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Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:

August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement

(1940 – 1944 CE)



AUGUST OFFER (1940)



CRIPPS MISSION (1942)



QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT (1942)





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Introduction

Global Context

- The period 1940–1944 fell in the midst of **World War II (1939–1945)**.
- The war transformed global power relations and **weakened British imperial control.**
- Britain needed India's political and military support in the war effort.



Indian Context

- Indian nationalists saw the war as an opportunity to press for **complete independence.**
- The Congress demanded a **clear assurance of transfer of power** in return for cooperation.
- The British adopted a strategy of **limited concessions** and **war-time diplomacy** to secure Indian support.

Key Developments (1940 – 1944)

- Lahore Resolution (1940)
- August Offer (1940)
- Individual Satyagraha (1940 – 1941)
- Cripps Mission (1942)
- Quit India Movement (1942)

A Period of Tension and Negotiations

Major Issues

- Demand for immediate independence.
- Question of communal representation and minority safeguards.
- Extent of Indian participation in war and defence.
- Failure of negotiations between the British and the Indian nationalists.

Significance

- Marked a **turning point** in the struggle for independence.
- Showed the **growing gap** between British policies and Indian aspirations.
- Led to mass mobilisation, culminating in the **Quit India Movement of 1942.**
- Weakened British authority in India, paving the way for the final phase of the independence struggle.

Overall Impact

- The war years intensified **nationalist sentiments.**
- British attempts at compromise (August Offer and Cripps Mission) **failed to satisfy Indian demands.**
- The Quit India Movement demonstrated the **determination** of the Indian people to end British rule.
- This phase laid the foundation for the final **transfer of power in 1947.**



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1. The Lahore Resolution and the August Offer (1940 CE)

Background

- In **September 1939**, Britain involved India in **World War II** without consulting Indian leaders.
- The Congress protested and demanded a **clear statement of war aims** and a promise of independence after the war.
- The Muslim League saw the war as an opportunity to strengthen its position and advance its demand for a **separate homeland**.

Two Key Developments in 1940

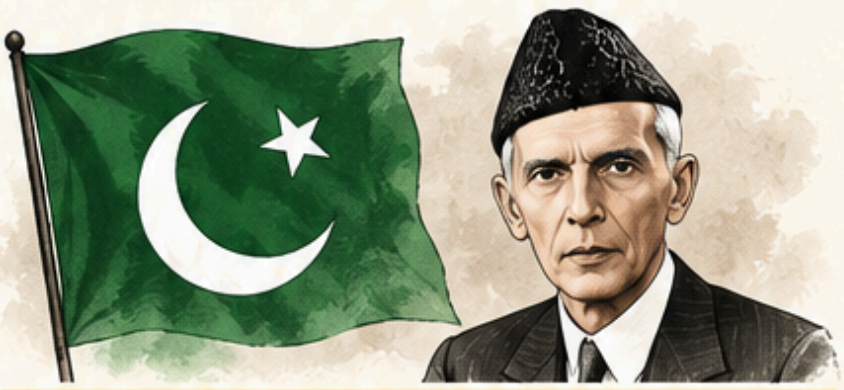
1 The Lahore Resolution (March 1940)

- Passed by the Muslim League, formally stating the demand for **"independent states"** for Muslims in the north-western and eastern regions of India.

2 The August Offer (August 8, 1940)

- Announced by Viceroy Linlithgow, proposing **limited constitutional concessions** to secure Indian support in the war.

The Lahore Resolution (March 1940)



- Adopted at the Muslim League session in Lahore.
- Demanded independent states for Muslim-majority areas.
- Marked a **turning point** in Muslim League politics.

The August Offer (August 8, 1940)



- Announced by Viceroy Linlithgow.
- Promised expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council with more Indians.
- Assured that a representative body would be set up after the war to frame a new constitution.
- Did not offer immediate transfer of power, leading to its **rejection by the Congress**.

Significance



- Highlighted the **growing divide** between the Congress and the Muslim League.
- Showed the British strategy of making only **limited concessions** during the war.
- Set the stage for further negotiations like the Cripps Mission (1942).
- Deepened communal tensions and strengthened the Muslim League's demand for a **separate homeland**.

Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
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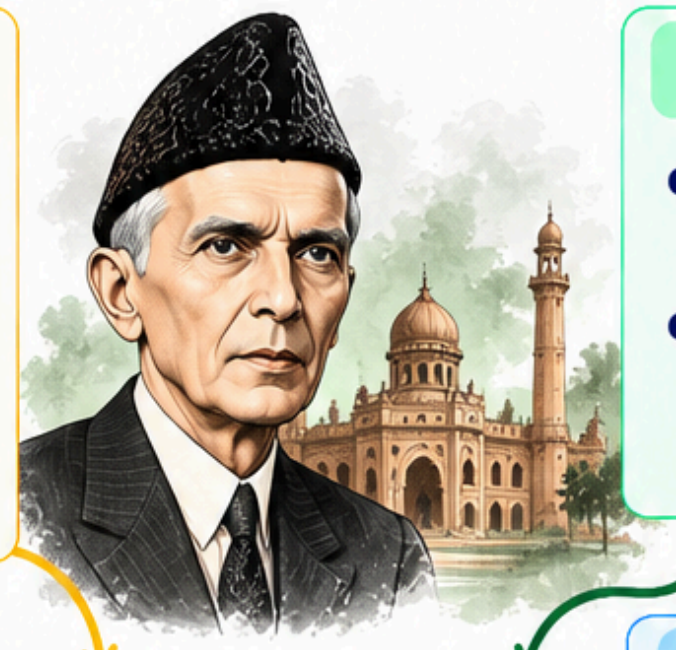
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1. The Lahore Resolution and the August Offer (1940 CE)

A. The Lahore Resolution of the Muslim League (March 1940)

When and Where?

- Adopted at the annual session of the All-India Muslim League.
- Held in Lahore (now in Pakistan).
- Date: **22–24 March 1940**.



Key Leader

- Moved by **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**.
- Supported by other prominent Muslim League leaders.

Background

- Muslims were concerned about their political, religious and cultural interests in a future independent India.
- The Muslim League felt that a unitary system would lead to **Hindu domination**.
- Demanded constitutional safeguards for Muslims.

The Lahore Resolution (March 1940)

Main Provisions

- Demanded the formation of **"independent states"** in the north-western and eastern regions of India where Muslims were in a majority.
- These areas were to be **"autonomous and sovereign"**.
- Constituent units to be federated.
- Adequate safeguards for minorities in these states.

Significance

- Marked a major shift in the Muslim League's demand from safeguards to a **separate homeland**.
- Laid the ideological foundation for the demand for **Pakistan**.
- Deepened the communal divide in Indian politics.
- Changed the nature of negotiations with the British and the Congress.

Reactions

- Welcomed by Muslim League supporters as a **protection of Muslim interests**.
- Strongly **opposed by the Indian National Congress**, which favoured a united India.
- Criticised by many leaders for promoting communalism.
- Created new challenges for the British in formulating future constitutional plans.

Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

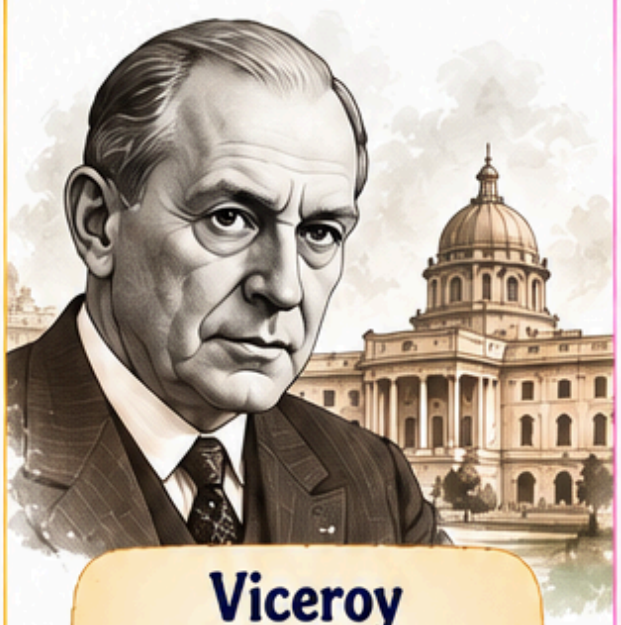
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1. The Lahore Resolution and the August Offer (1940 CE)

B. Viceroy Linlithgow's "August Offer" (August 8, 1940)

Who Announced?

- Declared by **Viceroy Lord Linlithgow** on **8 August 1940**.
- A British attempt to secure Indian cooperation in World War II after the failure to win over the Indian National Congress.



Viceroy Linlithgow
(1936 – 1943)

Objectives

- To gain **Indian support for the British war effort.**
- To placate Indian opinion after the Lahore Resolution (1940).
- To counter the growing demand for immediate self-government.

The August Offer
(August 8, 1940)

Main Provisions

- Promise of **expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council** with more Indians.
- Assurance that a **representative body** would be set up after the war to frame a new constitution for India.
- No commitment for immediate transfer of power.
- Safeguards for the interests of **minorities**.

Key Features

- Offered **limited constitutional concessions.**
- Did not mention **dominion status** or immediate self-government.
- Gave the Viceroy the right to reject any constitutional proposal if it threatened the interests of minorities.
- Sought to maintain **British control** during the war.

Reaction of Indian National Congress

- Rejected the offer as **inadequate.**
- Criticised it for not providing immediate transfer of power.
- Felt it was an attempt to divide Indians and prolong British rule.

Significance

- Failed to satisfy Indian nationalists.
- Showed Britain's unwillingness to concede real power.
- Led to the launch of the **Individual Satyagraha (1940 – 1941)** by the Congress.

