CREATOR ACADEMIA

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE):

Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

INTRODUCTION

Meaning and Nature

- Revolutionary nationalism refers to the use of violent and extra-constitutional methods to end British rule in India.
- It was based on the belief that armed struggle and secret organisations could overthrow the colonial government.
- It developed as a response to the growing frustration with the moderates' constitutional methods and the repressive policies of the British.

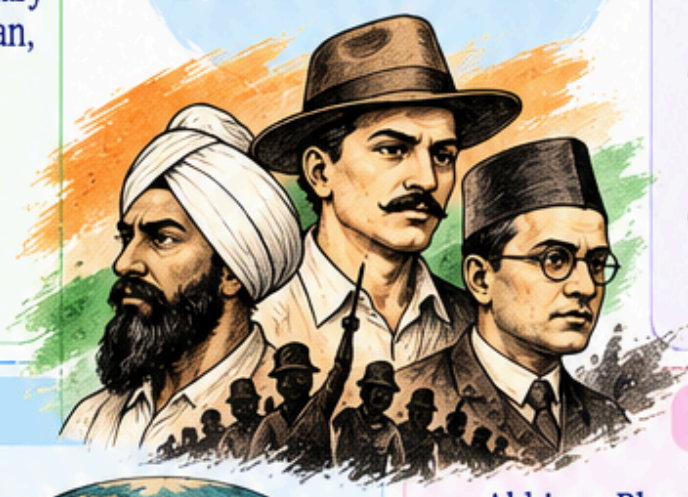
Time Period

- The first phase of revolutionary nationalism spanned from 1907 to 1917.
- It coincided with the rise of extremism, the Swadeshi movement, and the global events of World War I.
- During this period, several secret societies emerged in India and abroad, and revolutionary activities took the form of assassinations, armed conspiracies, and international alliances.

Causes

- Disillusionment with the moderate methods of the Indian National Congress.
- Repressive measures by the British after the Partition of Bengal (1905).
- Influence of nationalist and revolutionary movements abroad (e.g., Irish, Russian, Italian and American revolutions).
- Inspirational impact of 1857, seen as India's first war of independence.
- Growth of educated youth willing to adopt violent means.

REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM (1907 – 1917 CE)



Key Features

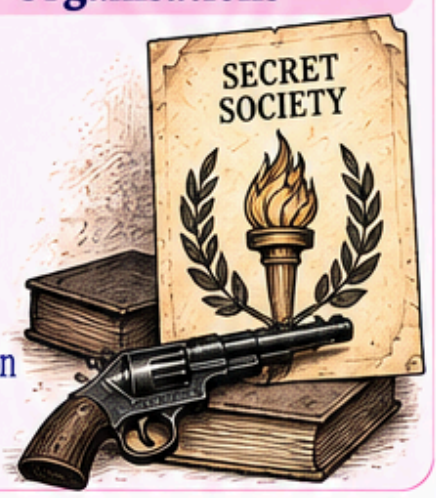
- Formation of secret societies with a small, committed membership.
- Use of violent methods such as assassinations, bombings and armed rebellions.
- Nationalist propaganda through literature, newspapers and speeches.
- Close links with international revolutionary groups and support from abroad.
- Involvement of both Indian revolutionaries in India and Indian expatriates abroad (e.g., Ghadar Movement).

Areas of Activity

- **India:** Secret societies, political assassinations, attempts to obtain arms and incite rebellions.
- **Abroad:** Indian students and expatriates formed organisations, spread propaganda and sought foreign support.
- **Major centres abroad:** USA, Canada, Britain, Germany, France, Japan and Southeast Asia.

Important Organisations

- Abhinav Bharat (India)
- Anushilan Samiti (Bengal)
- Jugantar (Bengal)
- Ghadar Party (USA)
- Berlin Committee (Germany)
- Hindustan Republican Association (early stage, 1910s)



Methods and Strategies

- Recruitment of youth through nationalist literature and personal contacts.
- Collection of funds and procurement of arms (often from abroad).
- Use of coded communication and secret networks.
- Planning of armed uprisings with the help of international allies.

Significance

- Kept the spirit of resistance alive and inspired future generations.
- Internationalised the Indian freedom struggle.
- Exposed the weaknesses of British intelligence and administration.
- Played a crucial role in radicalising the Indian national movement and paved the way for the later militant and mass movements.

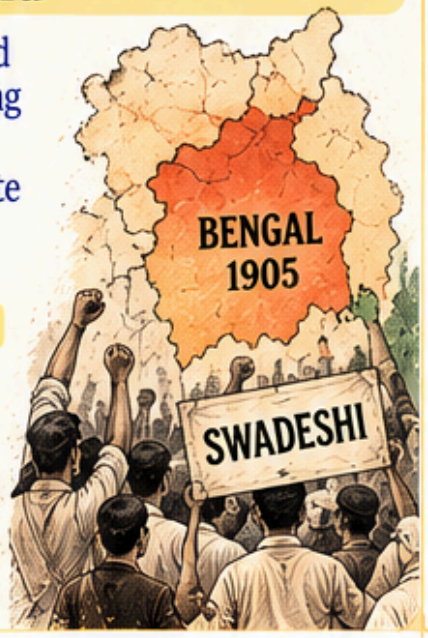
First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

1. Revolutionary Activities in Bengal

Background

- **Partition of Bengal (1905)** created widespread anger, especially among the educated youth.
- Disappointment with the moderate **methods** of the Indian National Congress.
- Growth of **nationalism, Swadeshi and Boycott movement** provided a fertile ground for revolutionary activities.
- Influence of earlier societies like **Anushilan Samiti** and **Yugantar**.



Major Revolutionary Organisations

- **Anushilan Samiti** (founded 1902, revived 1906)
  - Founded by **Pramathanath Mitra** (inspired by Satish Chandra Bose).
  - Aim: physical, moral and spiritual training of youth for armed struggle.
- **Yugantar** (founded 1906)
  - Led by **Bipin Chandra Pal, Barindra Kumar Ghosh** and **Aurobindo Ghosh.**
  - Published the newspaper 'Yugantar' to spread revolutionary ideas.

Key Leaders

- **Aurobindo Ghosh**
  - Ideologue; believed in complete independence through revolutionary means.
- **Barindra Kumar Ghosh**
  - Organised armed revolutionary activities.
- **Bipin Chandra Pal**
  - Inspired youth through fiery speeches and writings.
- **Hem Chandra Kanungo**
  - Trained revolutionaries in the use of explosives in Paris.

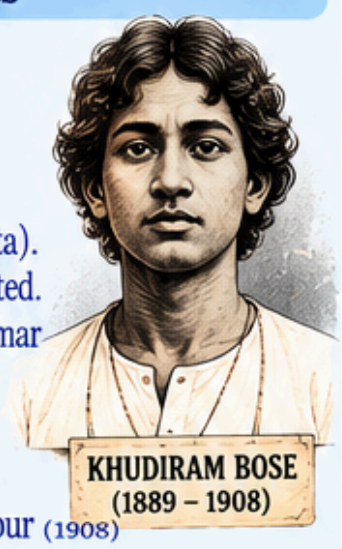
REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES IN BENGAL

Methods and Activities

- **Physical training** and **gymnasiums** to build strength and discipline.
- Use of **secret oaths** and a small, trusted membership.
- Collection and **manufacture** of arms and bombs.
- Training in the use of explosives (influenced by European revolutionaries).
- **Political dacoities** (robberies) to raise funds.
- **Targeted assassinations** of British officials and informers.
- Publication of **revolutionary literature** to spread nationalist ideas.

Important Incidents

- **Attempt on the life of Viceroy Lord Minto (1909)** – failed bomb attack in Delhi (planned by revolutionaries from Bengal).
- **Alipore Bomb Case (1908)**
  - Bomb factory unearthed at Maniktala (Calcutta).
  - Aurobindo Ghosh was arrested but later acquitted.
  - Several revolutionaries, including Barindra Kumar Ghosh, were convicted.
- **Assassination of British officials**
  - Douglas Kingsford (former Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta) targeted at Muzaffarpur (1908) by **Khudiram Bose** and Prafulla Chaki.
  - Shooter Khudiram Bose was caught and hanged (at the age of 18), becoming a symbol of youth resistance.



Impact and Significance

- Infused a **spirit of fear** in the minds of British officials.
- Popularised the ideal of **armed resistance** among Indian youth.
- Demonstrated the **willingness of youth to sacrifice** their lives for the nation.
- Influenced **revolutionary movements** in other parts of India and abroad (e.g., Ghadar Movement).
- Although **militarily limited**, it kept the flame of resistance alive and inspired future generations.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

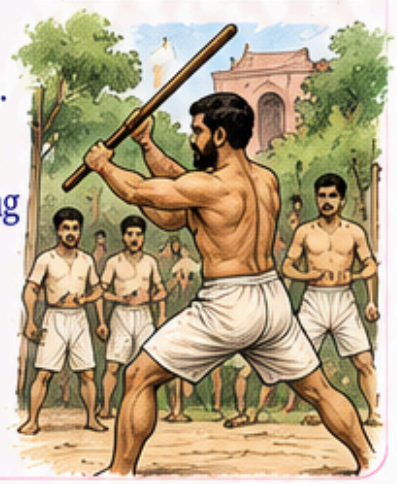
1. Revolutionary Activities in Bengal

A. Anushilan Samiti and the Yugantar Group

Anushilan Samiti

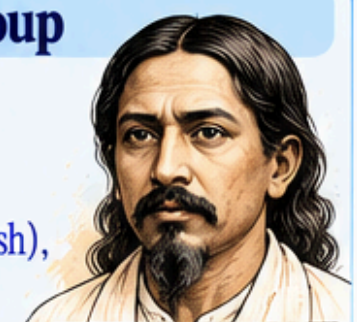
- **Founded:** 1902 (revived in 1906)
- **Founder:** Pramathanath Mitra (inspired by the ideas of Swami Vivekananda and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay).
- **Centre:** Calcutta (later spread to other parts of Bengal and India).
- **Meaning:** 'Anushilan' means physical and spiritual training or disciplined practice.
- **Membership:** Mainly students, youth and the educated middle class.
- **Objectives:**
  - Physical, moral and spiritual training of youth.
  - Preparation for armed struggle to end British rule.
  - Spread of nationalist ideas.

PRAMATHANATH MITRA (Founder)



Yugantar Group

- **Founded:** 1906
- **Founders/Key Leaders:** Barindra Kumar Ghosh (younger brother of Aurobindo Ghosh), Bipin Chandra Pal and a group of revolutionary youths.
- **Centre:** Calcutta.
- **Organ:** Published the Bengali newspaper 'Yugantar'.
- **Membership:** Attracted radical nationalist youth, including students and intellectuals.
- **Objectives:**
  - To spread revolutionary ideas through literature and propaganda.
  - To organise armed resistance against British rule.
  - To inspire the youth for sacrifice and militant action.



AUROBINDO GHOSH (Ideological Guide)

BARINDRA KUMAR GHOSH (Key Leader)

Key Differences

Aspect	Anushilan Samiti	Yugantar Group
Year of origin	1902 (revived 1906)	1906
Founder/ key figure	Pramathanath Mitra	Barindra Kumar Ghosh
Main focus	Physical and spiritual training, secret organisation	Revolutionary propaganda and direct action
Organ	No specific newspaper in early years	'Yugantar' (newspaper)
Nature	More disciplined and structured	More radical and action-oriented
Membership base	Educated youth, students	Radical nationalist youth, revolutionaries

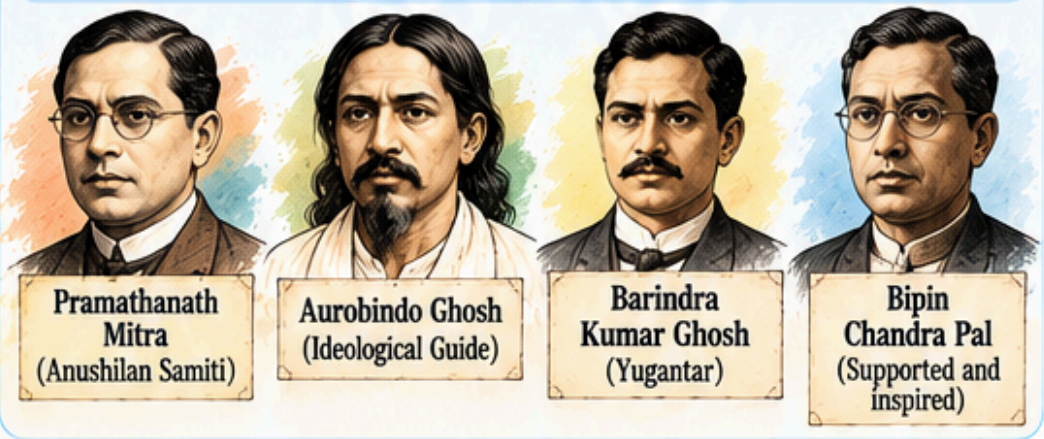
Relationship between the Two

- Both shared similar objectives and methods.
- Many members were common to both organisations.
- Worked in close coordination and inspired each other.
- They were part of the broader revolutionary network in Bengal.

Methods and Activities

- Establishment of secret branches in Bengal and other parts of India.
- Physical training, lathi clubs and gymnasiums.
- Use of secret oaths and codes.
- Collection and manufacture of arms and explosives.
- Organisation of political dacoities (robberies) to raise funds.
- Assassination attempts on British officials.
- Spread of revolutionary literature and nationalist propaganda.

