue of Kashmir in his hands.

The Constituent Assembly, headed by the prominent lawyer, reformer and Dalit leader, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was tasked with creating the constitution of free India. The Constituent Assembly completed the work of drafting the constitution on 26 November 1949; on 26 January 1950, the Republic of India was officially proclaimed. The Constituent Assembly elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India, taking over from Governor General Rajagopalachari. Subsequently, the French ceded Chandernagor in 1951, and Pondicherry and its remaining Indian colonies in 1954. India invaded and annexed Sikkim and Portugal’s other Indian enclaves in 1961, and Sikkim voted to join the Indian Union in 1975.

Following self-rule in 1947, India remained in the Commonwealth of Nations, and relations between the UK and India have been friendly. There are many areas in which the two countries seek stronger ties for mutual benefit, and there are also strong cultural and social ties between the two nations. The UK has an ethnic Indian population of over 1.6 million. In 2010, Prime Minister David Cameron described Indian-British relations as a "New Special Relationship."
India was also one of the major trading nations in the 18th century. In fact, India had a monopoly in the supply of high quality finished textiles and spices. In 1750, her trade amounted to about 24.5% of the total world trade. India and China (whose contribution was a little over 32%) together contributed to more than half to the total world trade. Colonial India's wiki: Colonial India was the part of the Indian subcontinent which was under the jurisdiction of European colonial powers, during the Age of Discovery. European power was exerted both by conquest and trade, especially in spices. The search for the ... The wars that took place involving the British East India Company or British India during the Colonial era The colonial era in India began in 1502, when the Portuguese Empire established the first European trading centre at Kollam, Kerala. In 1505 the King of Portugal appointed Dom Francisco de Almeida as the first Portuguese viceroy in India, followed in 1509 by Dom Afonso de Albuquerque. In 1510 Albuquerque established an important trading presence in Goa by conquering the city, which had been dominated by Muslims. Anglo-Mysore Wars. First Anglo-Maratha War.