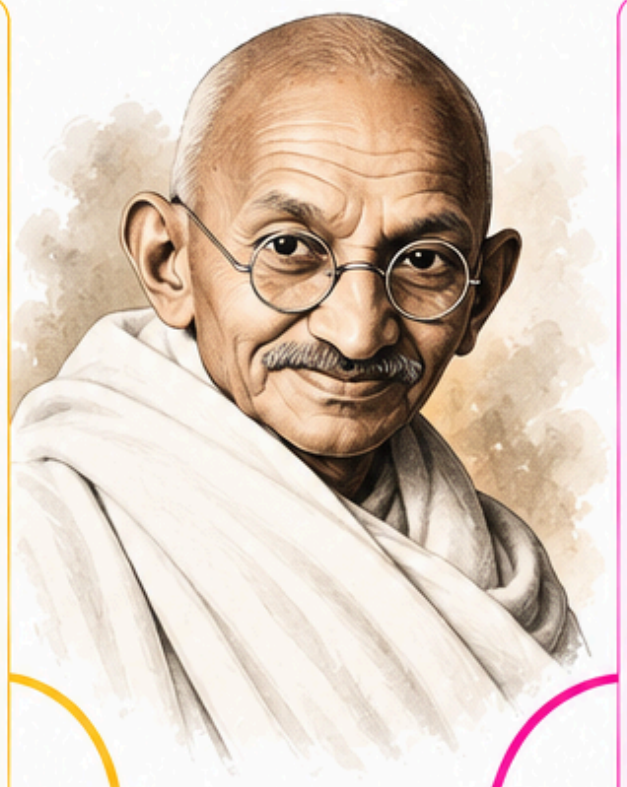
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2. The Individual Satyagraha (1940 – 1941 CE)

Background

- After the failure of the **August Offer (1940)**, the Congress was dissatisfied with the British stance.
- Mahatma Gandhi did not want a mass movement at that time as the country was not fully prepared.
- He decided to launch a limited form of struggle called **Individual Satyagraha**.



Objective

- To register a **moral protest** against India's forcible involvement in World War II without the consent of Indians.
- To uphold the right to **freedom of speech** and expression.
- To keep the spirit of the freedom struggle alive without launching a mass agitation.

Individual Satyagraha (1940 – 1941 CE)

Who Participated?

- The first Satyagrahi was **Acharya Vinoba Bhave (17 October 1940)**.
- The second was **Jawaharlal Nehru (31 October 1940)**.
- Many other Congress leaders and workers participated in different parts of the country.



Method

- Selected individuals openly expressed their anti-war views in **public speeches**.
- They stated that India should not be dragged into the war without its consent.
- The Satyagrahis **willingly offered arrest**.

Response of the British

- The British government **arrested** the Satyagrahis as soon as they made anti-war statements.
- Thousands of Congress leaders and workers were imprisoned.
- Repression was intensified, but the movement remained **peaceful and limited in scale**.

Significance

- Maintained the **continuity** of the freedom struggle during the war years.
- Demonstrated the Congress's **opposition to India's participation** in the war.
- Strengthened the morale of the people and kept nationalist sentiments alive.
- Set the stage for the more powerful **Quit India Movement (1942)**.

Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
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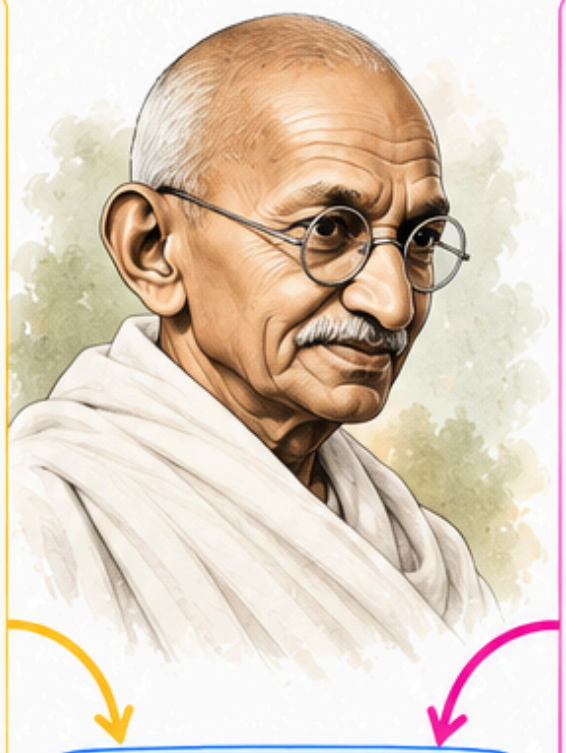
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2. The Individual Satyagraha (1940 – 1941 CE)

A. The Course of the Movement

1 Selection of Satyagrahis

- Movement started with selected individuals, not as a mass movement.
- The first Satyagrahi was **Acharya Vinoba Bhave** on **17 October 1940**.
- The second Satyagrahi was **Jawaharlal Nehru** on **31 October 1940**.
- Others, including many Congress leaders and workers, followed in different phases.



2 Method and Nature

- Satyagrahis openly expressed their anti-war views in **public speeches**.
- They declared that India should not be dragged into the war without its consent.
- The protest was **symbolic and peaceful**.
- No attempt was made to mobilise the masses or disrupt the war effort.

The Course of the Movement (1940 – 1941 CE)

3 Government Response

- The British government **arrested** the Satyagrahis soon after their speeches.
- Thousands of Congress leaders and workers were **imprisoned**.
- Despite repression, the movement continued in a limited form.



4 Geographical Spread

- The movement spread to different parts of India.
- Participants came from various regions and backgrounds.



5 Scale and Duration

- Continued from October 1940 to December 1941.
- Remained **limited in scale** compared to earlier movements like the Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement.



6 Outcome

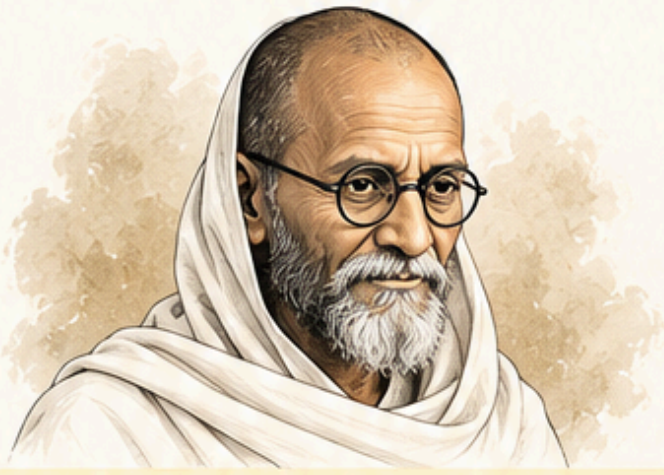
- Maintained the spirit of resistance against British war policy.
- Kept the issue of Indian freedom alive during the war years.
- Demonstrated continued opposition to India's involvement in World War II without consent.
- Prepared the ground for the more powerful **Quit India Movement (1942)**.

2. The Individual Satyagraha (1940 – 1941 CE)

B. The Key Martyrs of Conscience

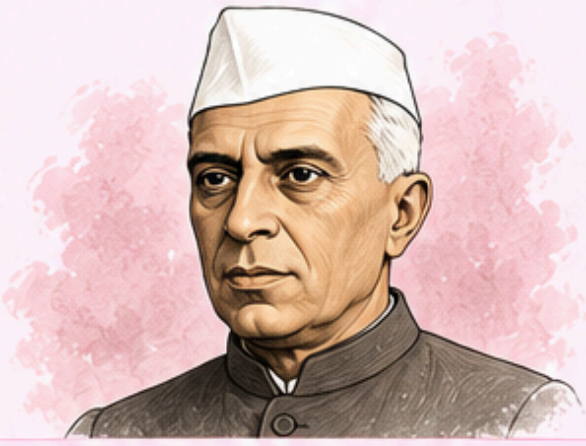
The Key Martyrs of Conscience (Individual Satyagraha 1940 – 1941 CE)

1 Acharya Vinoba Bhave
(First Satyagrahi)



- Chosen by Mahatma Gandhi as the first Satyagrahi.
- Delivered his anti-war speech on 17 October 1940 at Pavanar (Maharashtra).
- Declared that India should not support the British war effort.
- Arrested soon after the speech.

2 Jawaharlal Nehru
(Second Satyagrahi)



- Chosen as the second Satyagrahi.
- Delivered his anti-war speech on 31 October 1940.
- Criticised British imperialism and stated that India could not be dragged into the war without its consent.
- Arrested immediately after the speech.

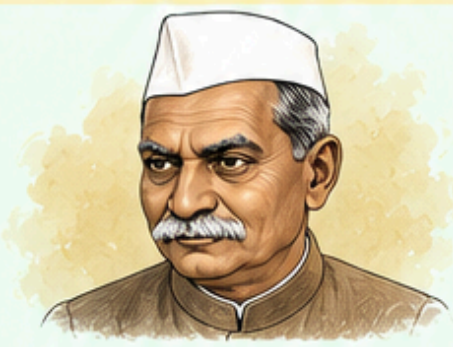
3 Other Notable Satyagrahis

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad



- Participated in the Individual Satyagraha.
- Arrested for his anti-war statements.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad



- Took part in the movement.
- Arrested for expressing his anti-war views.

Other Congress Leaders and Workers



- Many Congress leaders, workers and ordinary citizens delivered anti-war speeches across different parts of India.
- They were arrested and imprisoned.

Significance

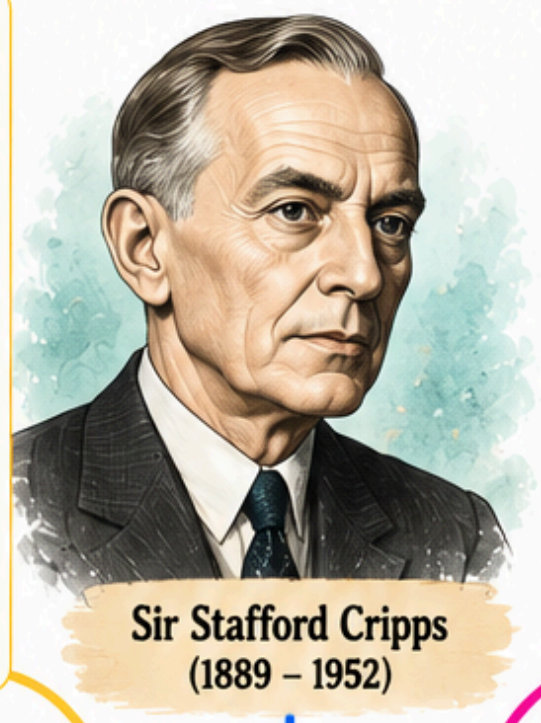
- Showed the moral courage of Indian leaders and citizens.
- Kept the spirit of the freedom struggle alive during World War II.
- Demonstrated continued opposition to India's involvement in the war.
- Prepared the ground for the Quit India Movement (1942).