Important Personalities



Pramathanath Mitra (Anushilan Samiti)

Aurobindo Ghosh (Ideological Guide)

Barindra Kumar Ghosh (Yugantar)

Bipin Chandra Pal (Supported and inspired)

Legacy and Significance

- Created a strong revolutionary network in Bengal.
- Inspired a generation of youth for armed struggle.
- Demonstrated the growing discontent with moderate methods of the Indian National Congress.
- Played a key role in popularising the idea of complete independence.
- Their activities laid the foundation for later revolutionary movements in India.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

1. Revolutionary Activities in Bengal

B. Major Incidents in Bengal

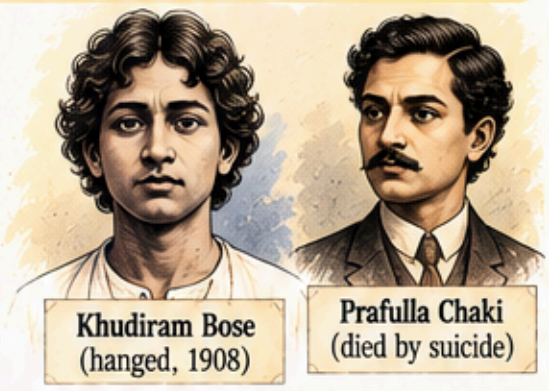
1 Attempt on the Life of Viceroy Lord Minto (1909)

- **Date:** 23 December 1909
- **Place:** Delhi
- **Planned by:** Revolutionaries from Bengal (linked to Anushilan Samiti).
- **Method:** A bomb was thrown at the Viceroy's procession near the Delhi Jama Masjid.
- **Result:** The Viceroy escaped unhurt.
- **Significance:** Showed the growing boldness of revolutionaries and their ability to strike at the highest British authority in India.

2 Alipore Bomb Case (1908)

- **Background:** Following the Muzaffarpur incident, a large number of revolutionaries were arrested in Calcutta and nearby areas.
- **Key Figures:** Aurobindo Ghosh, his brother Barindra Kumar Ghosh, and several members of the Yugantar group.
- **Charges:** Conspiracy to wage war against the British through bomb manufacture and revolutionary activities.
- **Result:** Aurobindo Ghosh was acquitted due to lack of evidence, but Barindra Kumar Ghosh and others were convicted.
- **Significance:** Brought the revolutionary movement in Bengal into national and international attention.

3 Muzaffarpur Bomb Case (1908)

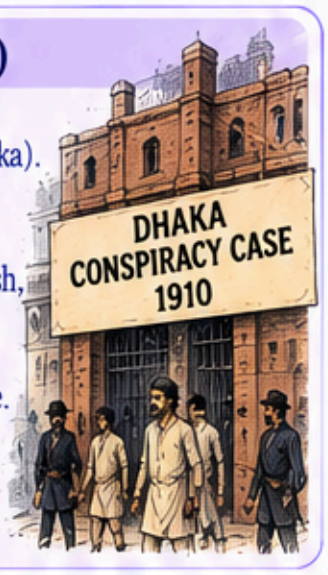


- **Date:** 30 April 1908
- **Place:** Muzaffarpur (Bihar)
- **Target:** British judge Kingsford (formerly Chief Presidency Magistrate in Calcutta, known for his harsh punishment of nationalists).
- **Perpetrators:** Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki.
- **Event:** They threw a bomb at a carriage, but it mistakenly killed two British ladies.
- **Result:** Khudiram Bose was captured and hanged (on 11 August 1908) at the age of 18, becoming a martyr. Prafulla Chaki died by suicide.
- **Significance:** Inspired a generation of youth and made Khudiram Bose a symbol of revolutionary nationalism.

4 Assassination of Sir Curzon Wyllie (1909)

- **Date:** 1 July 1909
- **Place:** London (India House)
- **Perpetrator:** Madan Lal Dhingra (associated with India House and inspired by revolutionary ideas from Bengal).
- **Target:** Sir Curzon Wyllie, a senior British official and advisor on Indian affairs.
- **Result:** Sir Curzon Wyllie was shot dead. Madan Lal Dhingra was arrested, tried and hanged (on 17 August 1909).
- **Significance:** Gave international visibility to the Indian revolutionary movement and inspired revolutionaries in India and abroad.

5 Dhaka Conspiracy Case (1910)



- **Background:** After the Alipore trial, revolutionary activities continued in Eastern Bengal (especially Dhaka).
- **Accused:** Members of the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group.
- **Charges:** Conspiracy to wage war against the British, manufacture of bombs and collection of arms.
- **Result:** Several revolutionaries were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment or transportation for life.
- **Significance:** Despite heavy repression, the case showed the continued strength and expansion of revolutionary networks in Bengal.

6 Howrah–Shibpur Conspiracy Case (1910)

- **Place:** Howrah and Shibpur (Bengal).
- **Accused:** Revolutionaries linked to the Anushilan Samiti.
- **Charges:** Possession and manufacture of bombs, conspiracy to wage war against the British.
- **Result:** Many were arrested and given strict punishments, including transportation for life.
- **Significance:** Reflected the spread of revolutionary activities beyond Calcutta to other parts of Bengal.

Overall Impact of These Incidents

- Demonstrated the determination and courage of Indian youth.
- Created a sense of fear among British officials.
- Inspired revolutionary activities in other parts of India and abroad.
- Popularised the use of secret societies, bombs and targeted assassinations as
- methods of struggle.
- Despite heavy repression, these incidents kept the spirit of armed resistance alive during the first phase of revolutionary nationalism.

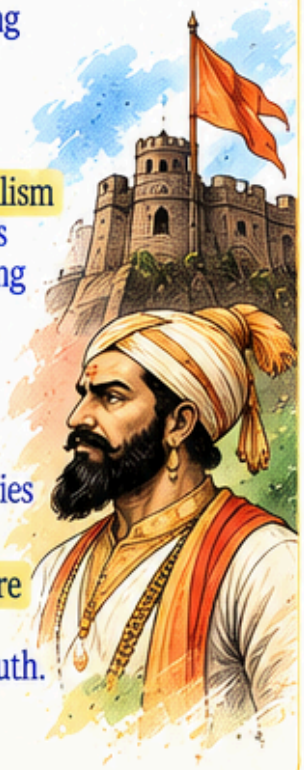
First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

2. Revolutionary Activities in Maharashtra

Background

- Maharashtra had a strong tradition of resistance inspired by the legacy of Shivaji.
- Rise of assertive nationalism due to repressive policies of the British and growing disillusionment with moderate politics.
- Influence of Swadeshi movement (after 1905) and revolutionary activities in Bengal.
- Use of history and culture to instil a spirit of militancy among the youth.



Key Figures

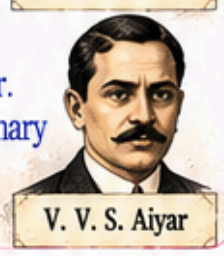
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**
  - Inspired revolutionary youth through his writings, speeches and nationalist programmes.
  - Popularised Ganapati Utsav and Shivaji Jayanti to awaken national consciousness.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**
  - Founded Abhinav Bharat.
  - Authored 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857' (banned by the British).

V. D. Savarkar

- **V. V. S. Aiyar**
  - Close associate of Savarkar.
  - Helped in training revolutionary youth and procuring arms.



V. V. S. Aiyar

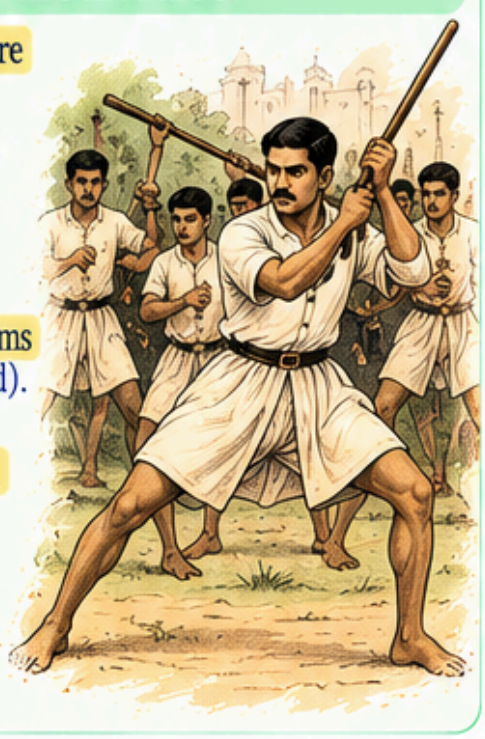
Major Organisations

- **Abhinav Bharat (1904)**
  - Founded by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.
  - Secret society aimed at overthrowing British rule through armed revolution.
  - Branches established in Maharashrta and abroad (e.g., London).

- **Mitra Mela** (earlier name)
  - Formed in Nasik (c. 1899) by Savarkar and his friends.
  - Later developed into Abhinav Bharat.

Methods and Activities

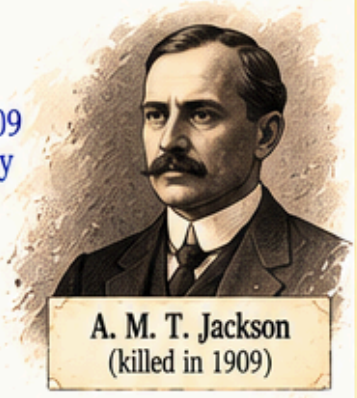
- Spread of revolutionary literature to inspire the youth.
- Use of secret oaths and a small, trusted membership.
- Physical training, lathi clubs and military drills.
- Collection and procurement of arms (with the help of contacts abroad).
- Establishment of links with revolutionary groups in France, England and the USA.
- Use of coded communication and underground networks.



Major Incidents

1 Nasik Conspiracy Case (1909)

- Assassination of A. M. T. Jackson (Collector of Nasik) on 21 December 1909 by Anant Kanhere, a young revolutionary linked to Abhinav Bharat.
- Several revolutionaries, including Savarkar's brother Ganesh Savarkar, were arrested.
- Savarkar was also implicated and later arrested in 1910 in London and brought to India.



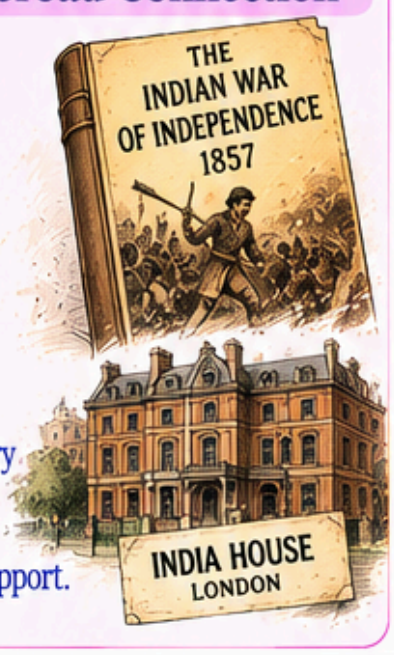
A. M. T. Jackson (killed in 1909)

2 Attempt on the Life of Lord Minto (1909)

- A bomb was thrown at the Viceroy Lord Minto in Delhi on 23 December 1909 by a revolutionary from Maharashtta (Vasant Kanhere – though associated with broader revolutionary networks).
- Showed the reach of revolutionary activities beyond Bengal.

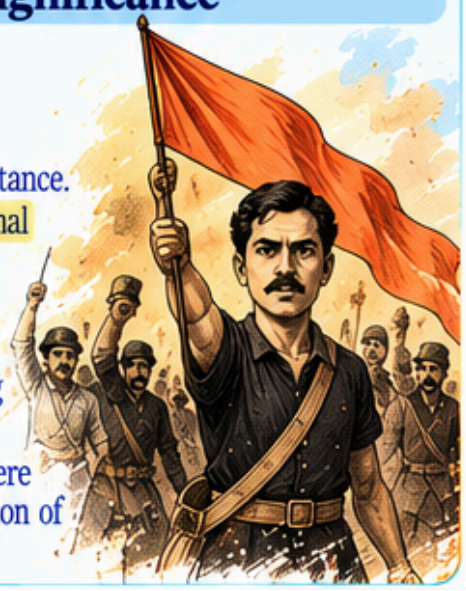
Role of Publications and Abroad Connection

- **'The Indian War of Independence, 1857' by V. D. Savarkar**
  - Highlighted the armed struggle of 1857 as a war of independence.
  - Banned by the British, but circulated secretly in India and abroad.
- **Links with India House (London)**
  - Savarkar stayed at India House, which became a centre of revolutionary activities.
  - Connections with international revolutionary groups for arms and support.



Impact and Significance

- Infused a spirit of militancy and fearlessness among Indian youth.
- Demonstrated the use of targeted assassinations as a method of resistance.
- Created an all-India and international network of revolutionaries.
- Inspired revolutionary activities in other parts of India.
- Exposed the British to the growing threat of armed resistance.
- Although the movement faced severe repression, it kept alive the tradition of revolutionary nationalism.



2. Revolutionary Activities in Maharashtra

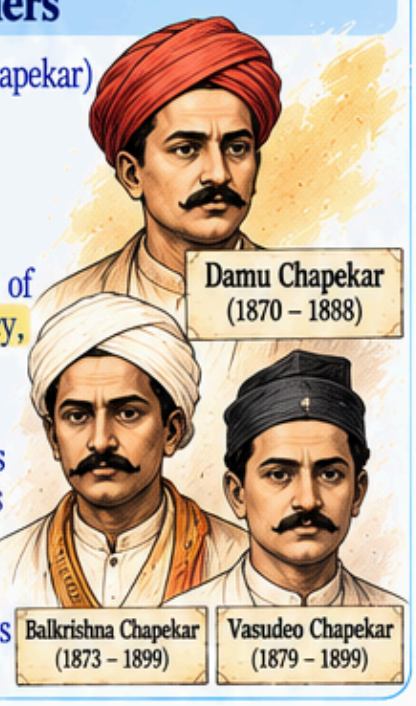
A. The Chapekar Brothers (1897 CE)

1 Background

- In 1896–97, Pune was hit by a severe plague epidemic.
- The British government imposed harsh and humiliating measures under the Plague Committee.
- Homes were entered without permission, and women were even subjected to indignities by British officials.
- These repressive measures generated widespread anger among the people, especially the youth.

