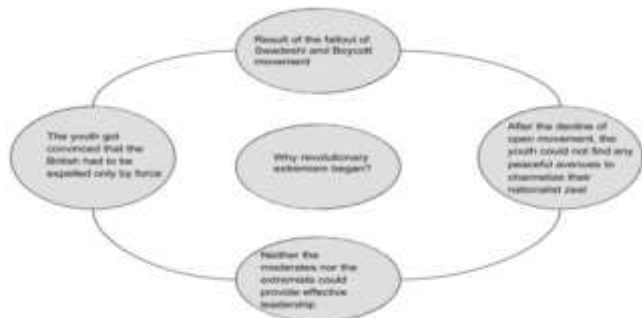


11. First Phase of Revolutionary Activities (1907-17)



▪ The Revolutionary Programme:

- The revolutionaries did not find it practical at that stage to create a violent mass revolution throughout the country or to subvert the loyalties of the Army
- Instead, they opted to follow in the footsteps of Russian nihilists or the Irish nationalists.

This methodology involved individual heroic actions, such as:

- organising assassinations of unpopular officials and of traitors and informers among the revolutionaries themselves;
- conducting swadeshi dacoities to raise funds for revolutionary activities; (during the First World War) organising military conspiracies with expectation of help from the enemies of Britain

The idea was to strike terror in the hearts of the rulers, arouse people and remove the fear of authority from their minds. The revolutionaries intended to inspire the people by appealing to their patriotism, especially the idealistic youth.

Revolutionaries and their Activities		
Year	Name	Activities
1879	Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Maharashtra.	Ramosi Peasant Force → It aimed to rid the country of the British by instigating an armed revolt by disrupting communication lines. It hoped to raise funds for its activities through dacoities but it was suppressed prematurely.
1890s	Tilak, Maharashtra.	He propagated militant nationalism through his journals Kesari and Maharatta (1881) and through Shivaji (1894) and Ganapati (1893) festivals.
1897	Chapekar brothers, Damodar and Balkrishna, Maharashtra.	Murdered the Plague Commissioner of Poona, Rand, and Lt. Ayerst.
1899	Savarkar and his brother, Maharashtra	Organised Mitra Mela, a secret society which merged with Abhinav Bharat (after Mazzini's 'Young Italy') in 1904. Soon Nasik, Poona and Bombay emerged as centre of bomb manufacture
1902	Jnanendra Nath Basu.	Revolutionary group under in Midnapore;
	Promotha Mitter, Jatindra Nath Banerjee, Barindra Kumar Ghosh and others.	Anushilan Samiti was founded in Calcutta
1906	Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Bhupendranath Dutta	'Yugantar' weekly. The Yugantar wrote: "The remedy lies with the people. The 30 crore people inhabiting India must raise their 60 crore hands to stop this curse of oppression. Force must be stopped by force."

	Rashbehari Bose and Sachin Sanyal	Organised a secret society covering Punjab, Delhi and United Provinces. Hemachandra Kanungo went abroad for military and political training
1907	The Yugantar group	An abortive attempt was made then on the life of a very unpopular British official, Sir Fuller (the first Lt. Governor of the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam; attempts to derail the train on which the lieutenant-governor, Sri Andrew Fraser, was travelling.
1908	Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose.	Threw a bomb at a carriage supposed to be carrying a white judge, Kingsford, in Muzaffarpur.
	Ghosh brothers, Aurobindo and Barindra	The whole Anushilan group was arrested in Alipore conspiracy case /Manicktolla bomb conspiracy or Muraripukur conspiracy. Aurobindo was acquitted of all charges but Barindra Ghosh and Ullaskar Dut were found guilty.
	Dacca Anushilan under Pulin Das	Barrahadacoity to raise funds for revolutionary activities.
1909	AnantLakshman Kanhere Maharashtra	He was a member of Abhinav Bharat and killed A.M.T. Jackson, the Collector of Nashik
1912	Rashbehari Bose and Sachin Sanyal. Basant Kumar Biswas, Amir Chand and Avadh Behari	Staged a bomb attack on Viceroy Hardinge in a procession through Chandni Chowk, Delhi, all were convicted but Rashbehari Bose, known as the person behind the plan, escaped donning a disguise.