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3. The Cripps Mission (1942 CE)

Who Led the Mission?

- **Sir Stafford Cripps**, a member of the British War Cabinet.
- Visited India in March 1942.
- Came with proposals on behalf of the British government.



Sir Stafford Cripps
(1889 – 1952)

Objectives

- To secure Indian cooperation in World War II.
- To prevent Indian support for the Axis powers (Japan).
- To win over the Indian leadership, especially the Congress.

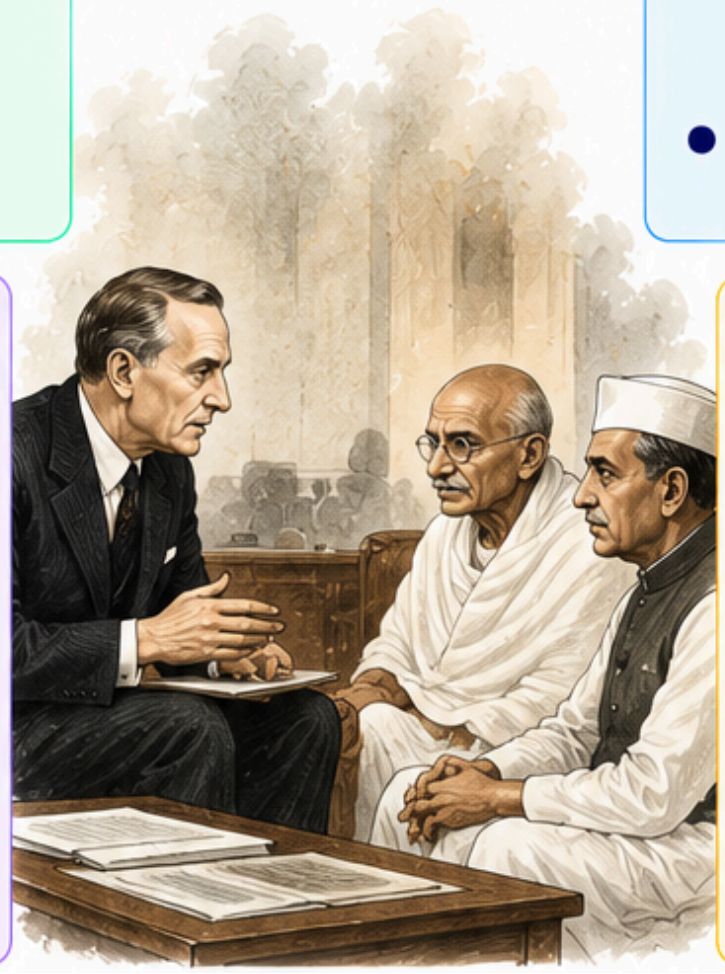
The Cripps Mission (1942 CE)

Main Proposals

- After the war, India would be granted **dominion status**.
- A **Constituent Assembly** would be formed to frame a new constitution.
- Provinces would have the **right to opt out (secede)** from the proposed union.
- An **interim government** with wider Indian representation would be formed during the war.

Reaction of Indian Leaders

- Indian National Congress **rejected** the proposals as **inadequate**.
- It did not provide **immediate transfer of power**.
- The **Muslim League** was dissatisfied as the proposal did not accept the demand for a separate Pakistan.
- Other political groups also did not fully support it.



Failure of the Mission

- The talks with Indian leaders **did not succeed**.
- The differences between the Congress and the Muslim League remained **unresolved**.
- The mission returned to Britain in **April 1942** without any agreement.

Significance

- Its failure **increased distrust** between the British and the Congress.
- It convinced many Congress leaders that constitutional methods had reached a **dead end**.
- It paved the way for the launch of the **Quit India Movement (August 1942)**.

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3. The Cripps Mission (1942 CE)

A. The Geopolitical Crisis of Early 1942

1 Japanese Advances in Asia

- In December 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, bringing the USA into World War II.
- Japan quickly captured **Malaya, Singapore (February 1942)** and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia).
- This gave Japan control over a large part of Southeast Asia.



2 Threat to India

- After capturing Southeast Asia, Japan moved towards India's eastern borders.
- **Burma (Myanmar) fell to the Japanese in March 1942.**
- This created a direct military threat to India, especially to its eastern frontier.



3 British Military Difficulties

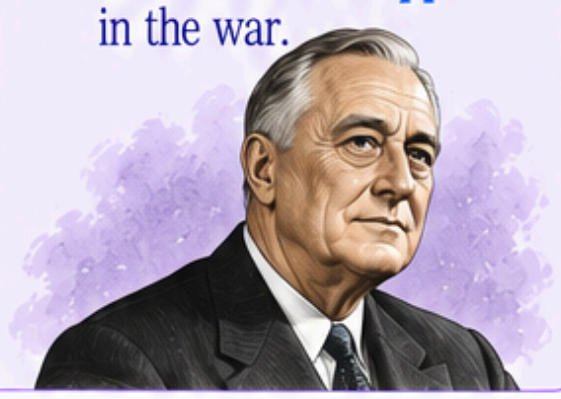
- The rapid Japanese advances exposed the **weakness of British defence** in Asia.
- The fall of Singapore, called the **"Gibraltar of the East"**, was a major blow to British prestige.
- Britain needed the support and cooperation of India to strengthen its war efforts.



The Geopolitical Crisis of Early 1942

4 American Pressure

- The USA, now a major ally of Britain, was in favour of greater political concessions to India.
- President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** wanted Britain to win **Indian support** in the war.



5 Need to Win Indian Support

- The British realised that they could not defeat Japan in Asia without India's full cooperation.
- Indian resources, manpower and strategic location were crucial for the Allied war effort.
- This geopolitical crisis forced Britain to rethink its policy towards India, leading to the dispatch of the **Cripps Mission in March 1942.**

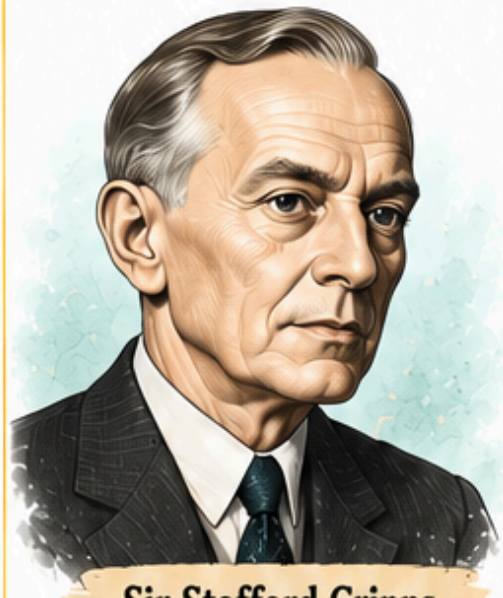


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3. The Cripps Mission (1942 CE)

B. Proposals of the Cripps Mission



Sir Stafford Cripps
(1889 – 1952)

Proposals of the Cripps Mission (1942 CE)

1 Dominion Status

- After the war, India would be granted **dominion status.**
- India would have the **right to frame its own constitution.**



2 Constituent Assembly

- A **Constituent Assembly** would be set up after the war to frame a new constitution for India.
- It would be composed of representatives from the **British Indian provinces** and the **princely states.**



3 Right to Opt Out (Secession)

- Any province would have the **right to opt out** of the proposed union and form a separate constitution.
- This meant the possibility of secession for provinces that did not accept the new constitution.



4 Interim Government

- An **interim government** would be formed at the Centre during the war.
- It would include a larger representation of Indians.
- However, the **defence portfolio would remain under British control.**



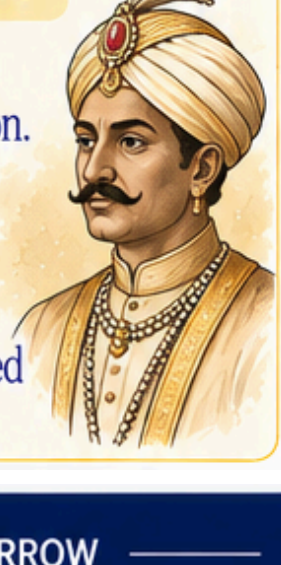
5 Treaty with Britain

- A **treaty** would be signed between the new Indian union and Britain, defining the future relationship.
- Britain would retain control over certain matters, such as defence, during the transitional period.



6 Status of Princely States

- The **princely states** would have the **option to join** the Indian union.
- They were not compelled to join.
- Their future relationship with the Indian union would be decided through negotiations.



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Why All Indian Parties Rejected Cripps

1 No Immediate Transfer of Power

- The proposals promised dominion status **only after the war**.
- There was no immediate transfer of real power to an Indian government.



2 Right to Opt Out (Secession)

- Provinces were given the **right to opt out** of the proposed union.
- This threatened the territorial unity of India and was unacceptable to most parties.



3 Vague and Ambiguous Provisions

- The proposal **lacked clarity** on many important issues.
- Key matters like the powers of the interim government and the constitution-making process were left uncertain.



Reasons for Rejection of the Cripps Proposals

4 Defence under British Control

- The **defence portfolio** would remain under **British control** during the war.
- Indian leaders wanted full control over defence to ensure real power.