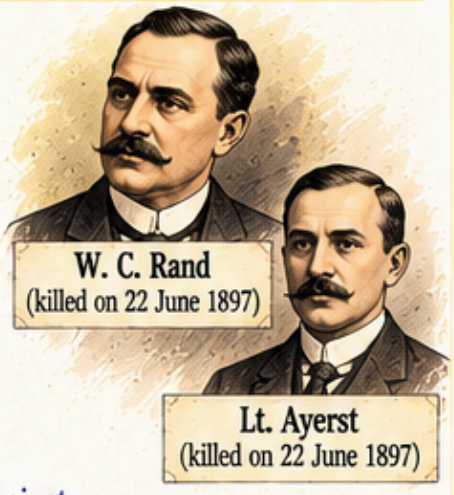
2 The Chapekar Brothers

- **Damu Chapekar** (Damodar Hari Chapekar) (b. 1870)
- **Balkrishna Chapekar** (b. 1873)
- **Vasudeo Chapekar** (b. 1879)
- They were inspired by the teachings of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Shivaji's legacy, and the growing spirit of national self-respect.
- They believed that armed action was necessary to avenge the humiliations inflicted on Indians by the British.
- They were associated with secret groups and physical training activities in Pune.



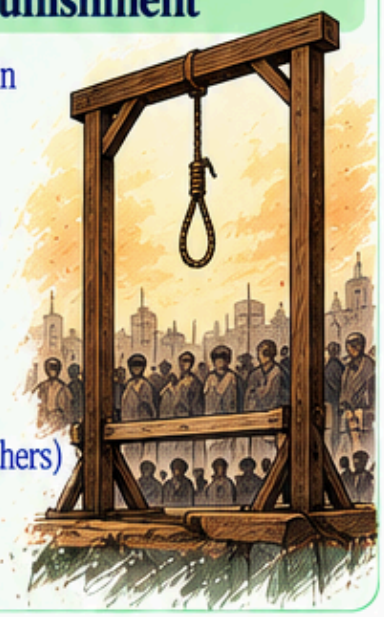
3 Assassination of W. C. Rand (22 June 1897)

- **W. C. Rand** was the Chairman of the Plague Committee in Pune.
- He was responsible for the oppressive and insulting measures during the plague.
- On 22 June 1897, Damodar Chapekar and Balkrishna Chapekar shot dead W. C. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst as they were returning from a function at the Government House in Pune.
- The attack was a retaliatory action against the atrocities committed by the British officials.



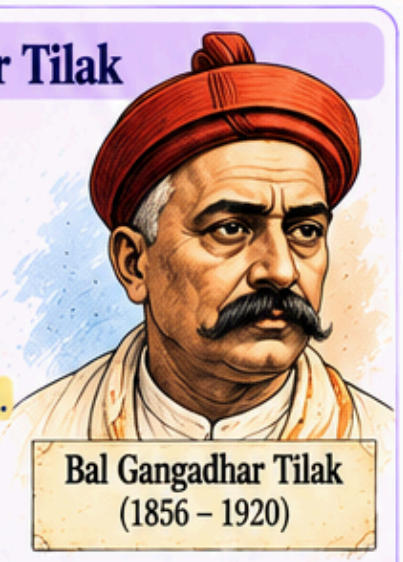
4 Arrest, Trial and Punishment

- **Damodar Chapekar** was arrested in April 1898, tried and hanged on 18 April 1898.
- **Balkrishna Chapekar** was arrested later and hanged on 12 May 1899.
- **Vasudeo Chapekar**, who was not involved in the initial attack, was arrested for his alleged role in the murder of an informer (Dravid brothers) and was hanged on 8 May 1899.



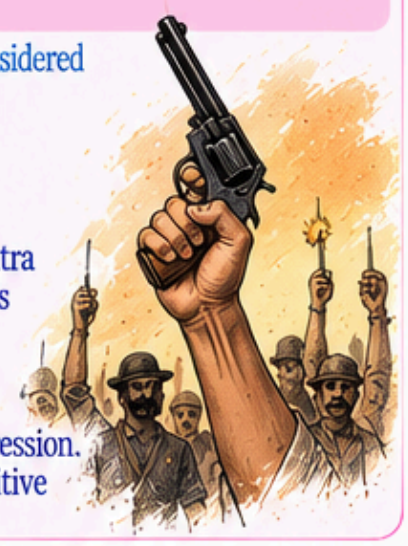
5 Role of Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- Although Tilak was not directly involved in the assassination, his nationalist writings and speeches inspired the Chapekar brothers.
- The British charged Tilak with sedition for his writings, particularly in his newspapers Kesari and Mahratta.
- Tilak was tried and sentenced to 18 months of rigorous imprisonment in 1897.



6 Significance

- The Chapekar brothers' action is considered the first major act of revolutionary violence against the British in India during the modern period.
- It marked the beginning of armed revolutionary activities in Mahaarshtra and inspired many young nationalists across India.
- It demonstrated growing anger and the willingness of the youth to use violent methods against British oppression.
- It exposed the repressive and insensitive nature of British rule in India.



7 Legacy

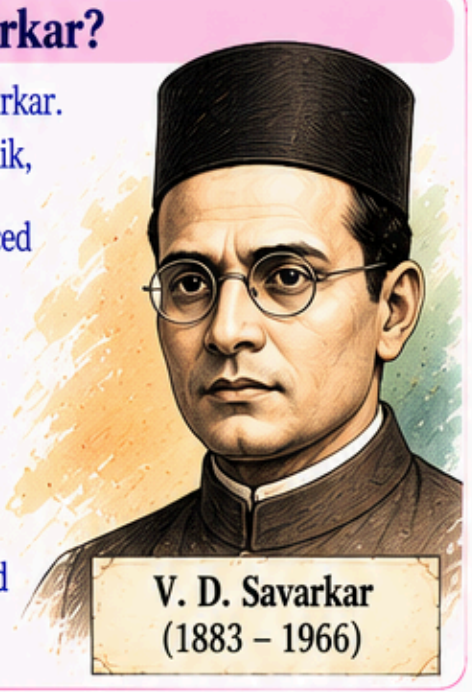
- The sacrifice of the Chapekar brothers became a symbol of resistance and inspired later revolutionary groups in Maharashtra and other parts of India.
- Their action strengthened the belief that armed struggle could be an effective method to fight British rule.
- They are remembered as pioneers of the revolutionary movement in India.

2. Revolutionary Activities in Maharashtra

B. V.D. Savarkar and Abhinav Bharat (1904 CE)

1 Who was V. D. Savarkar?

- **Full name:** Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.
- **Born:** 28 May 1883, Bhagur (Nashik, Maharashrta).
- A brilliant student, deeply influenced by Indian history, the exploits of Shivaji and the revolutionary tradition.
- Believed in armed revolution to achieve complete independence from British rule.
- Went to England in 1906 for higher studies, where he expanded his revolutionary activities.

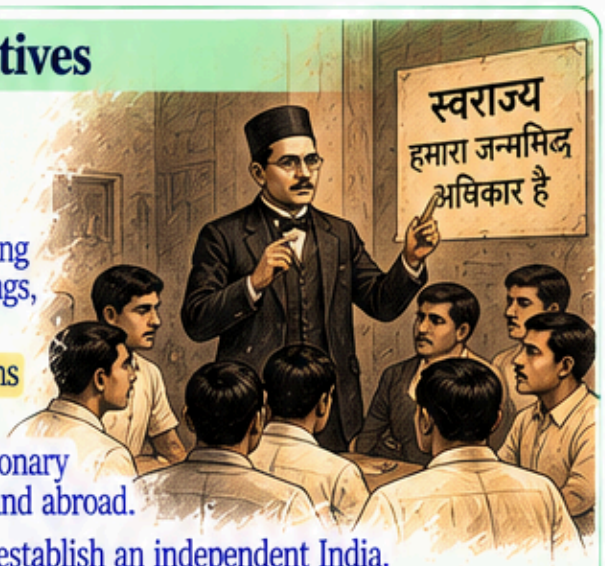


V. D. Savarkar (1883 – 1966)

2 Abhinav Bharat (1904 CE)

- **Founded:** 1904 in Nashik by V. D. Savarkar along with his brother Ganesh (Babarao) Savarkar and close associates.
- **Meaning:** A secret society aimed at reviving the spirit of national pride and organising armed resistance against the British.
- **Inspiration:** Earlier revolutionary groups like the Chapekar brothers and the legacy of Shivaji.
- **Membership:** Mainly students and youth, with a small, trusted network.
- **Branches:** Spread in Maharashata and later connected with revolutionary groups in other parts of India.

3 Aims and Objectives



- To create a strong network of revolutionaries committed to armed struggle.
- To spread nationalist ideas among the youth through secret meetings, literature and study circles.
- To collect and manufacture arms and explosives.
- To establish links with revolutionary groups in other parts of India and abroad.
- To overthrow British rule and establish an independent India.

4 Activities

- Organisation of secret meetings and physical training camps.
- Use of coded communication and secret oaths.
- Collection and procurement of arms and revolutionary literature.
- Inspired youth by writing articles, poems and historical accounts.
- In London, Savarkar formed the India House (1905), which became a centre for Indian revolutionaries, especially students.

5 Key Associates

- **Ganesh Savarkar (Babarao Savarkar)** – elder brother, key supporter, later imprisoned for revolutionary activities.
- **S. S. Ranade** – close associate.
- **M. P. T. Acharya** – revolutionary colleague in London.
- **Madan Lal Dhingra** – associated with India House, assassinated Curzon Wyllie in 1909.
- **V. V. S. Aiyar** – revolutionary and close associate.
- Many other Indian students who were part of India House and Abhinav Bharat.

Ganesh (Babarao) Savarkar (1879 – 1945)

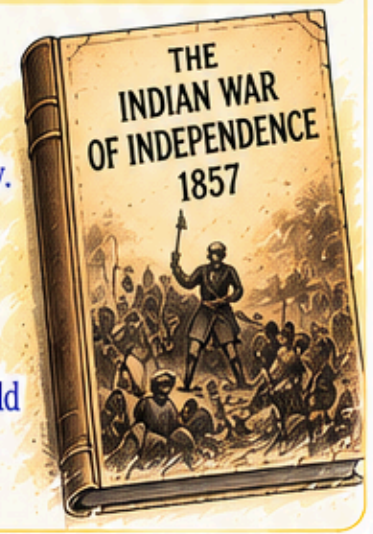
Madan Lal Dhingra (1883 – 1909)

M. P. T. Acharya (1887 – 1954)

V. V. S. Aiyar (1881 – 1925)

6 Literary Contributions

- Wrote 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857'.
- Presented 1857 as a war of independence, not a mutiny.
- Banned by the British, but circulated secretly in India and abroad.
- Inspired a generation of revolutionaries with its bold and nationalist narrative.



7 Arrest, Trial and Punishment

- **Arrested in 1910** in London on charges of sedition and his involvement in revolutionary activities.
- **Famous incident:** attempted escape from the ship at Marseilles (France) in July 1910, but was recaptured.
- Sentenced to two fife terms of transportation (total 50 years).
- Deported to the Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands, where he remained imprisoned for many years.

8 Significance

- Abhinav Bharat laid the foundation for revolutionary activities in Maharashtra and beyond.
- V. D. Savarkar emerged as an important ideologue of armed revolution.
- Connected Indian revolutionaries in India and abroad.
- Inspired young Indians to take up militant methods for independence.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

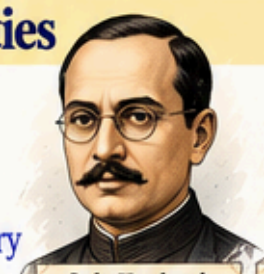
3. Revolutionary Activities in Punjab and Delhi

1 Background

- Punjab had a strong tradition of martial spirit, influenced by the legacy of the Sikh Gurus and the memory of the Sikh Empire.
- Harsh colonial policies, economic exploitation and racial discrimination created growing discontent.
- The partition of Bengal (1905) and repressive measures further fuelled revolutionary sentiments.

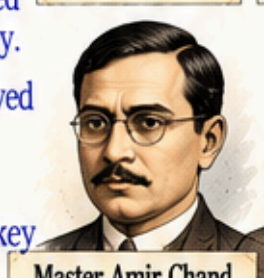
2 Key Personalities

- **Lala Hardayal** – intellectual and key figure later associated with the Ghadar Movement.
- **Bhai Parmanand** – revolutionary and educationist.
- **Master Amir Chand** – associated with the Delhi-Lahore conspiracy.
- **Basant Kumar Biswas** – involved in the assassination of Lord Hardinge.
- **Rash Behari Bose** – played a key role in revolutionary activities in Delhi and North India.



