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MAD- 2020
Day – 1
History

There was a resurgence of nationalism in india after the end of First World War. Discuss.

https://youtu.be/grYfSVQhzT4

At the time of First World War, Indian nationalism was dominated by moderates who believed that Indian contribution to the British war efforts would result in British's benevolence towards Indians and would grant us more constitutional reforms.
However, the situation at the end of the war was quite different. After the end of the war, there was a resurgence of nationalist activity in India. The following factors were responsible:

1. Economic hardships
    - An increase in prices followed by a recession brought the economy to its knees, after the war.
    - Workers and artisans faced unemployment and bore the brunt of increasing prices.
    - Educated Urban class too faced unemployment.
    - With the decline in British goods, the domestic manufacturing sectors such as cotton benefited. British investment was rerouted to the UK, creating opportunities for Indian capital. This somehow boosted the feeling of swaraj among Indians.
2. Expectations of political gains
    - Soldiers who returned from battlefields shared their experiences of the war. Punjab, which supplied a large proportion of the troops, turned into an epicenter of nationalism after the war. Political activities against colonial rule in Punjab province increased, which became the spark for wider protests.
    - Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms' failed to deliver on the expectation of home rule that had led to popular support for the British war effort. This instigated mass civil disobedience.
    - The introduction of the reprehensible Rowlett Act further fuelled the fire of nationalism.
3. Disillusionment with Imperialism worldwide
    - The world war ended the myth of the indestructible power of the British Empire as the British faced many humiliating defeats during the war. This raised the self-confidence among Indians.
    - The post-war treaties shattered the myth that the war was anything except a fight for colonies as manifested in the Paris Peace Conference.
    - Both the sides launched a propaganda against the other which brought to light their collective uncivilized colonial record.
4. The October Revolution (Russian Revolution), wherein the Bolshevik Party of workers overthrew the Czarist regime and founded the first socialist state, gave the message that immense power play with the people and the masses were capable of challenging the mightiest of tyrants provided they were organized, united and determined.

All these together manifested in public outrage and political activity that eventually led to the Non-Cooperation Movement under the leadership of Gandhi.

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