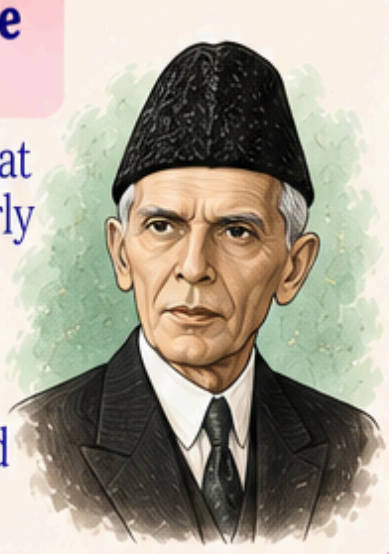
5 No Commitment on Constituent Assembly's Powers

- The proposals did not clearly guarantee a **fully sovereign Constituent Assembly**.
- The British retained the right to influence the final outcome.



6 Dissatisfaction of the Muslim League

- The Muslim League felt that the proposals did not clearly accept its demand for a **separate Pakistan**.
- The right to opt out was considered inadequate and uncertain.



7 Viewed as a War-Time Tactic

- Indian parties believed that the proposals were a **diplomatic move** to gain Indian support in the war.
- They felt that Britain was not genuinely willing to grant real independence.



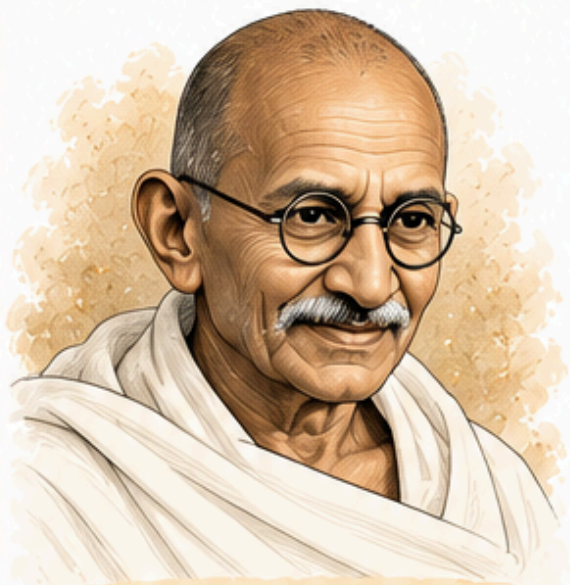
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4. The Quit India Movement (1942 – 1944 CE)

1 Background

- The failure of the Cripps Mission created widespread disillusionment among Indians.
- The Japanese advances in Asia increased the fear of a British collapse.
- The Congress decided to launch a mass movement to demand an end to British rule.



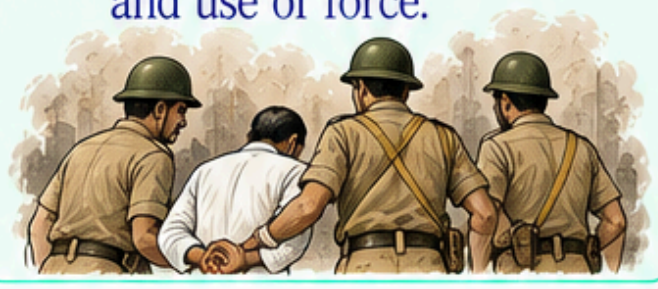
"Do or Die"
Mahatma Gandhi

2 Launch of the Movement

- The All India Congress Committee passed the Quit India Resolution on **8 August 1942** at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan** (now August Kranti Maidan) in Bombay.
- Mahatma Gandhi gave the famous call **"Do or Die"** for complete independence.

3 British Response

- Top Congress leaders were arrested on **9 August 1942.**
- The Congress was declared an **illegal organisation.**
- A severe crackdown was launched with censorship, mass arrests and use of force.



The Quit India Movement (1942 – 1944 CE)

4 Nature of the Movement

- It was a **spontaneous mass movement** with widespread participation.
- People from different sections of society — students, workers, peasants and women — took part.
- There were **strikes, protests, boycotts, sabotage** of communication lines and attacks on government institutions.



5 Important Centres

- The movement was strong in **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bengal and parts of Karnataka.**
- Underground activities were led by leaders like **Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia** and **Aruna Asaf Ali.**

6 Outcome

- The movement was **suppressed by 1944** through brutal repression.
- It did not achieve immediate independence but marked a **decisive turning point.**
- It demonstrated that British rule had lost legitimacy and could not continue for long.

7 Significance

- It united the Indian people in the **common goal of complete independence.**
- It was the last major mass movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It **weakened** the moral and political position of the British in India.
- It paved the way for **India's independence in 1947.**

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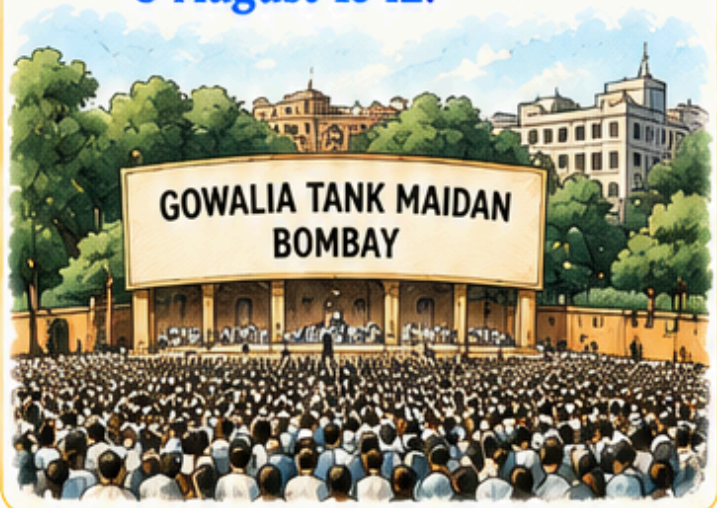
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4. The Quit India Movement (1942 – 1944 CE)

A. The Historic Gowalia Tank Resolution (August 8, 1942)

1 The Venue

- The All India Congress Committee met at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan** (now August Kranti Maidan) in Bombay.
- The session was held on **8 August 1942.**



2 The Resolution

- The All India Congress Committee passed the **Quit India Resolution** demanding an end to British rule in India.
- It authorised Mahatma Gandhi to launch a mass struggle for complete independence.

3 Key Demands

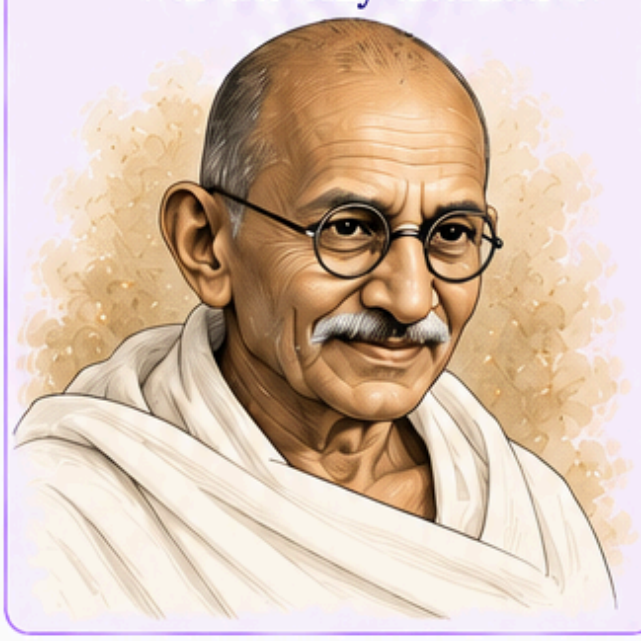
- **Immediate** end to British rule in India.
- **Transfer of power** to an Indian government.
- Formation of a **provisional national government.**
- A free India to contribute to the Allied war effort on **equal terms.**



The Gowalia Tank Resolution (August 8, 1942)

4 Mahatma Gandhi's Call

- Gave the famous slogan **"Do or Die".**
- Urged the people to launch a **non-violent mass struggle.**
- Emphasised that freedom was the only alternative.



5 Response of Indian Leaders

- The resolution was **supported by all sections** within the Congress.
- It reflected the **growing frustration** with British policies.
- Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and Maulana Azad supported the call for a mass movement.

6 Immediate Outcome

- The British government **arrested** Mahatma Gandhi and all top Congress leaders on the night of 8–9 August 1942.
- The Congress was declared an **illegal organisation.**
- Despite the arrests, the movement **spread across the country.**



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

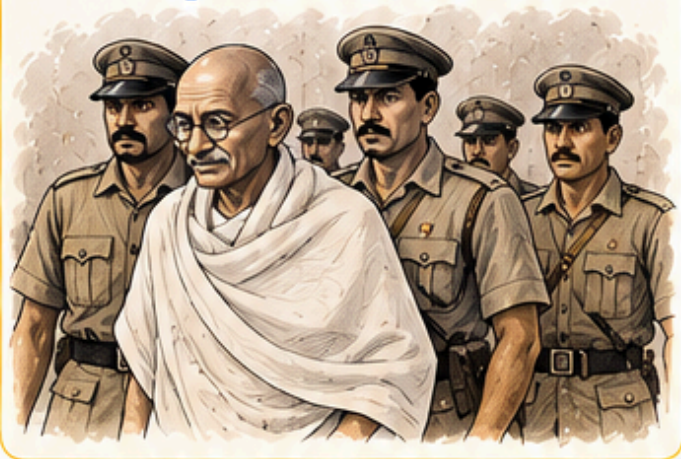
CREATOR ACADEMIA

4. The Quit India Movement (1942 – 1944 CE)

B. "Operation Zero Hour" and the Spontaneous Mass Uprising

1 Operation Zero Hour

- The British launched a **pre-planned operation** to crush the movement immediately after the Gowalia Tank Resolution.
- In the early hours of **9 August 1942**, Mahatma Gandhi and all top Congress leaders were arrested simultaneously.
- This was known as **"Operation Zero Hour"**.