Lala Hardayal (1884 – 1939)

Bhai Parmanand (1876 – 1947)



Master Amir Chand (1880 – 1945)

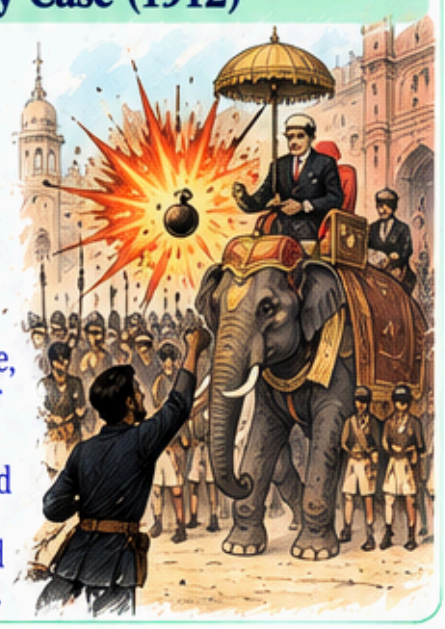
Rash Behari Bose (1886 – 1945)

3 Secret Societies and Networks

- Formation of revolutionary groups in Lahore, Amritsar and other parts of Punjab.
- Links with revolutionary groups in Bengal and Mahaarshtra.
- Use of secret meetings, coded communication and youth organisations.
- Procurement of arms and attempts to develop wider networks across North India.

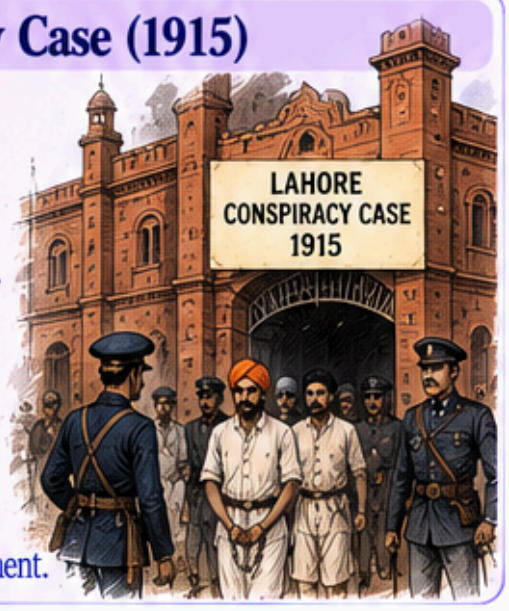
4 Delhi Conspiracy Case (1912)

- **Target:** Lord Hardinge, the Viceroy of India.
- **Date:** 23 December 1912.
- **Place:** Chandni Chowk, Delhi.
- **Method:** A bomb was thrown at Lord Hardinge during his state entry in Delhi.
- **Key persons:** Rash Behari Bose, Basant Kumar Biswas and their associates.
- **Result:** Lord Hardinge survived with injuries. A large number of revolutionaries were arrested in the subsequent investigation.



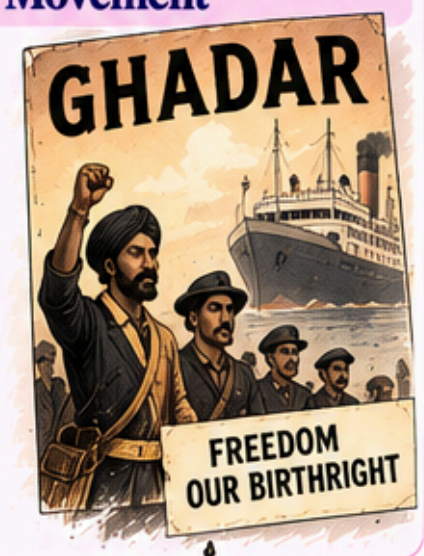
5 Lahore Conspiracy Case (1915)

- **Aim:** To carry out a mutiny in the Indian army with the help of arms from abroad.
- **Plan:** Coordinated uprisings in Punjab and other parts of North India.
- **Links:** Connected with the Ghadar Movement and international revolutionary networks.
- **Outcome:** The plan was betrayed, leading to mass arrests, trials and severe punishments, including death sentences and long terms of imprisonment.



6 Role of Ghadar Movement

- Founded in 1913 by Indian emigrants in the USA (with a strong base among Punjabis).
- Aimed at overthrowing British rule through armed revolt.
- Maintained active links with revolutionaries in Punjab and North India.
- Members returned to India during 1914–15 to organise uprisings, which inspired revolutionary activities in Punjab and Delhi.



7 Significance and Impact

- Expanded the geographical spread of revolutionary activities to Punjab and Delhi.
- Showed growing coordination among revolutionary groups in different regions.
- Inspired armed revolt in the Indian army and attracted support from Indians abroad.
- The Delhi and Lahore conspiracy cases highlighted the colonial government's fears of a pan-Indian armed uprising.
- Though the immediate plans failed, these activities strengthened the revolutionary tradition and laid the foundation for later movements.

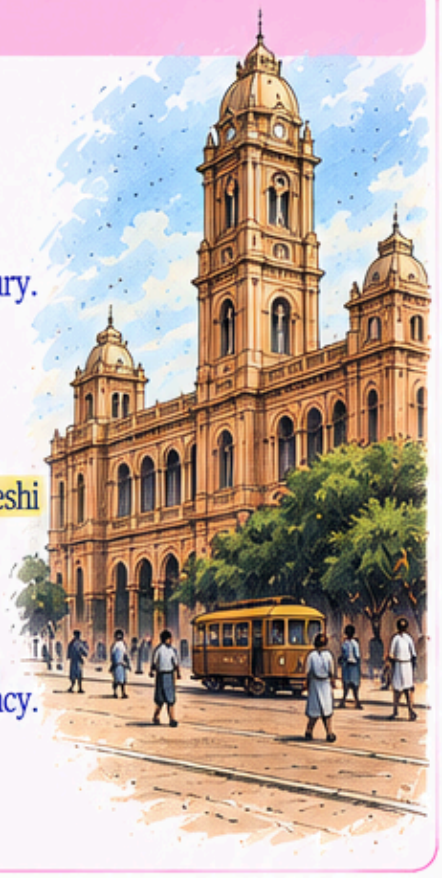
First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

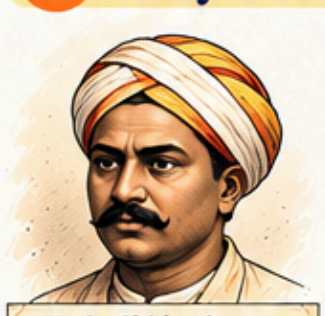
4. Revolutionary Activities in Madras

1 Background

- Although revolutionary activities were more prominent in Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab, Madras (Present-day Tamil Nadu) also witnessed important nationalist movements in the early 20th century.
- The region had a strong tradition of anti-colonial sentiment and intellectual nationalism.
- Revolutionary activities in Madras were closely linked with the Swadeshi movement, extremist politics and secret societies.
- The influence of Bengal and Maharashtra inspired many young nationalists in the Madras Presidency.



2 Key Personalities



V. O. Chidambaram Pillai
(1872 – 1936)

- Also known as V. O. C.
- Inspired by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the Swadeshi movement.
- Used economic nationalism as a means of resistance against the British.
- His activities, though not violent, had a strong revolutionary spirit.

Subramania Bharati
(1882 – 1921)

- Poet, journalist and revolutionary thinker.
- His writings inspired youth to fight for freedom.
- Advocated complete independence and social reforms.
- Worked closely with V. O. C. and other nationalists.

V. V. S. Aiyar
(1881 – 1925)

- Revolutionary, scholar and close associate of Savarkar.
- Returned from England and settled in Pondicherry (French territory).
- Involved in smuggling of arms and revolutionary literature.
- Trained young men in the use of weapons.

3 Swadeshi Movement in the South

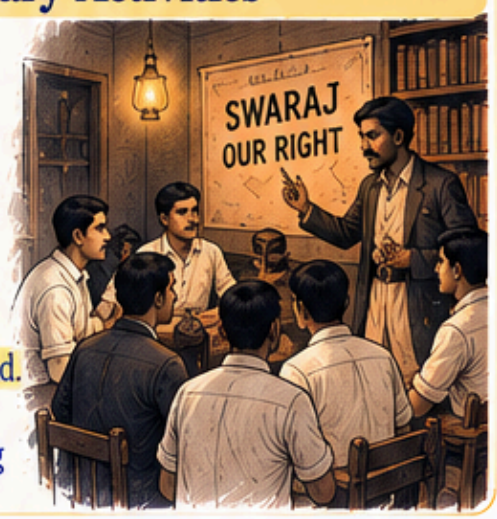
- The partition of Bengal (1905) and the Swadeshi movement created a strong nationalist wave in Madras.
- V. O. Chidambaram Pillai started the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906 to compete with the British India Steam Navigation Company.
- This was an act of economic resistance, challenging British monopoly in trade.
- It inspired a spirit of self-reliance and attracted the support of students, workers and intellectuals.

4 Pondicherry as a Revolutionary Centre

- Pondicherry, a French territory, became a safe haven for many revolutionaries.
- V. V. S. Aiyar, Subramania Bharati and other nationalists used Pondicherry for their activities.
- Revolutionary literature was published and smuggled into British India from here.
- It served as a link between revolutionary groups in India and abroad, including networks in France.
- British authorities kept a close watch on activities in Pondicherry.

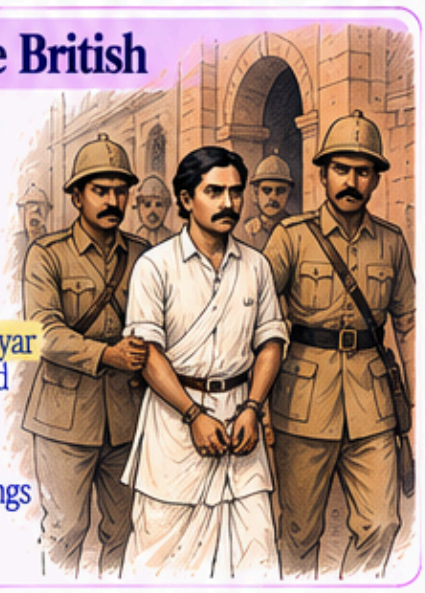
5 Other Revolutionary Activities

- Circulation of nationalist and revolutionary literature in Tamil and English.
- Organisation of secret meetings and youth groups.
- Influence of extremist leaders like Tilak and Aurobindo Ghosh.
- Links with revolutionary groups in Bengal, Maharashtra and abroad.
- Attempts to procure arms and spread revolutionary ideas among students and workers.



6 Repression by the British

- The British considered the activities in Madras as part of the wider revolutionary threat.
- V. O. C. was arrested in 1908 on charges of sedition and given rigorous imprisonment.
- Subramania Bharati and V. V. S. Aiyar lived in exile in Pondicherry to avoid British arrest.
- The colonial government kept a strict watch on publications, meetings and the movement of nationalist leaders in the region.



7 Significance

- Showed that revolutionary nationalism was not limited to Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab, but had a pan-Indian character.
- Demonstrated the use of both economic and intellectual means in the struggle against British rule.
- Pondicherry emerged as an important centre for revolutionary activities and international links.
- Inspired a generation of youth in South India to participate in the freedom struggle.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

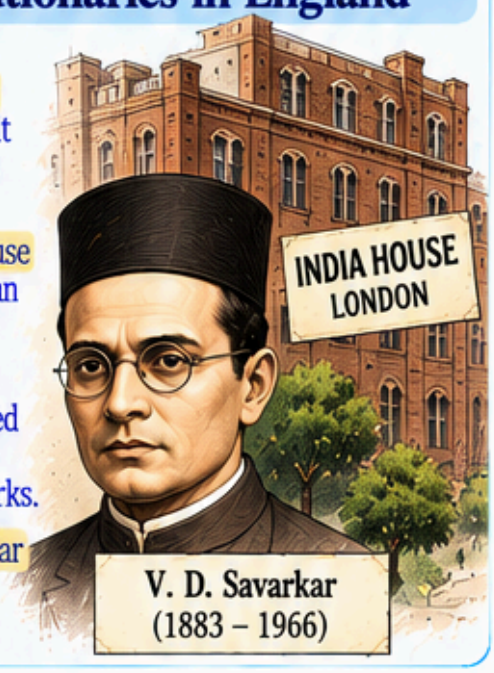
5. Revolutionary Activities Abroad

1 Reasons for Activities Abroad

- Repressive policies in India forced many revolutionaries to go abroad.
- Access to freedom of expression and organisation in Western countries.
- To mobilise international support for India's struggle for independence.
- To procure arms, funds and training.
- To establish links with other anti-colonial movements.

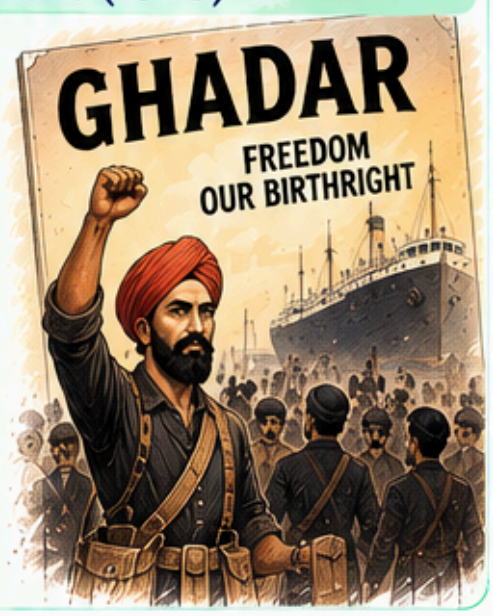
2 Indian Revolutionaries in England

- Many Indian students and nationalists went to England for higher studies and used it as a base for revolutionary activities.
- **Key organisation:** India House (London) – a centre for Indian revolutionaries.
- **Key figure:** V. D. Savarkar – inspired students, circulated revolutionary literature and linked with European networks.
- **Publications:** 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857'.