▪ **Other Revolutionary Activities:**

- The western Anushilan Samiti was led by Jatindranath Mukherjee or BaghaJatin and emerged as the Jugantar (or Yugantar).
- During the First World War, the Jugantar party arranged to import German arms and ammunition through sympathisers and revolutionaries abroad, as a part of the German plot (Zimmerman Plan).
- The Jugantar party raised funds through a series of dacoities known as taxicab dacoities and boat dacoities, so as to work out the Indo-German conspiracy.
- It was planned that a guerrilla force would be organised to start an uprising in the country, with a seizure of Fort William and a mutiny by armed forces. However, the plan failed.
- “We shall die to awaken the nation”, was the call of BaghaJatin.

Revolutionary news papers / journals -

Sandhya and Yugantar (Bengal), Kal (Maharashtra).

Punjab

- Lala Lajpat Rai brought out ‘**Punjabee**’ (motto – self-help at any cost)
- Ajit Singh organised ‘**Anjuman-i-Mohisban-i-Watan**’ in Lahore with its journal, **Bharat Mata**

- Other leaders included Aga Haidar, Syed Haider Raza, Bhai Parmanand and the radical Urdu poet, Lalchand ‘**Falak**’.
- Extremism in the Punjab died down quickly after the government struck in May 1907 with a ban on political meetings and the deportation of Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh.
- Sufi Amba Prasad, Lalchand, Bhai Parmanand, Lala Hardayal developed into full-scale revolutionaries.
- Rashbehari Bose: was involved in the Ghadr Revolution. In 1913. He met Jatin to discuss the possibilities of an all-India armed rising of 1857 type. Then, they worked in cooperation, in extending the Bengal plan to Punjab and the upper provinces. As the plan for revolution did not succeed, he escaped to Japan in 1915. He played an important part in the founding of the Indian National Army.

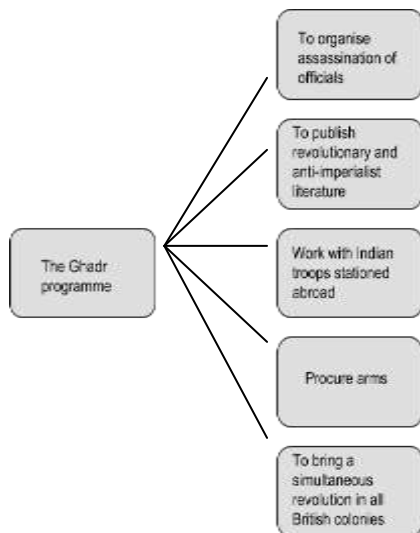
▪ **Revolutionary activities abroad:**

Why they went Abroad?

The need for shelter, the possibility of bringing out revolutionary literature that would be immune from the Press Acts, and the quest for arms.

Name	Activities
Shyamji Krishnavarma	Started India House (a home rule league society) in 1905 in London, a scholarship scheme for Indian students and journal 'The Indian Sociologist'
Madanlal Dhingra	Assassinated India office bureaucrat Curzon-Wylie in 1909
Madam Bhikaji Cama	A Parsi lady, operated from Paris, brought out 'Bande Mataram' (operated by Ajit Singh)
Virendranath Chattopadhyaya	Operated from Berlin since 1909

• The Ghadr:



- A revolutionary group organised around a weekly newspaper The Ghadr with its headquarters at San Francisco and branches along the US coast and in the Far East.
- The revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada in search of better employment opportunities.
- Pre-Ghadr revolutionary activity were carried out by Ramdas Puri, G.D. Kumar, Taraknath Das, Sohan Singh Bhakna and Lala Hardayal from 1911.
- 'Swadesh Sevak Home' was set up at Vancouver, and 'United India House' at Seattle.
- Ghadr leaders - Lala Hardayal, Ramchandra, Bhagwan Singh, Kartar Singh Saraba, Barkatullah, and Bhai Parmanand.