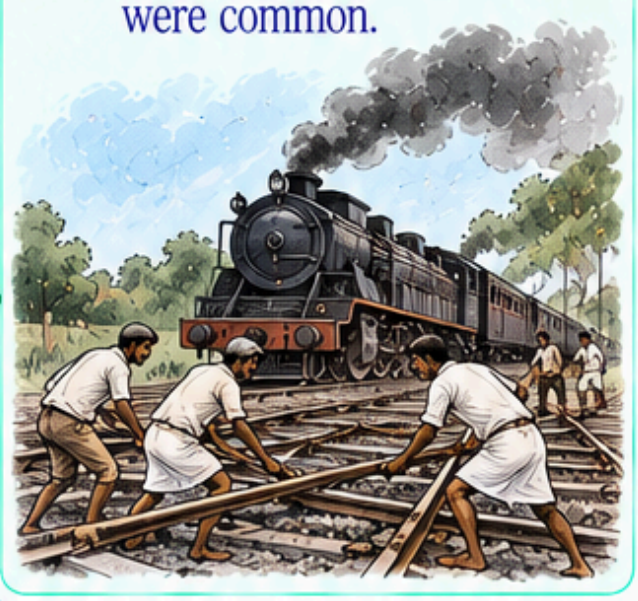
2 Leaderless Movement

- With the arrest of the top leadership, the movement became **leaderless**.
- It was no longer controlled by the Congress.
- It turned into a **spontaneous mass uprising** across different regions of India.



3 Forms of Mass Protest

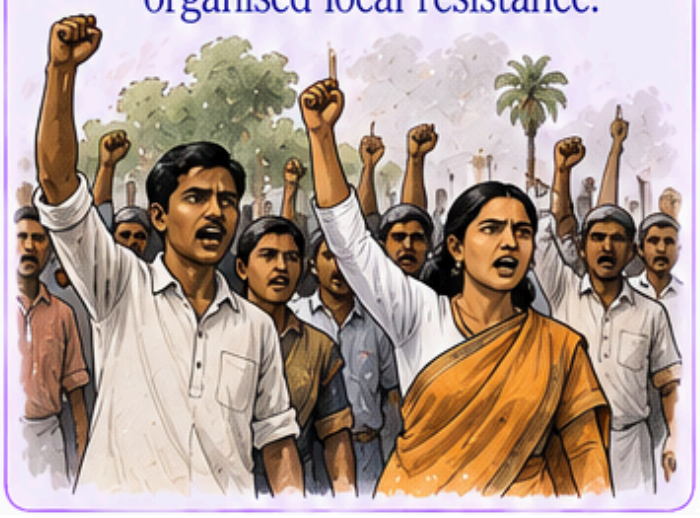
- People took to the streets in large numbers.
- There were **strikes, processions, public demonstrations** and slogans against British rule.
- **Attacks on government offices, police stations, railway lines**, telegraph and communication networks were common.



"Operation Zero Hour" and the Spontaneous Mass Uprising

4 Widespread Participation

- Students, workers, peasants, women and urban middle classes actively participated.
- The movement spread to both **rural and urban areas**.
- In many places, people set up **parallel governments** and organised local resistance.



5 Role of Women and Youth

- **Women** played a significant role by organising protests, spreading messages and continuing the movement despite repression.
- **Students and young people** emerged as a powerful force in the movement.



6 British Repression

- The British responded with **extreme repression**.
- There were **mass arrests, firing, lathi charges, heavy censorship** and use of armed force.
- Despite severe repression, the movement continued in various forms **till 1944**.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

The Three Phases of the Quit India Revolt
(1942 – 1944 CE)

1
Initial Phase
(August – December 1942)

- Immediately after the Gowalia Tank Resolution (8 August 1942), top Congress leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, were arrested.
- The movement became leaderless, but **spontaneous protests** erupted across the country.
- There were **strikes, demonstrations, attacks** on government offices, railway lines, telegraph and communication networks.
- The British responded with **severe repression**, including mass arrests, firing and use of armed force.



2
Middle Phase
(January 1943 – mid 1944)

- The movement continued in a **more organised and diversified form**, despite the absence of top leaders.
- Underground activities gained momentum, led by leaders like **Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Aruna Asaf Ali** and others.
- Parallel governments were set up in some areas, such as in **Ballia (Uttar Pradesh), Tamluk (Bengal)** and **Satara (Maharashtra)**.
- There were **acts of sabotage**, disruption of administrative machinery and continued mass participation, especially by students, youth, workers and peasants.



3
Final Phase
(mid 1944 – 1945)

- By mid-1944, the intensity of the movement began to **decline** due to widespread repression, exhaustion and loss of organised leadership.
- Underground activities gradually **weakened**.
- However, the movement had already **shaken the foundations of British rule** and demonstrated the universal desire for independence.
- The phase marked a **turning point**, as it showed that the British could no longer rely on Indian cooperation, even in times of war.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

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4. The Quit India Movement (1942 – 1944 CE)

C. The Heroes of the Underground Resistance

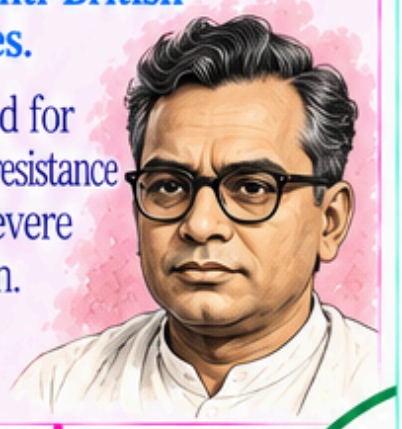
1 Jayaprakash Narayan

- A key leader of the underground movement.
- Escaped from **Hazaribagh Jail** in November 1942.
- Organised underground networks, published leaflets and mobilised youth.
- Worked for a nationwide resistance against British rule.



2 Ram Manohar Lohia

- Played a major role in strengthening the underground movement.
- Organised protests and spread **anti-British messages.**
- Advocated for continued resistance despite severe repression.



3 Aruna Asaf Ali

- Famous for hoisting the Indian national flag at **Gowalia Tank Maidan on 9 August 1942** after the arrest of Congress leaders.
- Went underground and continued to organise the movement.
- Became a symbol of courage and defiance during the Quit India Movement.



4 Usha Mehta

- Set up the secret **"Congress Radio"** in 1942.
- Broadcasted anti-British messages, news and appeals to the people.
- Helped maintain the spirit of the movement.



The Heroes of the Underground Resistance

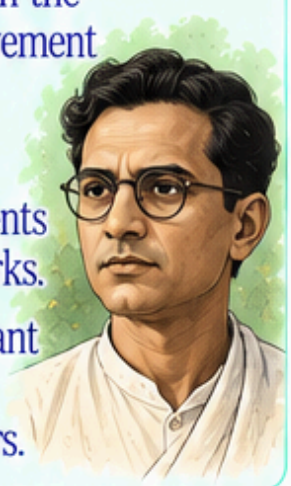
5 Smt. Matangini Hazra

- An elderly freedom fighter from Bengal.
- Participated in processions despite her age.
- Was **martyred in September 1942** while leading a protest with the tricolour in her hands.
- Became a symbol of bravery and sacrifice.



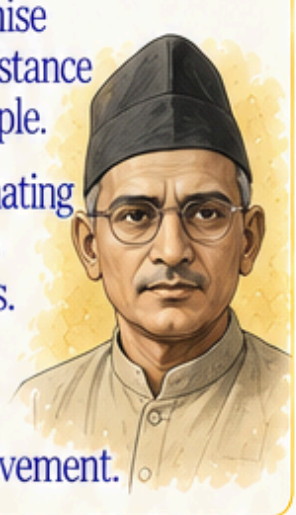
6 Achyut Patwardhan

- Worked actively in the underground movement in **Maharashtra.**
- Helped organise parallel governments and secret networks.
- Played an important role in mobilising youth and workers.



7 Sardar N. S. Hardikar

- Worked to organise underground resistance and mobilise people.
- Helped in coordinating activities across different regions.
- Encouraged the participation of youth in the movement.



8 Other Unsung Heroes

- Many **students, workers, peasants** and **ordinary citizens** worked underground.
- They distributed leaflets, carried messages, organised protests and maintained secret communication networks.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

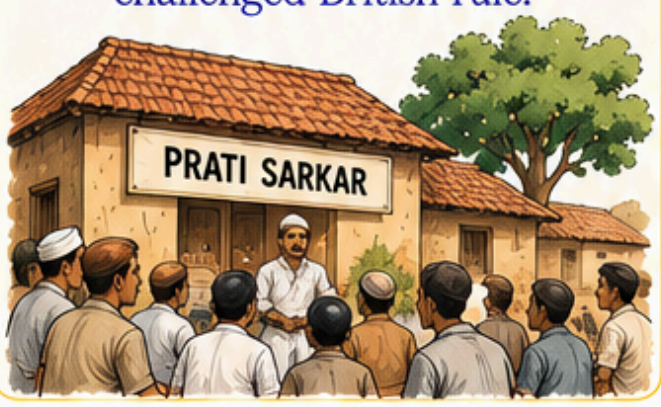
CREATOR ACADEMIA

4. The Quit India Movement (1942 – 1944 CE)

D. The Parallel Governments (Prati Sarkars)

1 What were Parallel Governments?

- Self-rule administrations set up by people in areas where British authority weakened during the Quit India Movement.
- Also called **"Prati Sarkars"**.
- They carried out governmental functions independently and challenged British rule.



2 Why were they formed?

- Mass arrests of Congress leaders created a leadership vacuum.
- British administration collapsed in many rural areas.
- People took charge to maintain law and order, deliver justice and keep the freedom struggle alive.



3 Major Examples

- **Ballia (Uttar Pradesh)**
  – Led by Chittu Pandey, the British administration was overthrown for a short period in August 1942.
- **Tamluk (Bengal)**
  – The "Tamluk National Government" (1942 – 1944) functioned for a considerable time.
- **Satara (Maharashtra)**
  – The "Prati Sarkar" led by **Nana Patil** operated from 1943 to 1946 and carried out various administrative, social and military activities.