3 The Ghadar Movement (1913)

- Founded in 1913 in San Francisco (USA) by Indian emigrants, mainly Punjabis.
- **Key leaders:** Lala Har Dayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Kartar Singh Sarabha.
- **Publication:** Ghadar newspaper (in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi and English).
- Aimed at overthrowing British rule in India through armed revolt.
- Members returned to India during 1914–15 to organise an uprising, but the plan was betrayed.



4 Berlin Committee (1914)

- Also known as the Indian Independence Committee.
- Formed in Germany in 1914 by Indian revolutionaries such as Virendranath Chattopadhyaya (Chatto), Chempakaraman Pillai and others.
- Sought support from Germany and other Central Powers during World War I.
- Planned to organise an armed revolt in India with German help.
- Worked in coordination with the Ghadar Movement.

5 Kabul Mission (1915)

- A group of Indian revolutionaries, including Raja Mahendra Pratap, Maulana Barkatullah and Obaidullah Sindhi, went to Kabul.
- Established a Provisional Government of India in 1915 with Raja Mahendra Pratap as President.
- Sought support from Afghanistan, Germany and the Ottoman Empire against the British.
- However, it could not get significant military support.

6 Arms Conspiracies

- Attempts were made to procure arms from Germany and other countries.
- **Notable efforts:** German arms shipment (Annie Larsen incident, 1915) and the Maverick conspiracy.
- Planned to land arms on the Indian coast (e.g., Bengal, Punjab, and coastal areas), but most attempts failed due to British surveillance and betrayals.

7 Significance

- Internationalised the Indian freedom struggle.
- Built links with global anti-colonial and socialist movements.
- Created a network of revolutionaries across Europe, America and Asia.
- Demonstrated the willingness of Indians to use armed methods against British rule.
- Although most plans failed, these activities inspired future revolutionary movements and strengthened the nationalist spirit in India.

6. The Ghadar Movement (1913 – 1917 CE)

1 Background

- Large numbers of Indians, mainly from Punjab, had migrated to USA, Canada and other countries in search of better opportunities.
- They faced racial discrimination and humiliating treatment despite their hard work.
- These experiences created anger against British rule and a desire to fight for India's independence.
- The international environment during World War I (1914) also provided a favourable opportunity to start an armed revolt.

2 Formation (1913)

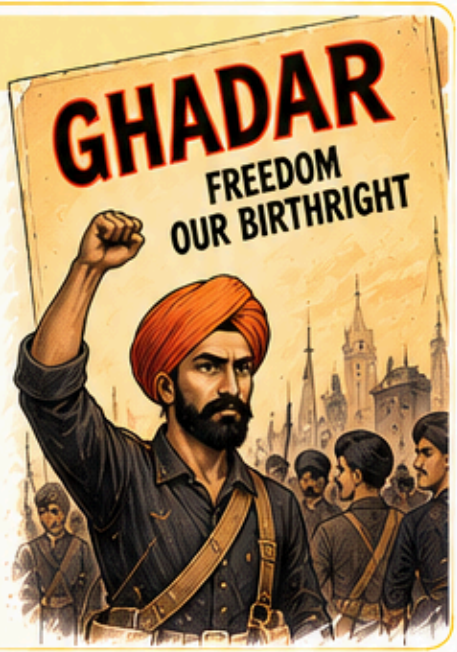
Lala Har Dayal (1884 – 1939)

Sohan Singh Bhakna (1870 – 1968)

Kartar Singh Sarabha (1896 – 1915)

- Founded in 1913 in San Francisco (USA) by Indian emigrants, mainly Punjabis.
- **Key founders:** Lala Har Dayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Kartar Singh Sarabha and others.
- **Aim:** To overthrow British rule in India through an armed revolt.
- 'Ghadar' means 'revolt' or 'mutiny'.
- **Organisational base:** Ghadar Party (Hindustan Ghadar Party).

3 Objectives



- To end British rule and establish an independent India.
- To organise an armed uprising with the help of Indian soldiers in the British Indian Army.
- To unite Indians at home and abroad for a common struggle.
- To seek international support from countries hostile to Britain during World War I.

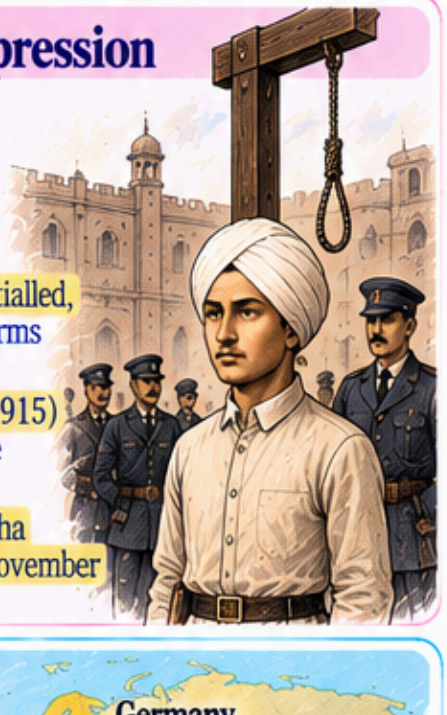
4 Activities

- Published the Ghadar newspaper (in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi and English) from San Francisco.
- Used the newspaper and literature to spread revolutionary ideas among Indians abroad and in India.
- Appealed to Indian soldiers to revolt against the British during World War I.
- Sent revolutionaries back to India to organise uprisings.
- Established links with Germany and other Central Powers for arms and financial support.

5 Plan for Uprising in India (1915)

- Revolutionaries returned to India in 1914–15 to organise a widespread revolt.
- Plan was to incite Indian soldiers, especially in Punjab, to mutiny.
- Attempts were made to coordinate uprisings in different parts of India, including Lahore, Ferozepur, Meerut and other cantonments.
- The planned date of revolt was initially 21 February 1915 (later changed), but the plan was betrayed.

6 Failure and Repression



- The plan was leaked due to informers, and the uprising could not take place.
- Many revolutionaries were arrested before the revolt.
- Several soldiers were court-martialled, given death sentences or long terms of imprisonment.
- The Lahore Conspiracy Case (1915) was the main trial related to the Ghadar Movement.
- Leaders like Kartar Singh Sarabha were executed (hanged on 16 November 1915).

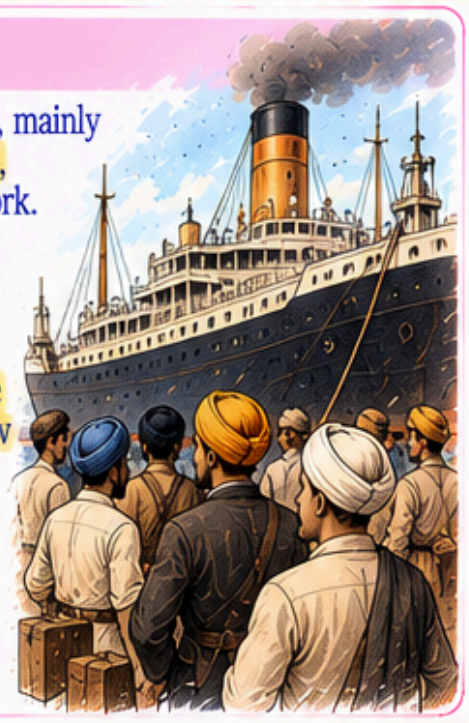
7 Significance and Legacy

- Though the immediate revolt failed, the Ghadar Movement:
- Showed the global character of India's struggle for independence.
- Inspired a new generation of revolutionaries with its spirit of sacrifice and militancy.
- Strengthened links between Indian revolutionaries at home and abroad.
- Exposed the vulnerability of British rule and created fear among the colonial authorities.
- It remains an important chapter in the history of India's freedom struggle.

6. The Ghadar Movement (1913 – 1917 CE)

A. Formation and Ideology

1 Background

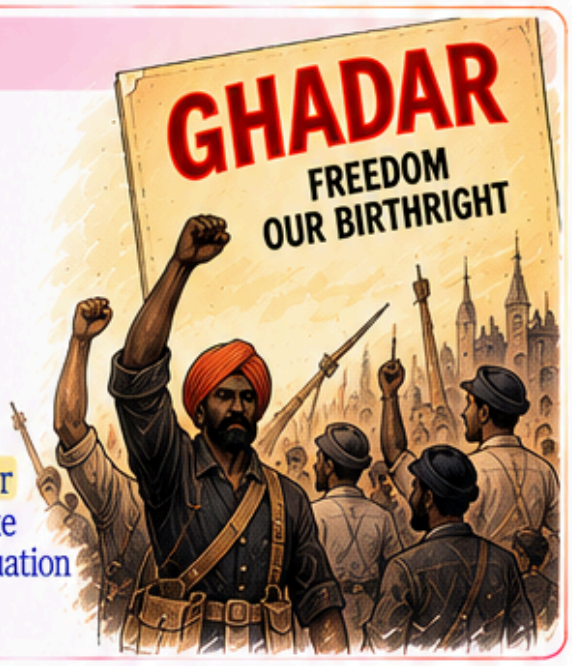


- Large number of Indian emigrants, mainly from Punjab, had gone to the USA, Canada and other countries for work.
- They faced racial discrimination, humiliating treatment and restrictive immigration laws.
- These experiences created a sense of anger and a desire to overthrow British rule in India.
- The international environment of World War I (1914) provided a favourable opportunity to start a revolutionary movement.

2 Formation of the Ghadar Party (1913)

- Founded in **1913** in San Francisco (USA) by Indian emigrants, mainly Punjabis.
- **Key founders:** Lala Har Dayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Kartar Singh Sarabha and other associates.
- **Organisational base:** Hindu Temple (Yugantar Ashram) in San Francisco became the centre of activities.
- **Name:** The organisation was called the Ghadar Party.

3 Objectives



- To overthrow British rule in India through an armed revolution.
- To establish a free and independent India.
- To unite Indians at home and abroad for a common struggle.
- To seek support from other anti-colonial forces and take advantage of the global situation during World War I.

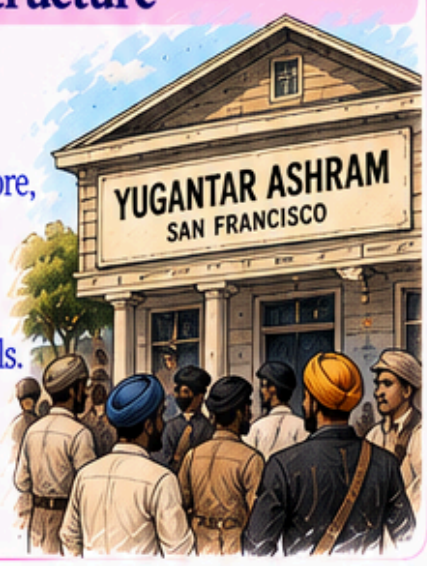
4 Ideology and Ideals

- Believed in complete independence ("Purna Swaraj") through armed struggle, not constitutional methods.
- Influenced by the ideas of republicanism, socialism and internationalism.
- Rejected communalism, caste divisions and regional differences.
- Emphasised nationalism, equality and sacrifice.
- Looked up to global revolutionary movements such as the Irish struggle and anti-imperialist movements.

5 Ghadar Newspaper

- Published the "Ghadar" newspaper in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, English and other languages.
- **First issue:** November 1913 from San Francisco.
- **Content:** Articles, poems and appeals calling for an armed revolt against the British.
- **Slogan:** "Angrezi Raj Ka Dushman – Ghadar".
- The newspaper inspired Indians both abroad and in India to join the revolutionary movement.

6 Organisational Structure



- **Headquarters:** Yugantar Ashram, San Francisco.
- **Branches** were set up in various countries – USA, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan, and other parts of Asia.
- Worked among Indian labourers, farmers, students and professionals.
- Collected funds, procured arms and organised volunteers for revolt in India.

7 Significance

- First organised attempt by Indian emigrants to launch a mass armed revolt for independence.
- Introduced a global dimension to the Indian freedom struggle.
- Inspired a new generation of revolutionaries, especially youth like Kartar Singh Sarabha.
- Strengthened links between revolutionary groups in India and abroad.
- Though the planned revolt failed, it left a lasting legacy and influenced later movements.

CREATOR ACADEMIA

6. The Ghadar Movement (1913 – 1917 CE)

B. The Komagata Maru Incident (1914 CE)

1 Background

- At the beginning of the 20th century, large numbers of Indians, mainly Sikhs from Punjab, migrated to Canada in search of better opportunities.
- The Canadian government imposed discriminatory immigration laws to restrict Indian entry.
- This was linked to racial prejudice and the fear of Asian immigration.
- The continuous humiliation and exclusion created anger among the Indian community abroad, which later strengthened the Ghadar Movement.

2 The Journey (1914)

- A Japanese steamship Komagata Maru was chartered by Gurdit Singh, a Sikh businessman from Singapore.
- It started its journey on 4 April 1914 from Hong Kong with 376 Indian passengers, mostly Sikhs, bound for Canada.
- The aim was to challenge the discriminatory Canadian immigration laws and establish the right of Indians to enter Canada as British subjects.
- The passengers were well prepared to settle and work in Canada.