• Komagata Maru incident:

- Komagata Maru - a ship chartered from Singapore carrying Sikh and Punjabi Muslims were denied entry into Canada and forced to return to India.
- The British government tried to detain the immigrants at Calcutta, in order to transport them to Punjab. The immigrants refused to give in. A tussle ensued in which 22 immigrants lost lives.
- The Ghadr leaders were inflamed by this incident.
- They planned to launch a violent attack to expel the British. Kartar Singh Saraba, Raghubar Dayal Gupta, Rashbehari Bose, and Sachin Sanyal were the prominent leaders involved.
- February 21, 1915 was fixed as the date of attack.
- However, the British got to know about the attack, made preemptive arrests and suppressed the movement.
- Defence of India Act, 1915 was the primary and most draconian tool used by the British to counter the Ghadr movement.

• Other incidents:

- The Berlin Committee for Indian Independence was established in 1915 by Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Bhupendranath Dutta, Lala Hardayal and others with the help of the German foreign office under 'Zimmerman Plan'
- The Indian revolutionaries in Europe sent missions to Baghdad, Persia, Turkey and Kabul to work among Indian troops and the Indian prisoners of war (POWs) and to incite anti-British feelings among the people of these countries. One mission under Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, Barkatullah and Obaidullah Sindhi went to Kabul to organise a 'provisional Indian government' there with the help of the crown prince, Amanullah.

Decline of Revolutionary activities

There was a temporary decline in revolutionary activities due to,

- Release of prisoners held under the Defence of India Rules, after the World War I.

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- Montague's statement of August 1917 - was some conciliation.
 - Entry of Gandhiji and his new methods of struggle

▪ **Effect of World War I on India:**

1. Political Impact

- In India, the return of Punjabi soldiers after the end of the war also aroused political activity against colonial rule in that province, which became the spark for further wider protests. Punjab, which supplied a large proportion of the troops, turned into an epicentre of nationalism after the war.
- There was a surge of nationalism and rise of mass civil disobedience when the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms' failed to deliver on the expectation of home rule that had led to popular support for the British war effort.
- As the war dragged on, casualties mounted and recruitment methods grew more coercive, resentment grew to fuel nationalism.

2. Social Impact

- Between 1911 and 1921, literacy rates increased significantly in heavily recruited communities. This effect is strongest for men of military age, which is consistent with the notion that soldiers learned to read and write on their foreign campaigns.
- Respect for particular communities who participated in the war grew in the society.
- The huge number of non-combatants were also recruited from India- such as nurses, doctor's etc. leaving Indian society deprived of essential services in a situation where such skills were already scarce in India.

3. Economic Impact

- There was a sharp increase in demand for Indian goods in Britain as production capabilities in Britain itself were diverted to the war effort.
- However, the disruption in shipping lanes because of the war also meant that Indian industry faced inconvenience because of the

shortage of inputs that were earlier imported from Britain and Germany. **There was excess demand as well as supply bottlenecks.**

- **Another result was inflation.** Industrial prices nearly doubled in the six years after 1914. Accelerating prices benefitted Indian industry.
 - Farm prices rose as well, but at a slower pace than industrial prices. The internal terms of trade (ratio of export prices to import prices) moved against agriculture. This trend continued for most of the next few decades, and especially during the collapse in global commodity prices during the Great Depression.
 - Demand for food supplies, particularly cereals, led to rampant food inflation.
 - **Exports of cash crops** like jute suffered due to the loss of the European market. Meanwhile, rising military demand for jute products compensated for the decline in civilian demand with jute mills in Bengal establishing monopolies; skewed income distribution grew even more so.
 - The drain on the Indian economy in the form of cash, kind and loans to the British government came to about 367 million pounds.
 - **Domestic manufacturing sectors** such as cotton benefited from the decline in British goods that had dominated the pre-war market.
 - **The steel sector benefited as well.** For instance, the ailing Tata steel mills were handed a lifeline in the form of a contract to supply rails to the Mesopotamian campaign.
 - British investment was rerouted to the UK, creating opportunities for Indian capital. In short, the war economy boosted Indian capitalism in some ways at least.
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