The Parallel Governments (Prati Sarkars)

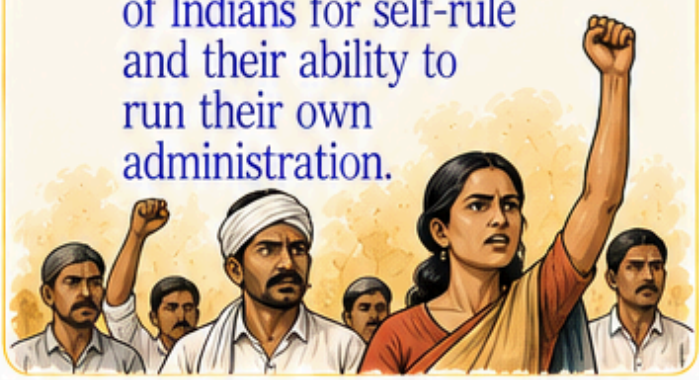
4 Functions

- Maintained law and order in local areas.
- Set up people's courts to deliver quick justice.
- Collected funds and resources for the freedom struggle.
- Organised volunteers and resistance activities.
- Worked for social reforms such as ending untouchability and promoting unity.



5 People's Participation

- Supported by students, peasants, workers and local communities.
- Women also played an active role.
- Showed the strong desire of Indians for self-rule and their ability to run their own administration.



6 Significance

- Demonstrated the complete breakdown of British authority in many areas.
- Reflected the growing maturity and organisational skills of the Indian people.
- Proved that Indians were capable of self-governance.
- Kept the spirit of the Quit India Movement alive despite severe repression.



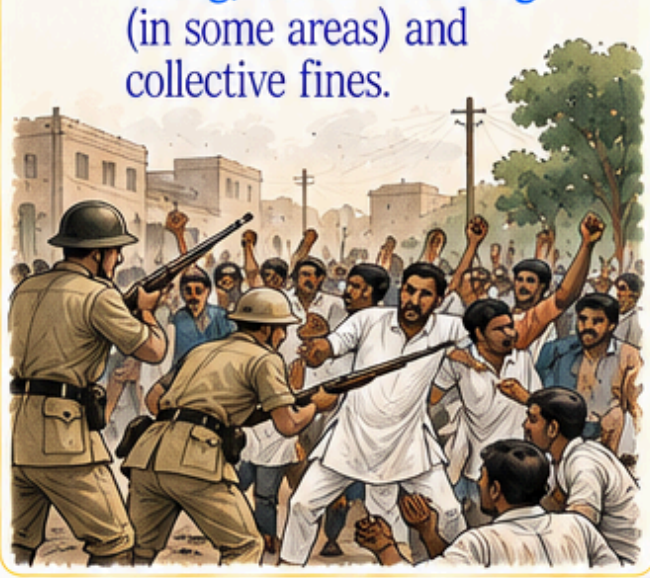
Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge: August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement (1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

5. Colonial Repression and the Bengal Famine of 1943

1 Colonial Repression after Quit India

- The British launched **severe repression** to crush the Quit India Movement.
- Mass arrests of Congress leaders, activists and ordinary people.
- Use of **lathi charges, firing, aerial bombing** (in some areas) and collective fines.



2 Reasons for the Bengal Famine (1943)

- Disruption of rice production due to war conditions.
- British war policies such as the **"denial policy"** (removal of boats and food stocks from coastal areas).
- Diversion of food grains for military needs.
- Hoarding, black marketing and rise in prices.



3 Scale and Impact

- One of the **worst man-made famines** in Indian history.
- Estimated **2 to 3 million people died** due to starvation, disease and malnutrition.
- Severe impact on rural population, especially peasants, labourers and marginalised communities.
- Widespread destitution, displacement and breakdown of social life.



Colonial Repression and the Bengal Famine of 1943

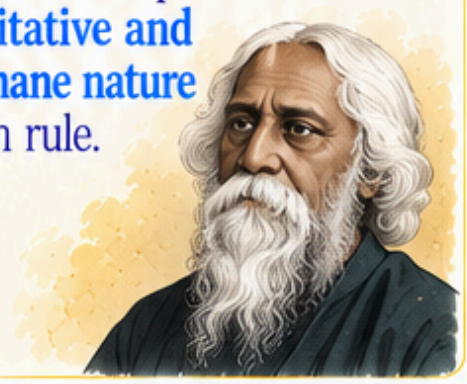
4 British Response

- The British government did **very little** to provide effective relief.
- Relief measures were **inadequate, slow and poorly organised.**
- Continued export of food grains even during the famine period.



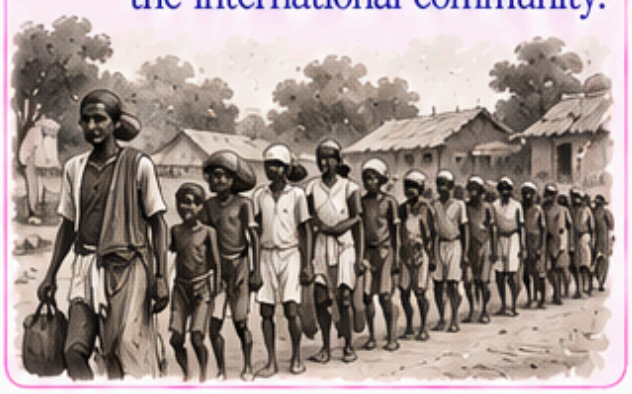
5 Contemporary Criticism

- Criticised by Indian leaders, intellectuals and the press for its **callous attitude.**
- **Rabindranath Tagore** had already criticised British war policies earlier.
- The famine exposed the **exploitative and inhumane nature** British rule.



6 Significance

- The famine **deepened anti-British sentiment** across India.
- It highlighted the **failure of British economic and wartime policies.**
- It strengthened the demand for complete independence.
- It further discredited British rule in the eyes of the Indian people and the international community.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge: August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement (1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

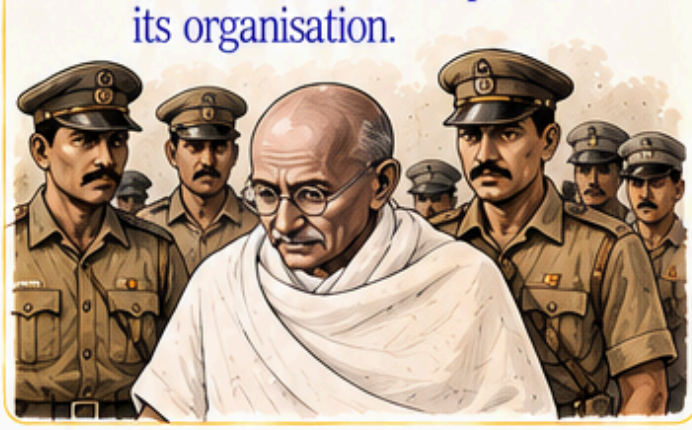
5. Colonial Repression and the Bengal Famine of 1943

A. Ruthless State Suppression

Ruthless State Suppression

1 Mass Arrests of Leaders and Activists

- Immediately after the launch of the Quit India Movement, top Congress leaders including Mahatma Gandhi were arrested.
- Thousands of provincial and local leaders, students, workers and activists were also taken into custody.
- The aim was to decapitate the movement and prevent its organisation.



2 Use of Force and Violence

- The British used **lathi charges, firing and aerial bombing** in many areas to crush protests.
- Peaceful demonstrations were often met with **brutal force.**
- Villages suspected of supporting the movement were raided and punished collectively.



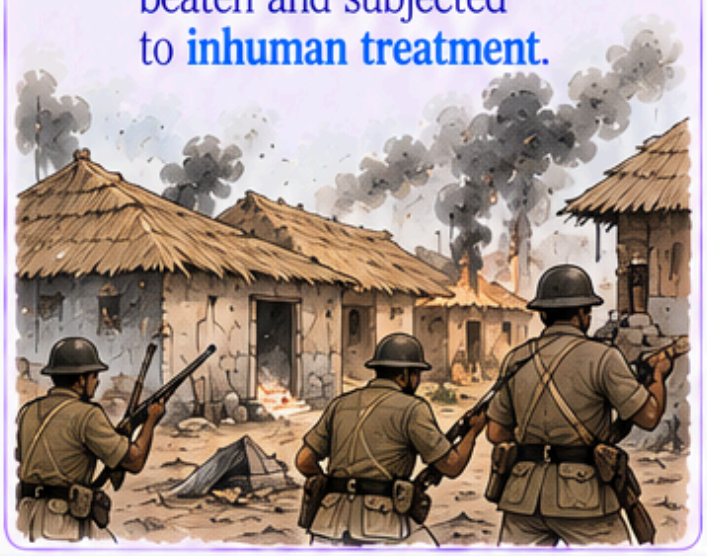
3 Censorship and Control of Information

- Strict **censorship** was imposed on the press.
- Newspapers and publications that supported the movement were **banned.**
- Telegraph and **communication networks** were closely monitored.
- The aim was to **prevent the spread of nationalist ideas** and keep the public unaware of the true situation.



4 Collective Punishments

- Fines were imposed on entire villages.
- Properties were confiscated and houses destroyed in areas considered "rebellious".
- People were harassed, beaten and subjected to **inhuman treatment.**



5 Detention and Harsh Imprisonment Conditions

- A large number of activists were kept in jails under harsh conditions.
- Many were held without trial under repressive laws such as the **Defence of India Rules.**
- Prisoners faced overcrowding, poor medical facilities and ill-treatment.



6 Impact on the Movement

- The severe repression disrupted the organisational structure of the movement.
- Many activities went underground.
- Despite the crackdown, protests continued in various parts of the country in a **spontaneous and decentralised manner.**



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

5. Colonial Repression and the Bengal Famine of 1943

B. The Man-Made Bengal Famine (1943 CE)

1 What was the Bengal Famine?

- A severe famine in **1943** in Bengal, caused mainly by British war policies and administrative failures.
- Estimated **2 to 3 million people died** due to starvation, disease and malnutrition.
- It is widely regarded as a **man-made famine**, not a natural one.



2 Causes

- Disruption of rice production due to war conditions and Japanese threat.
- British policies such as **"denial policy"** (removal of boats and food stocks from coastal areas).
- Diversion of food grains to meet military needs.
- Hoarding, black marketing and artificial rise in prices.
- Failure of the British government to take timely and effective relief measures.