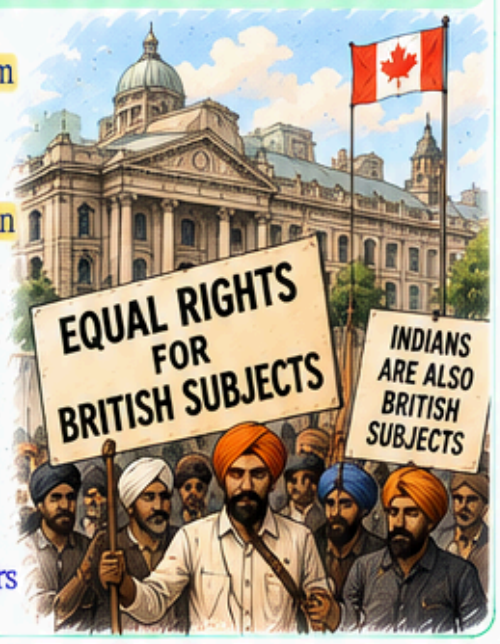
Gurdit Singh
(1858 – 1954)

3 Arrival in Canada and Denial of Entry

- The Komagata Maru reached Vancouver on 23 May 1914.
- The Canadian authorities denied entry to the passengers on the pretext of the Continuous Journey Regulation, which required immigrants to come directly from their country of origin (India) without stopping, which was practically impossible.
- The ship was forced to stay in the harbour for about two months, with passengers not allowed to disembark.
- Supplies were cut off and the passengers faced severe hardship.

4 Legal Battle and International Attention

- Indian community leaders in Canada, such as Husain Rahim and Sohan Singh Bhakna, organised protests and legal action.
- The case reached the Canadian courts, but the decision remained in favour of the government.
- The incident attracted international attention and exposed the racist policies of the British Empire, as Canada acted with British support.
- Despite appeals, the passengers were not given entry.



5 Forced Return to India

- After nearly two months, the Canadian authorities forced the ship to leave on 23 July 1914 without allowing any passenger to disembark.
- The ship began its return journey with great disappointment and anger among the passengers.
- On the way back, many passengers decided to join the Ghadar Movement and participate in the planned revolt against British rule in India.

6 Tragic End at Budge Budge (September 1914)

- The Komagata Maru reached Calcutta (Budge Budge) on 29 September 1914.
- The British authorities suspected the passengers of revolutionary activities and tried to arrest them.
- A clash took place between the passengers and the police.
- Many passengers were killed in firing, several were arrested, and the rest were sent back to their homes under surveillance.

7 Significance

- Exposed the racist and discriminatory policies of the British Empire and its dominions.
- Generated huge anger and resentment among Indians, strengthening the Ghadar Movement.
- Inspired many Indians abroad to actively support the armed struggle for independence.
- Highlighted the exploitation and humiliation faced by Indians even as British subjects.
- The incident became a powerful symbol of anti-colonial resistance and is remembered as an important event in the history of India's freedom struggle.

7. World War I Conspiracies: The Failed Armed Rebellion (1914 – 1917 CE)

1 Background: A Global Opportunity

- When World War I (1914–1918) broke out, Indian revolutionaries saw it as a golden opportunity to overthrow British rule.
- The British Empire was engaged in a major war in Europe and its resources were stretched.
- Revolutionaries in India and abroad planned a coordinated armed revolt with foreign support, especially from Germany.
- The aim was to incite mutiny in the British Indian Army and start a nationwide uprising.

2 Key Organisations Involved

- **Ghadar Party:** Played a central role in mobilising support for an armed revolt in India.
- **Berlin Committee (Indian Independence Committee):** Functioned in Germany to seek international support.
- Indian revolutionaries in the USA, Canada, Southeast Asia and Europe worked together.
- Secret networks were established to send men, money and arms to India.

3 Foreign Support

- Germany promised financial help, arms and military training to Indian revolutionaries.
- Efforts were made to transport arms to India through sea routes.
- Plans were also made to capture British ships and use them to bring weapons.
- The Turkish government (under the Ottoman Empire) also expressed support to weaken the British Empire.

4 Plans for Revolt in India

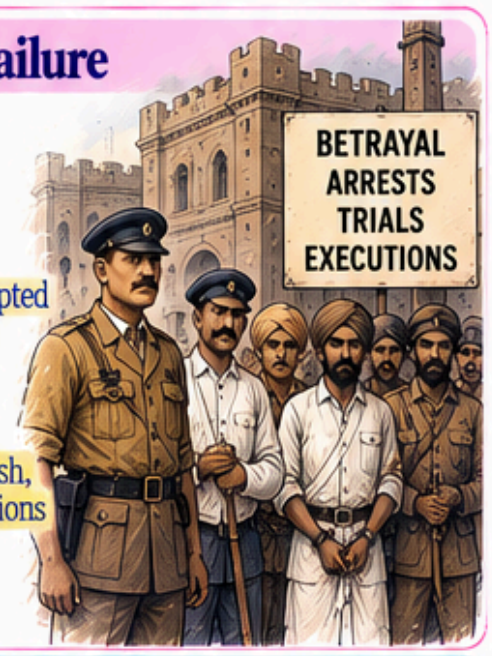
- Revolutionaries planned mutiny in various regiments of the British Indian Army, especially in Punjab, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and the North-West Frontier.
- Key centres included Lahore, Ferozepur, Meerut, Rawalpindi and other cantonments.
- The plan was to seize arms, occupy important cities and establish an independent government in India.
- The revolt was to coincide with uprisings in other colonies of the British Empire.

5 The Arms Conspiracy

- Several attempts were made to bring arms from Germany to India.
- **Important attempts:**
  - ➤ **Annie Larsen incident (1915):** A ship carrying arms was captured by the British near the Indonesian coast.
  - ➤ **Maverick conspiracy:** Another plan to land arms on the Indian coast (e.g., Bengal, Odisha, Punjab) failed due to British surveillance and betrayal.

6 Reasons for Failure

- Informers and spies leaked the plans to the British.
- Arrests were made before the revolt could take place.
- Arms shipments were intercepted or failed to reach India.
- Lack of proper coordination among different groups.
- Harsh repression by the British, including martial law, executions and long imprisonment.



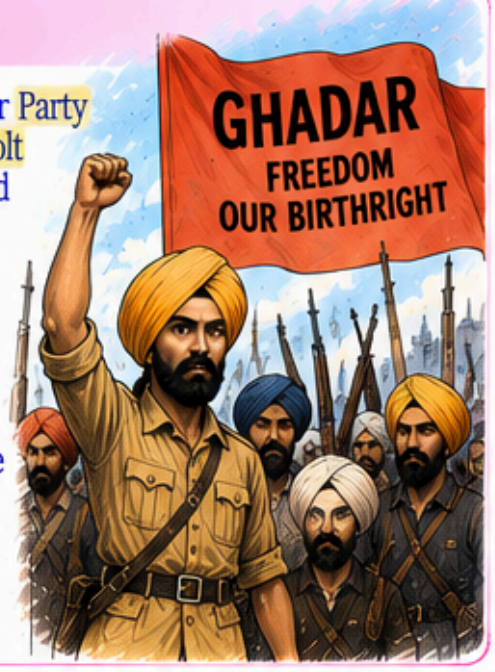
7 Significance

- Though the armed rebellion plan failed, it showed the determination of Indian revolutionaries to use international support and military means to achieve independence.
- It highlighted the global character of India's freedom struggle.
- It revealed the fear of the British about a possible mutiny in the Indian Army.
- The conspiracy cases (such as the Lahore Conspiracy Case) led to severe repression, but they also inspired future generations of revolutionaries.

7. World War I Conspiracies: The Failed Armed Rebellion (1914 – 1917 CE)

A. The February 1915 Mutiny Plot

1 Background



- During World War I, the Ghadar Party planned a large-scale armed revolt in India with the help of returned Ghadarites, Indian soldiers and foreign support.
- The aim was to spark a mutiny in the British Indian Army and overthrow British rule.
- Revolutionaries believed that the war created a favourable opportunity as the British were preoccupied in Europe.

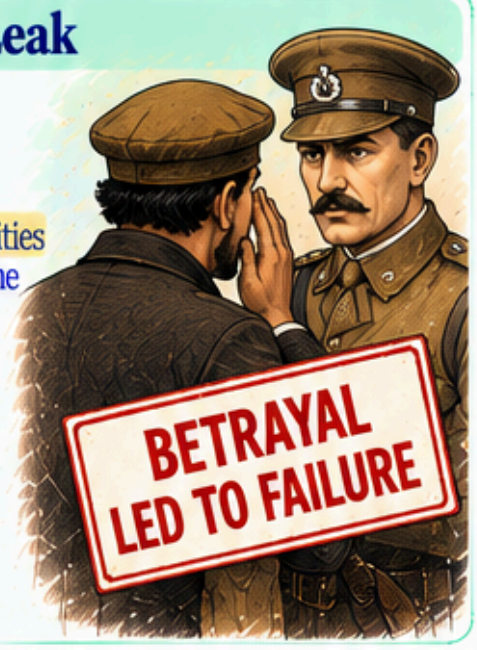
2 Planning the Mutiny

- Initially, the revolt was planned for 21 February 1915.
- **Key centres:** Lahore, Ferozepur, Meerut, Rawalpindi, and other cantonments.
- Revolutionaries infiltrated army regiments and tried to win over Indian soldiers.
- Arms were to be seized from military cantonments and a nationwide uprising was to be launched.
- Coordination was attempted with revolutionaries in Bengal, United Provinces and other regions.

3 Key Personalities

- **Kartar Singh Sarabha** – young Ghadarite, played a leading role.
- **Rash Behari Bose** – coordinated revolutionary activities in North India.
- **Vishnu Ganesh Pingle** – worked for organising mutiny in army units.
- Many other Ghadarites and revolutionaries, including returned emigrants, were involved.

4 Betrayal and Leak

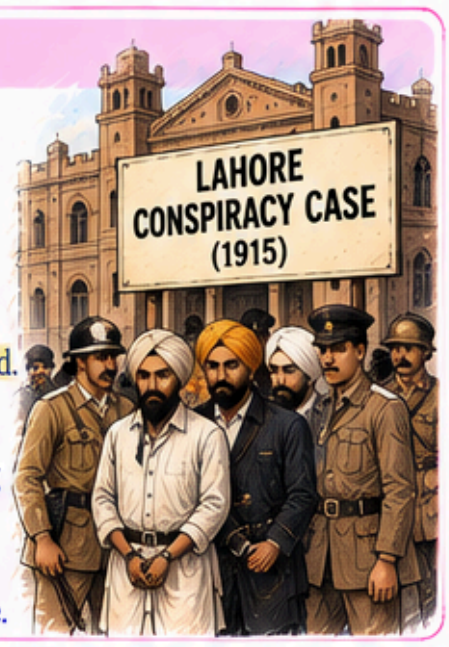


- The plan was betrayed by Kirat Singh, a revolutionary who turned approver.
- He informed the British authorities about the date and details of the mutiny.
- As a result, the British were well-prepared and alert.
- The date had to be advanced in some places, leading to confusion and failure.

5 Outbreak and Suppression

- At Ferozepur, the mutiny broke out on 19 February 1915, two days earlier than planned, but was quickly suppressed.
- In Lahore and other centres, the revolt could not materialise on a large scale due to arrests and strict surveillance.
- Many soldiers were arrested even before the plan could be implemented.
- The British launched widespread raids, arrests and trials.

6 Consequences



- Hundreds of revolutionaries were arrested.
- Many were tried in Lahore Conspiracy Case and other related cases.
- Leaders like Kartar Singh Sarabha, Vishnu Ganesh Pingle and several others were executed.
- Rash Behari Bose managed to escape to Japan.
- The planned nationwide uprising failed, but it inspired future revolutionary activities and showed the determination of Indians to fight for independence.

7 Significance

- Though the February 1915 mutiny failed, it demonstrated the global character of India's freedom struggle.
- It revealed the strong link between Indian revolutionaries at home and abroad.
- It exposed the vulnerability of the British Indian Army.
- It inspired greater coordination among revolutionary groups and kept alive the spirit of armed resistance.

7. World War I Conspiracies: The Failed Armed Rebellion (1914 – 1917 CE)

B. The Berlin Committee and the Zimmermann Plan

1 The Berlin Committee

- Formed in **1914** in Berlin, Germany by Indian revolutionaries to seek foreign support for India's independence.
- Also known as the Indian Independence Committee.
- Worked closely with the German government during World War I.
- **Aim:** To organise an armed revolt in India with German help and internationalise the Indian freedom struggle.
- Set up branches in Germany, Switzerland, Turkey and other countries.

2 Key Members

- Virendranath Chattopadhyaya (Chatto) – main organiser and leader.
- Maulana Barkatullah – publicised the Indian cause in Europe and West Asia.
- Chempakaraman Pillai – worked for arms procurement and international support.
- Lala Har Dayal – earlier associated, helped in building contacts.
- Other members included M. P. T. Acharya, Bhupendranath Dutta and Abdul Hafiz Muhammad Barakatullah (Barkatullah).

3 Objectives and Activities

- To obtain financial help, arms and military training from Germany.
- To raise the Indian question in international forums.
- To establish contact with other anti-British forces such as the Ottoman Empire, Ireland and Egypt.
- To send revolutionary literature and agents to India.
- To coordinate with the Ghadar Movement and plan a nationwide uprising.

4 The Zimmermann Plan (1917)

- In January 1917, German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann proposed a plan to use anti-British sentiments in India and elsewhere.
- He suggested a joint strategy with Mexico, Japan and other countries to create a global front against Britain.
- Proposed that Germany would support India's independence in return for Indian support against the British during the war.
- The plan also explored provoking unrest in British colonies, including India, Egypt and Ireland.

Arthur Zimmermann (1864 – 1940)

5 Proposed Cooperation with Mexico

- Germany sent the Zimmermann Telegram to Mexico, proposing a military alliance against the United States.
- In return, Germany promised to help Mexico recover territories lost to the U.S. (e.g., Texas, New Mexico and Arizona).
- The plan aimed to divert American attention and weaken British power.

6 Outcome and Failure

- The Zimmermann Telegram was intercepted and decoded by the British, and later made public by the U.S. in March 1917.
- This exposed Germany's plans and created distrust globally.
- The Berlin Committee's efforts failed to generate significant military support or a successful uprising in India.
- However, these conspiracies highlighted the international dimension of India's freedom struggle.

7 Significance

- Demonstrated the global reach of Indian revolutionary activities.
- Showed the willingness of Germany to support anti-British movements.
- Built links between Indian revolutionaries and international anti-colonial forces.
- Though unsuccessful, it strengthened the idea of seeking foreign support for India's independence.
- It inspired later generations and showed that the Indian freedom struggle was part of a wider anti-imperialist movement.

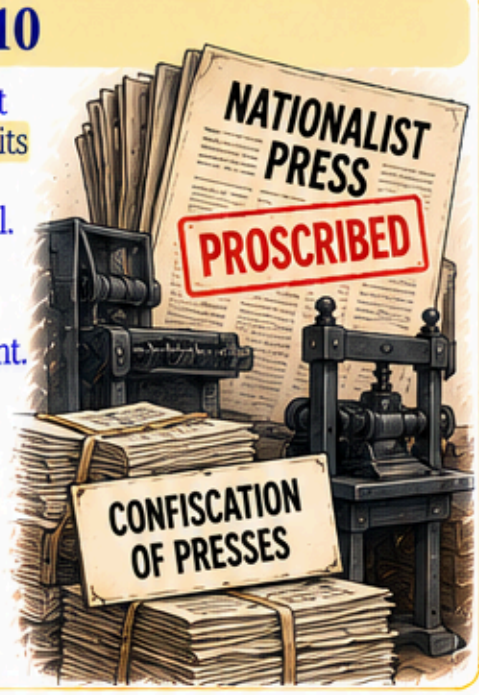
8. Colonial Legislative Repression

1 Reasons for Repressive Laws

- Rise of revolutionary activities in India and abroad, including assassinations, bombings and plans for armed revolt.
- Growing influence of secret societies and the Ghadar Movement.
- Fear of mutiny in the Indian Army, especially during World War I.
- Need to curb anti-British publications, seditious literature and nationalist networks.

2 Press Act, 1910

- Empowered the government to forfeit the security deposits of newspapers and presses publishing seditious material.
- Allowed confiscation of printed material considered dangerous to the government.
- Targeted nationalist and revolutionary publications.
- Many Indian newspapers were shut down or heavily penalised under this Act.



3 Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1910

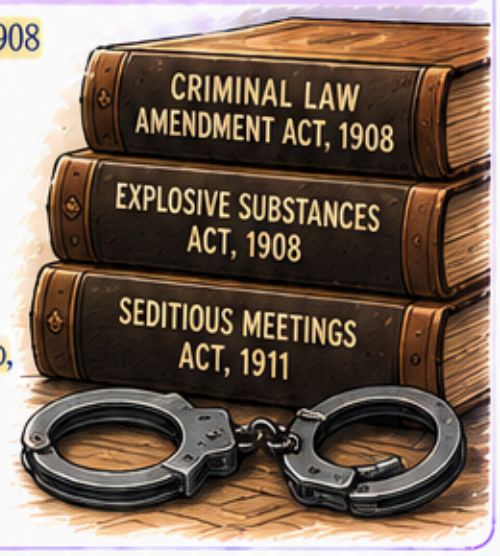
- Gave wider powers to the government to seize presses and publications without a trial.
- Aimed at preventing the spread of revolutionary and seditious ideas.
- Allowed the government to ban the circulation of literature considered prejudicial to the safety of the state.
- Used extensively to suppress vernacular and nationalist newspapers.

4 Defence of India Act, 1915

- Enacted during World War I to deal with the threat of revolutionary activities and possible mutiny.
- Gave extraordinary powers to the government, including detention without trial, summary trials and severe punishments.
- Restricted freedom of movement, assembly and speech.
- Used extensively against Ghadarites and other revolutionaries.

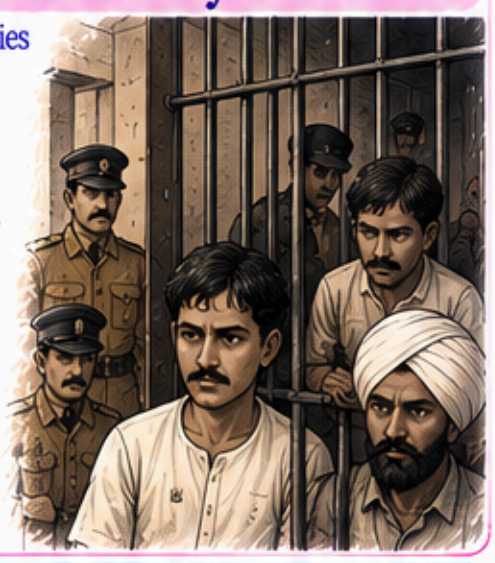
5 Other Repressive Measures

- Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 – to curb revolutionary societies.
- Explosive Substances Act, 1908 – to control manufacture and possession of explosives.
- Seditious Meetings Act, 1911 – to restrict public meetings.
- Increased surveillance, censorship, raids, arrests and deportations without trial.



6 Impact on Revolutionary Movement

- Severely disrupted the activities of secret societies and revolutionary networks.
- Many leaders were arrested, tried and sentenced to long imprisonment or deportation.
- Restricted the circulation of revolutionary literature.
- Forced revolutionaries to operate more secretly and shift activities abroad.
- Despite repression, it could not completely end the revolutionary spirit.



7 Significance

- Reflected the British government's fear of the growing revolutionary threat.
- Marked a major tightening of colonial control during 1907 – 1917.
- Suppressed the immediate activities of revolutionaries, but also highlighted the repressive and undemocratic nature of British rule.
- Strengthened the resolve of many Indians to continue the struggle for complete independence.
- These laws became a symbol of colonial repression and are an important part of the history of India's freedom movement.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS

1. The first phase of revolutionary nationalism in India is generally placed between **1907 and 1917**.

2. Important revolutionary centres developed in **Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra** and among the Indian diaspora abroad.

3. **Anushilan Samiti** and **Jugantar** were prominent revolutionary organisations in Bengal.

4. **V. D. Savarkar** was associated with the **India House** in London.

5. **Madan Lal Dhingra** assassinated Sir Curzon Wyllie in London in 1909.

6. The **Ghadar Party** was founded in 1913 in San Francisco (USA).

7. The **Ghadar newspaper** was published from San Francisco in multiple languages.

8. The **Komagata Maru incident** took place in 1914.

9. **Rash Behari Bose** played a key role in the 1915 mutiny plan in India.

10. The **Berlin Committee** (Indian Independence Committee) was formed in 1914 in Germany.

11. **Maulana Barkatullah** was an important member of the Berlin Committee.

12. **Germany** proposed the **Zimmermann Plan** in 1917.

13. Revolutionaries tried to establish links with countries like Germany, Turkey, Japan, Afghanistan, Ireland, Egypt and the United States.

14. The **Defence of India Act** was enacted in 1915.

15. The **Press Act, 1910** was used to curb revolutionary literature and nationalist publications.

16. Several revolutionaries were arrested, tried and executed in the **Lahore Conspiracy Case** (1915) and other related cases.

17. Indian revolutionaries sought support from the Indian diaspora, especially in North America and Southeast Asia.

18. The revolutionary activities of this period had an important international dimension.

19. Although the planned armed rebellion failed, these activities inspired future generations.

20. The British government responded with strict surveillance, repressive laws, arrests, deportations and severe punishments.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

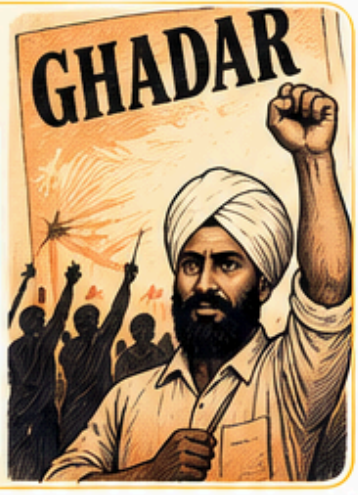
MCQs

1 **Which of the following was the main objective of the Ghadar Movement?**

(a) Constitutional reforms within the British Empire
(b) Establishment of Hindu Rashtra in India
(c) Armed revolt to end British rule in India
(d) Social and religious reform among Indian migrants

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:
- The Ghadar Movement aimed at overthrowing British rule in India through an armed revolt.
- It sought to inspire Indian soldiers and people to rise in rebellion.
- It was a revolutionary, not a constitutional or socio-religious movement.



2 **The Komagata Maru incident (1914) is primarily associated with:**

(a) Deportation of Indian revolutionaries from Germany
(b) Denial of entry to Indian passengers in Canada
(c) Arrest of Indian soldiers in Singapore
(d) Publication of the Ghadar newspaper

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:
- The Komagata Maru, carrying Indian passengers (mainly Sikhs), was denied entry into Canada in 1914 under discriminatory immigration laws.
- It highlighted the racial discrsitiuation faced by Indiaus abroad and strengthened the Ghadar Movement.

3 **The Berlin Committee, formed during World War I, was associated with:**

(a) Moderates seeking constitutional reforms
(b) Indian revolutionaries seeking foreign support against British rule
(c) Social reformers promoting education
(d) The Home Rule Movement

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:
- The Berlin Committee (Indian Independence Committee) was formed in 1914 in Germany by Indian revolutionaries.
- Its aim was to secure support from Germany and other Central Powers for India's independence.
- It worked in coordination with the Ghadar Movement and other revolutionary networks.

4 **Which of the following laws was enacted by the British government mainly to curb revolutionary activities during the First World War?**

(a) Indian Councils Act, 1909
(b) Press Act, 1910
(c) Defence of India Act, 1915
(d) Rowlatt Act, 1919

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:
- The Defence of India Act was enacted in 1915 during World War I.
- It gave the government wide powers to arrest, detain and try persons without trial.
- It was specifically aimed at suppressing revolutionary activities, including those linked to the Ghadar Movement and global conspiracies.

5 **Rash Behari Bose is best known for his role in:**

(a) Organising the Alipore Conspiracy Case
(b) Assassinating Lord Curzon Wyllie
(c) Planning the 1915 mutiny with the Ghadar Party
(d) Founding the Berlin Committee

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:
- Rash Behari Bose played a key role in organising the 1915 mutiny plan in collaboration with the Ghadar Party.
- He worked to coordinate armed revolt in different parts of India, especially in the Indian Army.
- Later, he went to Japan and continued revolutionary activities from abroad.

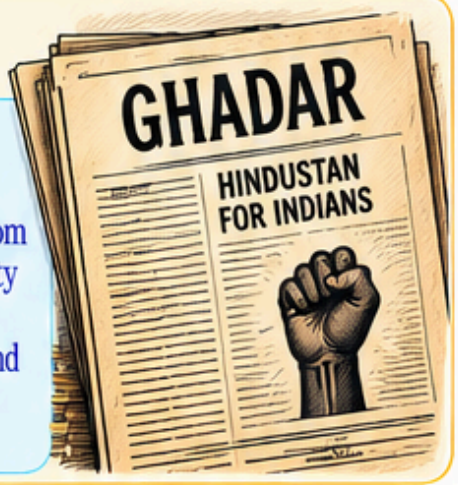
6 **Which of the following was the place of publication of the Ghadar newspaper?**

(a) London
(b) Berlin
(c) San Francisco
(d) Vancouver

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Ghadar newspaper was published from San Francisco (USA) by the Ghadar Party in multiple languages.
- It aimed to spread revolutionary ideas and mobilise Indian migrants for an armed struggle against British rule.



7 **Which country sent the famous Zimmermann Telegram (1917) proposing an alliance against Britain?**

(a) Germany
(b) Turkey
(c) Japan
(d) United States

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Germany sent the Zimmermann Telegram in 1917 to Mexico, proposing an alliance against Britain.
- It promised to help Mexico recover territories lost to the United States if Mexico joined the war against the Allied Powers.

8 **Which of the following was NOT a feature of the Komagata Maru incident (1914)?**

(a) Indian passengers were denied entry into Canada
(b) The ship returned to India after a long standoff
(c) All passengers were allowed to settle in Canada
(d) It highlighted the racial discrimination faced by Indians

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Komagata Maru, carrying Indian passengers (mainly Sikhs), was denied entry into Canada in 1914 due to discriminatory immigration laws.
- It exposed racial discrimination against Indians and strengthened the Ghadar Movement.

9 **The 1915 mutiny plan of the Ghadar Party primarily aimed at:**

(a) Demanding dominion status for India
(b) Inciting a simultaneous revolt in the Indian Army
(c) Establishing a separate Sikh state
(d) Seeking support from the League of Nations

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Ghadar Party planned a coordinated mutiny in February 1915 in several cantonments to spark a nationwide armed revolt.
- The plan was based on the belief that Indian soldiers in the British Indian Army would rise in support of the movement.

10 **Which of the following revolutionary centres was NOT associated with V. D. Savarkar?**

(a) India House (London)
(b) Abhinav Bharat
(c) Berlin Committee
(d) Free India Centre

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- V. D. Savarkar was associated with India House in London and the Abhinav Bharat Society.
- The Berlin Committee (Indian Independence Committee) was formed in Germany during World War I and was not associated with Savarkar.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

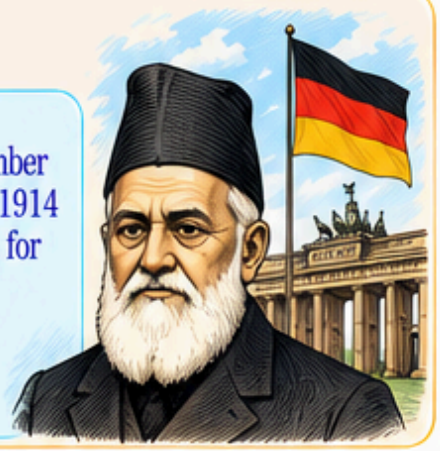
11 Which of the following was a prominent member of the Berlin Committee (Indian Independence Committee)?