3 British Policies that Worsened the Famine

- **Denial policy** – destruction or removal of boats, rice stocks and transport in coastal areas to prevent their use by the Japanese.
- Priority to **military needs** over civilian food requirements.
- Continued **export of food grains** even during the famine period.
- Inadequate relief measures despite knowing the severity of the situation.
- Insensitive attitude of the British administration.



The Man-Made Bengal Famine (1943 CE)

4 Impact

- Death of **2 to 3 million people.**
- Widespread starvation, disease and malnutrition.
- Severe impact on rural population, peasants, labourers and marginalised communities.
- Social breakdown, including distress migration, family separation and increase in crime.



5 Contemporary Criticism

- Strong criticism from Indian national leaders, intellectuals and the press.
- **Rabindranath Tagore** had earlier warned about the dangers of British war policies.
- The famine exposed the **exploitative and inhuman nature** of **British rule.**
- It further strengthened the demand for complete independence.

6 Significance

- Highlighted the **failure of British economic and wartime policies.**
- Deepened anti-British sentiment across India.
- Exposed the **callous and indifferent attitude** of the British towards Indian lives.
- Became an important factor in the growing demand for independence.



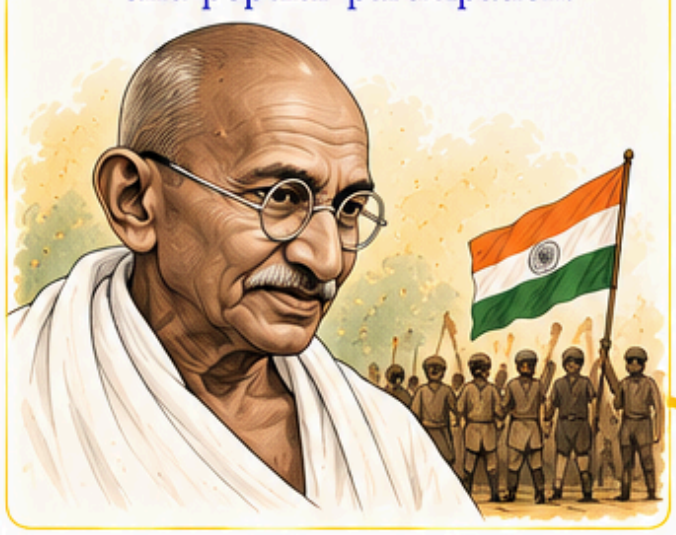
Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
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6. Political Alignments During the Movement

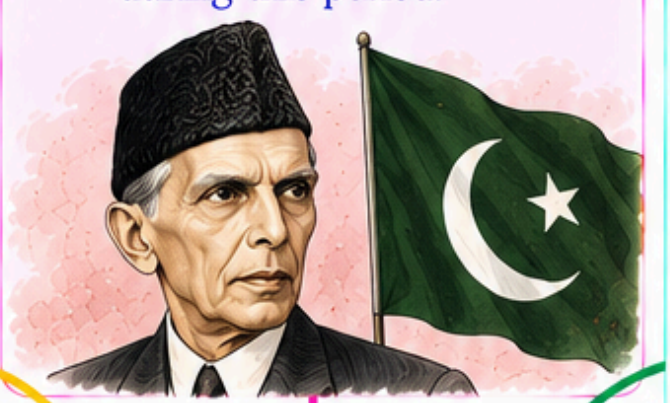
1 Indian National Congress

- Launched the Quit India Movement in **August 1942** under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Demanded an **immediate end** to **British rule.**
- Most top leaders were arrested, but the movement continued through underground networks and popular participation.



2 All India Muslim League

- **Did not support the Quit India Movement.**
- Focused on its demand for a separate Muslim homeland (Pakistan).
- Believed that the movement would strengthen the Congress and its position after the war.
- Cooperated with the **British administration** during this period.



3 Communist Party of India (CPI)

- Initially opposed the war as an imperialist conflict.
- After June 1941 (German invasion of the Soviet Union), started supporting the British war effort as it became a **"people's war" against fascism.**
- Did not support the Quit India Movement.
- Worked legally and focused on expanding its influence among workers and peasants.



Political Alignments During the Movement

4 Princely States

- Most princely states **did not support** the movement.
- Supported the British war effort to safeguard their own interests.
- Feared that the success of the movement might lead to a loss of their privileges and autonomy.



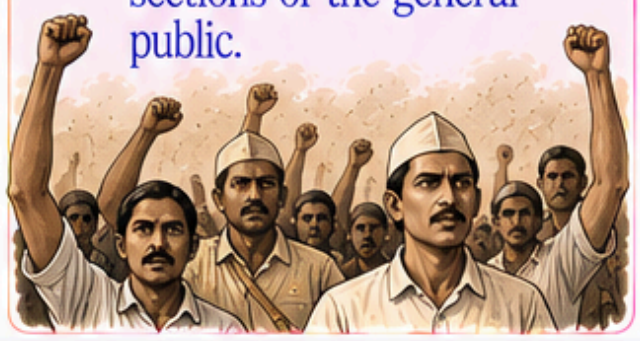
5 Forward Bloc

- Led by **Subhas Chandra Bose** (who had already left India in 1941).
- Supported the overthrow of British rule.
- Bose organised the **Indian National Army (INA)** abroad and sought support from Axis powers (Germany and Japan) to fight the British.



6 Other Political Groups

- **Socialists, revolutionaries** and many **regional groups** actively supported the movement.
- Some conservative and loyalist groups supported the British.
- Overall, the movement saw diverse political responses, with support mainly from the Congress, socialists, revolutionaries and sections of the general public.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
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Quick Examination Facts

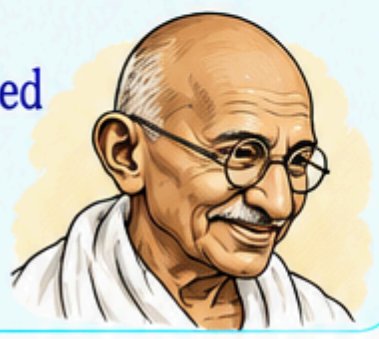
1 The August Offer was announced on **8 August 1940** by the British government.



2 The Cripps Mission arrived in India in **March 1942** led by Sir Stafford Cripps.



3 The Quit India Movement was launched on **8 August 1942** in Bombay by Mahatma Gandhi.



4 Mahatma Gandhi gave the call **"Do or Die"** during the Quit India Movement.



5 The All India Congress Committee passed the Quit India Resolution on **8 August 1942** in Bombay.



6 Large-scale arrests of Congress leaders took place on **9 August 1942,** immediately after the launch of the movement.



7 **Parallel governments (Prati Sarkars)** were established in regions like **Ballia (U.P.), Tamluk (Bengal)** and **Satara (Maharashtra).**



8 The **Bengal Famine** occurred in **1943,** leading to the death of an estimated **2 to 3 million people.**



9 The British government resorted to **censorship, press restrictions and harsh repression** to suppress the movement.



10 The All India Muslim League **did not support** the Quit India Movement and focused on its demand for a separate Muslim homeland (Pakistan).



11 Most princely states **did not support** the Quit India Movement and remained loyal to the British.



12 The movement gradually lost momentum by **1944** due to heavy repression, arrests, and the absence of top leadership.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

MCQs

1 **The August Offer** was announced by the British government in:

(A) August 1939
(B) August 1940
(C) August 1941
(D) August 1942

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The August Offer was announced in **August 1940** by the British government during World War II.

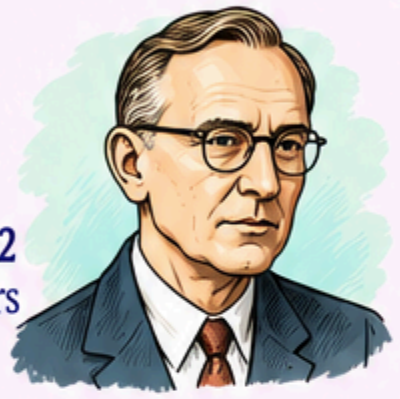


2 **The Cripps Mission arrived in India in:**

(A) March 1940
(B) March 1941
(C) March 1942
(D) March 1943

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
Sir Stafford Cripps arrived in India in March **1942** to negotiate with Indian leaders during World War II.



3 **The Quit India Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi on:**

(A) 6 August 1942
(B) 7 August 1942
(C) 8 August 1942
(D) 9 August 1942

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement on **8 August 1942** in Bombay during the All India Congress Committee session.



4 **Which of the following was a feature of the Cripps Proposal?**

(A) Immediate transfer of power
(B) Dominion Status after the war
(C) Formation of a Constituent Assembly elected by Indians
(D) Both (B) and (C)

Answer: (D)

Explanation:
The Cripps Proposal offered dominion status after the war and proposed a Constituent Assembly to frame a new constitution for India.



5 **The Bengal Famine occurred in:**

(A) 1942
(B) 1943
(C) 1944
(D) 1945

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The Bengal Famine occurred in **1943**, leading to the death of an estimated 2 to 3 million people due to a combination of wartime policies, food shortages and administrative failures.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge: August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement (1940 – 1944 CE)

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6 **Which of the following was the main reason for the failure of the Cripps Mission?**

(A) Demand for complete independence
(B) Refusal to include the Muslim League
(C) Provision for the right of provinces to opt out
(D) Immediate transfer of power

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
The Cripps Mission failed mainly because its proposal allowed provinces the right to opt out of the future Indian Union, which was rejected by the Indian National Congress.



7 **Who among the following was the Viceroy of India when the Quit India Movement was launched?**

(A) Lord Linlithgow
(B) Lord Wavell
(C) Lord Mountbatten
(D) Lord Canning

Answer: (A)

Explanation:
Lord Linlithgow was the Viceroy of India from 1936 to 1943. The Quit India Movement was launched in August 1942 during his tenure.



8 **Which of the following was NOT a feature of the August Offer (1940)?**

(A) Expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council
(B) Promise of a Constituent Assembly
(C) Immediate transfer of power to Indians
(D) Assassurance to respect minority interests

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
The August Offer did not promise immediate transfer of power. It only offered expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council, a future Constituent Assembly, and assurances to minorities.