(a) Bipin Chandra Pal
(b) Lala Lajpat Rai
(c) Maulana Barkatullah
(d) Surendranath Banerjee

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Maulana Barkatullah was a key member of the Berlin Committee, formed in 1914 in Germany to seek foreign support for India's independence.
- The committee included Indian revolutionaries living abroad.



12 The Zimmermann Plan (1917) proposed German support to which of the following in return for their alliance against Britain?

(a) India
(b) Mexico
(c) Ireland
(d) Turkey

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Zimmermann Plan was a German proposal in 1917 to support Mexico in recovering territories lost to the United States, if Mexico joined the war against Britain.
- The plan was part of Germany's broader strategy to divert British resources.

13 Which revolutionary was associated with the attempt to organise a mutiny in the Indian Army in February 1915?

(a) Madan Lal Dhingra
(b) Rash Behari Bose
(c) Khudiram Bose
(d) Anushilan Samiti leaders

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Rash Behari Bose played a central role in the 1915 mutiny plan, which aimed to spark a coordinated armed revolt in the Indian Army.
- The plan was inspired by the Ghadar Movement but was ultimately betrayed and failed.

14 What was the main reason for the failure of the February 1915 mutiny plan?

(a) Lack of support from the Indian population
(b) Strong military action by the British
(c) Betrayal and information leaks to the British authorities
(d) Non-cooperation of the Ghadar Party

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The 1915 mutiny plan failed mainly due to betrayal and information leaks to the British authorities.
- Arrests, surveillance and infiltration by the British intelligence helped uncover the plan before it could be implemented.

15 Which of the following was one of the important revolutionary centres associated with the Ghadar Movement?

(a) Singapore
(b) Vancouver
(c) Nairobi
(d) Tehran

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Vancouver (Canada) was one of the major centres of the Ghadar Movement, with a large concentration of Indian immigrants, especially Sikhs.
- Other important centres included San Francisco, New York, and various cities in Southeast Asia.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

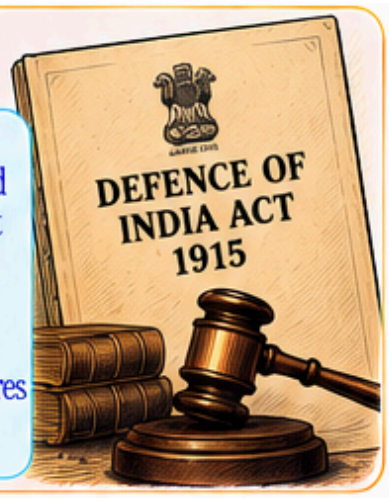
16 **The Defence of India Act, enacted during World War I, was primarily aimed at:**

(a) Introducing constitutional reforms in India
(b) Curbing revolutionary activities and ensuring internal security
(c) Granting self-government to Indian provinces
(d) Regulating trade with foreign countries

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Defence of India Act, 1915 was enacted during World War I to give the government extraordinary powers to suppress revolutionary activities.
- It allowed for arrest, detention, censorship, summary trials and other repressive measures to maintain internal security.



17 **Which of the following statements about the Ghadar Party is correct?**

(a) It was founded in 1905 in London.
(b) It published the newspaper 'Ghadar'.
(c) It was a moderate organisation.
(d) It sought dominion status within the British Empire.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Ghadar Party published the newspaper 'Ghadar' from San Francisco in multiple languages to spread revolutionary ideas among Indian migrants.
- It was a radical organisation that aimed at the complete overthrow of British rule through an armed uprising.

18 **Which of the following countries was NOT part of the revolutionary networks established by Indian revolutionaries during World War I?**

(a) Germany
(b) Turkey
(c) Japan
(d) Australia

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Indian revolutionaries established links with Germany, Turkey, Japan and several other countries during World War I to seek support against British rule.
- Australia was not a part of these revolutionary networks.

19 **The February 1915 mutiny plot primarily aimed to:**

(a) Establish a provisional government in Delhi
(b) Launch a coordinated armed revolt in the Indian Army
(c) Assassinate the Viceroy
(d) Capture key ports along the western coast

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The February 1915 mutiny plot, supported by the Ghadar Party, aimed to trigger a coordinated armed revolt in the Indian Army at multiple cantonments.
- The plan was to rise in rebellion and seize key military centres, but it was betrayed and failed.

20 **Which of the following was the main objective of the Berlin Committee (Indian Independence Committee)?**

(a) To negotiate constitutional reforms with the British
(b) To seek foreign support for Indian independence
(c) To promote social and religious reforms in India
(d) To establish a parallel government in India

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Berlin Committee, formed in 1914 in Germany, aimed to secure foreign support, especially from Germany and other Central Powers, for India's independence.
- It worked in coordination with the Ghadar Movement and other revolutionary groups abroad.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

CREATOR ACADEMIA

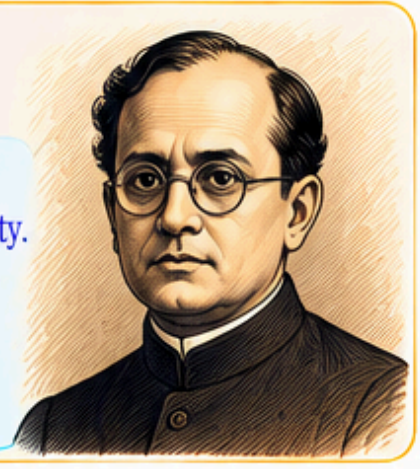
21 Who was the key ideologue behind the formation of the Ghadar Party in North America?

(a) Lala Har Dayal
(b) Bipin Chandra Pal
(c) Virendranath Chattopadhyaya
(d) Sohan Singh Bhakna

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Lala Har Dayal was a key ideologue and inspirational figure behind the Ghadar Party.
- He mobilised Indian migrants in North America and propagated the idea of an armed struggle against British rule.



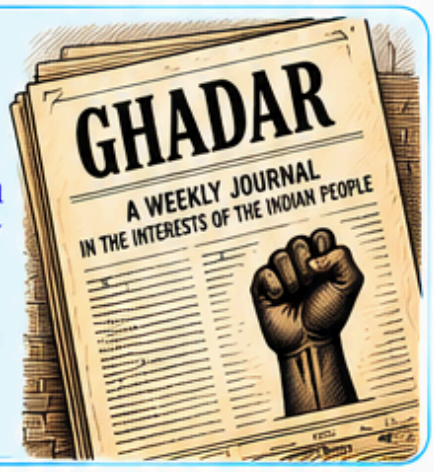
22 The Ghadar newspaper was primarily published from:

(a) London
(b) Berlin
(c) San Francisco
(d) Tokyo

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Ghadar newspaper was published from San Francisco (USA) by the Ghadar Party in multiple languages.
- It aimed to spread revolutionary ideas, mobilise Indian migrants and inspire an armed struggle against British rule.



23 The Komagata Maru incident (1914) is significant in the context of the revolutionary movement because it:

(a) Marked the beginning of the Ghadar Party
(b) Happened during World War II
(c) Exposed racial discrimination against Indian migrants
(d) Led to the formation of the Berlin Committee

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Komagata Maru incident (1914) exposed the racial discrimination faced by Indian migrants in Canada.
- It generated widespread anger among Indians abroad and strengthened revolutionary sentiments, particularly support for the Ghadar Movement.

24 Which of the following was NOT a feature of the Zimmermann Telegram (1917)?

(a) Proposed a German–Mexican alliance against Britain
(b) Promised return of lost territories to Mexico
(c) Assured Indian independence
(d) Invited Japan to join the alliance

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Zimmermann Telegram (1917) was a German proposal to Mexico to ally against Britain, promising the return of lost territories.
- It also hinted at supporting Indian independence, but it did not include Japan in the proposal.

25 Which of the following best explains the failure of the 1915 revolutionary uprising in India?

(a) Lack of leadership among revolutionaries
(b) Widespread support from the Indian population
(c) Premature exposure of the plans due to informers
(d) Strong military support from Germany

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The 1915 uprising plan was exposed before implementation due to betrayals, surveillance and informers within the revolutionary networks.
- As a result, many leaders were arrested and the planned mutiny could not materialise.

First Phase of Revolutionary Nationalism in India and Abroad (1907 – 1917 CE): Secret Societies, Assassinations, Ghadar Movement, and Global Conspiracies

26 Which revolutionary organisation was founded in 1904 by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in India?

(a) Anushilan Samiti
(b) Abhinav Bharat
(c) Ghadar Party
(d) India House

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Vinayak Damodar Savarkar founded Abhinav Bharat in 1904 in India.
- It aimed to spread revolutionary ideas and organise an armed struggle against British rule.

27 Which incident is associated with the assassination of Sir Curzon Wyllie?

(a) Alipore Bomb Case
(b) Nashik Conspiracy Case
(c) India House, London
(d) Chittagong Armoury Raid

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Sir Curzon Wyllie, a British official, was assassinated by Madan Lal Dhingra on 1 July 1909 in London.
- The incident is associated with India House, a centre for Indian revolutionaries in London.

28 Which ship is most associated with the return of Ghadar Party activists to India in 1914, which led to increased surveillance and arrests?

(a) SS Komagata Maru
(b) SS Maverick
(c) SS Empress of India
(d) SS Japan Maru

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The SS Maverick carried a large number of Ghadar Party activists from the United States to India in 1914.
- Their return led to widespread surveillance, arrests and the detection of the 1915 mutiny plans.

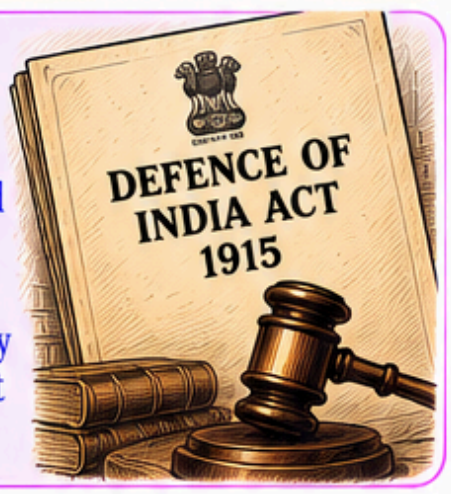
29 The Defence of India Act was enacted during which of the following periods?

(a) 1907–1909
(b) 1911–1913
(c) 1914–1918
(d) 1919–1922

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Defence of India Act was enacted in 1915 during World War I.
- It gave sweeping powers to the government to suppress revolutionary activities, including detention without trial and special tribunals.



30 Which foreign country provided significant support to Indian revolutionaries, including the Ghadar Party, during World War I?

(a) France
(b) Germany
(c) Russia
(d) United States

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Germany provided support to Indian revolutionaries during World War I, with the aim of weakening British rule in India.
- This included efforts to supply arms, funds and assistance through the Berlin Committee and other channels.

LEARN TODAY
PRACTICE DAILY
SUCCEED
TOMORROW

Thank You!

FOR READING

CREATOR ACADEMIA
KNOWLEDGE TODAY, SUCCESS TOMORROW

We hope this study material helps you build strong concepts, revise effectively, and achieve success in your competitive examinations.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

https://www.creatoracademia.in/

Explore more Premium Study Materials, Notes, Mind Maps, Infographics, MCQs, Flashcards, Charts and much more for your exam preparation.

FOLLOW US ON

TELEGRAM
Join our Telegram channel for daily PDFs, Notes, Updates & more.
/creatoracademia

WHATSAPP
Get important updates and study materials directly on WhatsApp.
Join Our WhatsApp Channel

FACEBOOK
Like our Facebook page for regular updates, posts & live sessions.
/creatoracademia

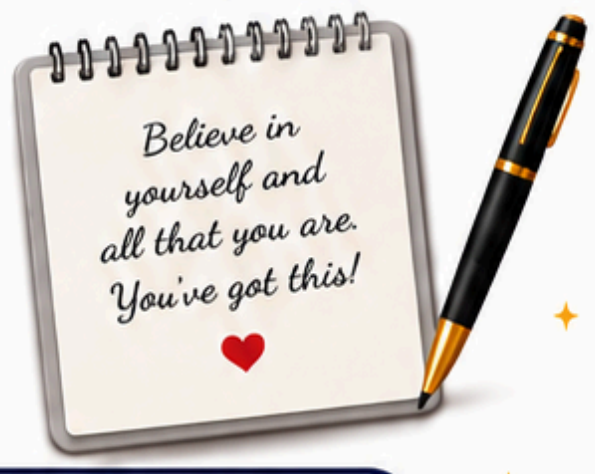
INSTAGRAM
Follow us on Instagram for daily infographics, reels & quick tips.
/creator_academia

YOUTUBE
Subscribe to our YouTube channel for detailed video lectures.
/@Creator_Academia

PINTEREST
Save our infographics & study materials on Pinterest for easy revision.
/creator_academia

Stay Connected,
Stay Updated,
Stay Ahead!

Your Success is Our Mission.



KEEP LEARNING, KEEP GROWING, KEEP ACHIEVING!
ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR EXAMS!

High Quality Notes | Exam Oriented Content | Concept Clarity | Smart Learning | Better Results

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF
CREATOR ACADEMIA FAMILY!