9 **Which of the following regions did NOT have a parallel government during the Quit India Movement?**

(A) Ballia (U.P.)
(B) Tamluk (Bengal)
(C) Satara (Maharashtra)
(D) Chittagong (Bengal)

Answer: (D)

Explanation:
Parallel governments (Prati Sarkars) were established in Ballia (U.P.), Tamluk (Bengal) and Satara (Maharashtra). Chittagong is known for the Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930), not for a parallel government during 1942.



10 **The Bengal Famine of 1943 was primarily caused by which of the following?**

(A) Severe drought
(B) Wartime policies and food shortages
(C) Floods in Bengal
(D) Destruction of crops by locusts

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The Bengal Famine of 1943 was mainly caused by a combination of wartime policies, procurement of food for the war effort, disruption of transport, hoarding and administrative failures, rather than a natural calamity like drought.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

11 **Which of the following was the main demand of the Quit India Resolution (1942)?**

(A) Dominion Status for India
(B) Immediate transfer of power
(C) Constituent Assembly after the war
(D) Safeguards for minority communities

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The Quit India Resolution demanded the immediate end of British rule and transfer of power to Indians.



12 **Which province was given the option to opt out of the future Indian Union under the Cripps Proposal?**

(A) Punjab
(B) Bengal
(C) Assam
(D) All provinces

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The Cripps Proposal allowed provinces, especially those with a Muslim majority like Bengal, to opt out of the proposed Indian Union.



13 **Which one of the following best describes the nature of the August Offer (1940)?**

(A) Promise of immediate independence
(B) Proposal for a Constituent Assembly
(C) War support in exchange for post-war discussions
(D) Acceptance of the demand for a separate Pakistan

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
The August Offer sought Indian cooperation in the war in return for a promise of discussing constitutional reforms after the war.



14 **The parallel government established during the Quit India Movement in Satara (Maharashtra) was known as:**

(A) Azad Dastur
(B) Prati Sarkar
(C) Lok Sarkar
(D) Swaraj Government

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The parallel government established in Satara (Maharashtra) was known as Prati Sarkar. Similar parallel governments were also set up in Ballia (U.P.) and Tamluk (Bengal).



15 **Which of the following best explains one of the main reasons for the widespread participation in the Quit India Movement?**

(A) Support from the British government
(B) Immediate economic prosperity
(C) Anger over continued colonial rule during the war
(D) Announcement of dominion status

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
The continued colonial rule during World War II, despite Indian support in the war and the failure of previous proposals, led to widespread anger and mass participation in the Quit India Movement.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge:
August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement
(1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

16 **Who was the Chairman of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) during the Quit India Movement?**

(A) Jawaharlal Nehru
(B) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
(C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(D) Rajendra Prasad

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the President of the All India Congress Committee during the Quit India Movement in 1942.

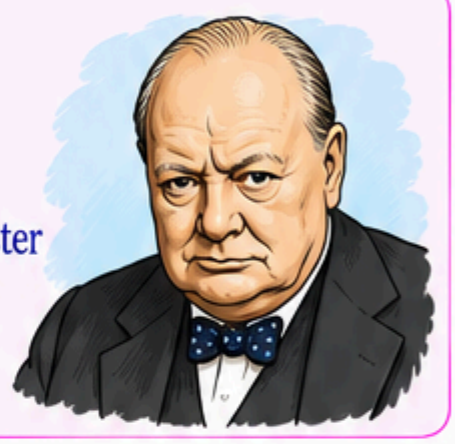


17 **Which British Prime Minister was in office when the Cripps Mission visited India?**

(A) Neville Chamberlain
(B) Winston Churchill
(C) Clement Attlee
(D) Anthony Eden

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
Sir Winston Churchill was the British Prime Minister when the Cripps Mission visited India in March 1942 during World War II.



18 **The Quit India Movement was passed by the All India Congress Committee at which session?**

(A) Lahore Session (1929)
(B) Haripura Session (1938)
(C) Bombay Session (August 1942)
(D) Karachi Session (1931)

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
The All India Congress Committee passed the Quit India Resolution at its Bombay session on 8 August 1942.



19 **Which of the following leaders gave the slogan "Do or Die" during the Quit India Movement?**

(A) Jawaharlal Nehru
(B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(C) Subhas Chandra Bose
(D) Mahatma Gandhi

Answer: (D)

Explanation:
Mahatma Gandhi gave the famous slogan "Do or Die" during his speech at the Bombay session on 8 August 1942.



20 **Which of the following was a reason for the failure of the August Offer to satisfy the Indian National Congress?**

(A) It promised immediate independence
(B) It offered only a limited expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council
(C) It accepted the demand for a separate Pakistan
(D) It included a provision for responsible government at the centre

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The August Offer was rejected by the Congress because it offered only a limited expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council and did not promise immediate independence.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge: August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement (1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

21 **Which of the following was a feature of the Quit India Movement?**

(A) It was a violent movement from the beginning
(B) It was a completely non-violent movement
(C) It was a mass movement with widespread popular participation
(D) It was led by the British government

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
The Quit India Movement became a mass movement with widespread popular participation, including students, workers, peasants and women.



22 **Which of the following was proposed in the Cripps Proposal regarding the provinces?**

(A) Provinces could be forced to join the Union
(B) Provinces could opt out of the Union
(C) Provinces would be divided into two groups
(D) Provinces would be directly under British rule

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
The Cripps Proposal provided that provinces would have the right to opt out of the proposed Indian Union and frame their own constitution.



23 **Which of the following leaders was associated with the parallel government in Ballia (U.P.) during the Quit India Movement?**

(A) Aruna Asaf Ali
(B) Chittu Pandey
(C) Usha Mehta
(D) Ram Manohar Lohia

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
Chittu Pandey established a parallel government in Ballia (U.P.) in August 1942 during the Quit India Movement.



24 **Which of the following correctly describes the role of Princely States during the Quit India Movement?**

(A) Most princely states actively supported it
(B) Most princely states remained neutral or loyal to the British
(C) All princely states joined the movement
(D) Princely states formed a separate union

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
Most princely states did not support the Quit India Movement and remained neutral or loyal to the British, as the movement was primarily confined to British India.



25 **Which of the following was a method used by the British to suppress the Quit India Movement?**

(A) Granting immediate dominion status
(B) Lifting press restrictions
(C) Widespread arrests and censorship
(D) Negotiations with Congress leaders

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
The British suppressed the Quit India Movement through widespread arrests, strict censorship, press restrictions and use of force.



Wartime Diplomacy and Nationalist Upsurge: August Offer, Cripps Mission, and the Quit India Movement (1940 – 1944 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

26 The August Offer (1940) proposed the formation of a War Advisory Council. Which of the following best describes its composition?

(A) Completely Indian members
(B) Majority Indian members with British Viceroy
(C) Equal number of British and Indian members
(D) Majority British members with some Indian leaders

Answer: (D)

Explanation:

The August Offer proposed a War Advisory Council with a majority of British members and some Indian leaders to associate Indians with the war effort, without transferring real power.



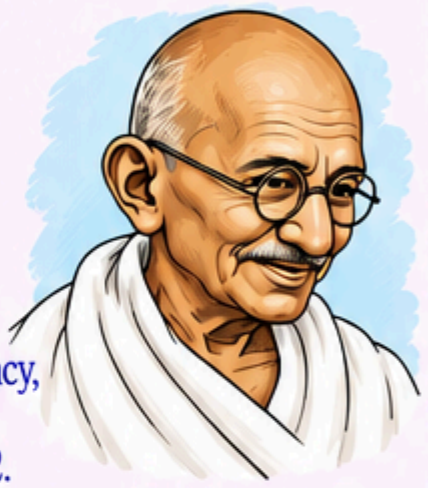
27 Which of the following was a key reason for Mahatma Gandhi to launch the Quit India Movement in 1942?

(A) Failure of the August Offer
(B) Failure of the Cripps Mission
(C) Japanese advance in Southeast Asia
(D) All of the above

Answer: (D)

Explanation:

The failure of the August Offer, the rejection of the Cripps Mission, and the Japanese advance towards India created a sense of urgency, leading Gandhi to launch the Quit India Movement in 1942.



28 Which Japanese event increased the British anxiety about Indian cooperation during World War II?

(A) Capture of Singapore (1942)
(B) Attack on Pearl Harbor (1941)
(C) Invasion of China (1937)
(D) Allied victory at El Alamein (1942)

Answer: (A)

Explanation:

The Japanese capture of Singapore in February 1942 shook British confidence and increased the urgency to secure Indian cooperation in the war effort.



29 Which of the following leaders was associated with the underground activities during the Quit India Movement?

(A) C. Rajagopalachari
(B) Usha Mehta
(C) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
(D) Sir Stafford Cripps

Answer: (B)

Explanation:

Usha Mehta played a key role in the underground activities during the Quit India Movement by operating the 'Congress Radio', which broadcast messages against British rule.



30 Which of the following was an immediate result of the Quit India Movement?

(A) Grant of dominion status to India
(B) Widespread arrests of Congress leaders
(C) Acceptance of the Cripps Proposal
(D) End of World War II

Answer: (B)

Explanation:

Immediately after the launch of the Quit India Movement, most top Congress leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, were arrested by the British government in August 1942.



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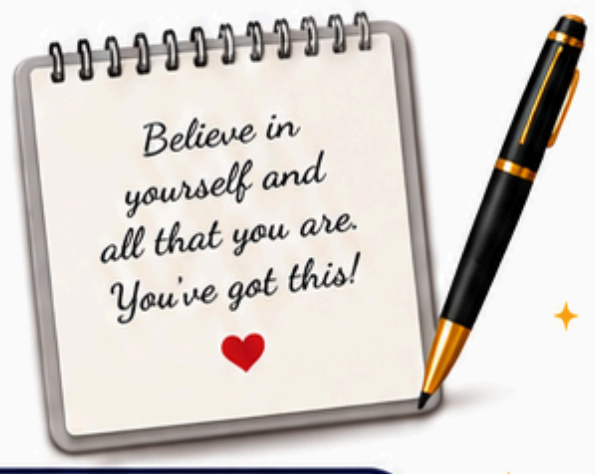
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