Revolt of 1857
Policies after 1857
Pre Congress Political Associations
Revolutionary Nationalism
THE REVOLT OF 1857

Introduction

The revolt of 1857 was though a regional manifestation yet the causes and the events that instigated the revolt were surely having a Pan-Indian characteristic. It was the outburst of people’s feelings against, social, economic and political exploitation and hence people participated from almost every field, i.e. social, economical (represented by peasants) and political (deposed rulers) in the revolt.

It was the first major attempt by the Indians to free themselves from the clutches of British Raj, but Anglo-Indian historians have greatly emphasized the importance of military grievances and the greased cartridges affair as the most potent causes which led to the uprising of 1857.

Prior to this revolt also, the resentment of the Indians were expressed in both violent mutinies as well as peaceful protests. The mutiny at Vellore (1806), at Barrackpore (1824), at Ferozpur (1842), mutiny of the 7th Bengal cavalry, mutiny of 22nd N.I. in 1849, Revolt of the Santhals (1855-56), Kol uprising (1831-32) etc. were among the high degree of protests by the people that culminated in the revolt of 1857.

Political Causes

- **Conquest**: The East India Company created a lot of discontent and disaffection among the dispossessed ruling families and their successors by her conquest. A large number of dependents on the ruling families who lost their means of livelihood and other common people were disillusioned and disaffected with the alien rule. Lord Dalhousie annexed the Punjab and added humiliation to the ruling family. Dalip Singh, the minor son of Ranjit Singh, the founder of the Sikh Kingdom of the Punjab, was deposed, and exiled to England. The properties of the Lahore Darbar were auctioned.

- **Doctrine of Lapse**: By applying the Doctrine of Lapse, Dalhousie annexed the principalities of Satara, Jaipur, Sambhalpur, Bhagat, Udaipur, Jhansi, and Nagpur. Doctrine of Lapse manifested the lack of sensitivity of the British towards the ancient right of adoption among the Hindus. Lord Dalhousie annexed the kingdom of Oudh in 1856 on the pretext of mismanagement. The dethronement of Wajid Ali Shah sent a wave of resentment and anger of throughout the country. The kingdom of Oudh was exploited economically and the Nawabs were reduced to a position of complete dependency on the British. The Nawabs, negligence towards the administration of the state, was used as an excuse by Dalhousie to merge it with the British Empire.
Humiliation of the Mughals: Since 1803, the Mughal emperors had been living under the British protection. His claims to honour and precedence were recognized. The seal of Governors General bore the inscription humble servant. Amherst made it clear to the emperor, that his Kingship was nominal; it was merely out of courtesy that he was addressed as King. The emperor was forced to give up residence in the Red Fort, and abandon his prerogative of naming his successor. The treatment meted out by the governors-general to the Mughal emperor greatly alienated the Muslims who felt that the British wanted to humble their emperor.

Suspension of Pension: The annual pension of Rani Jindan the Queen of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was reduced from 15,000 pounds to 1,200 pounds. The pension to Nana Sahib and of Lakshmi Bai, of Jhansi was suspended. The titular sovereignty of the Nawab of Carnatic and Tanjore was also abolished.

Administrative Causes

Rule of Law: The British introduced the Rule of Law, which implied the principle of equality in the eyes of the law respective of the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the weak and the strong. The poorer and the weaker sections did not get any benefit from the new system due to complicated procedure of the British administration.

Unpopular British Administration: The English officials were not accessible to the people. Thus, the people could not place their grievances before them, as they did during the period of the Mughals. The people also disliked the new system of British administration which functioned as a machine and lacked personal touch. The English laws were quite strange and the common people could not understand them.

Exclusion of Indians from Administrative Posts: The British were of the opinion that the Indians were not suitable for the higher posts in their administrative structure. They lacked faith in the sincerity of the Indians. Contempt for Indian and racial prejudice were other reasons why the Indians were denied higher positions in the administration. Complete exclusion of Indians from all position of trust and power in the administration, and the manning of all higher offices both in the civil government and the military forces by the British brought forth discontent and a sense of humiliation among the people.

Economic Causes

Ruin of the Mercantile Class: The British deliberately crippled Indian trade and commerce by imposing high tariff duties against Indian goods. On the other hand they encouraged the import of British goods to India. As a result by the middle of the nineteenth century Indian exports of cotton and silk goods practically came to an end.

Destruction of Indian Manufacturers: The British policy of promoting the import of cotton goods to India from England destructed all Indian manufacturers, in the cotton textile industry. When British goods flooded Indian market and threatened the outright destruction of Indian manufacturers, the East India Company’s government that ruled India did not take any step to prevent the tragedy. Free trade and refusal to impose protective duties against machine-made goods of England ruined Indian manufacturers.

Pressure on Land: The millions of ruined artisans and craftsmen, spinners, weavers, smelters, smiths and others from town and villages, had no alternative but to pursue agricultural activity that led to a pressure on land. India was transformed from being a country of agriculture into an agricultural colony of British Empire.

Impoverishment of Peasantry: Land being the chief source of income for Indians, the East India Company introduced various experiments and measures to extract the maximum share of agricultural produce. Various methods of revenue settlement led to the impoverishment and misery of the peasants. Peasants were exploited by moneylenders, who usually confiscated their land for failure to repay their debt. English settlers monopolized plantation industries like indigo and tea. The inhuman treatment of the indigo cultivators by the European plantation owners was one of the darkest and most tragic episodes in the history of British rule in India. The economic policies of the British affected the interests of the Indian traders, the manufacturers craftsmen and the peasants.
**Socio-Religious Causes**

- **Social Legislation:** Lord William Bentinck abolished the practice of Sati in 1829, with the support of educated and enlightened Indians such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Lord Canning enacted the Widow Remarriage Act, drafted by Lord Dalhousie in 1856. These legislation were viewed by the orthodox sections in the society as interference by the British in their social and religious practice. The two laws of 1832 and 1850, removing disabilities due to change of religion, particularly conferring the right of inheritance to change of religion, particularly conferring the right of inheritance to Christian converts, were quite unpopular among the Hindus.

- **Missionary Activities:** There was a strong movement that grew in England to spread Christianity in India and convert its Hindus and Muslims subjects to that faith. By the Charter Act of 1813, Christian missionaries were permitted to enter the Company’s territories in India to propagate their religion and spread Western education. The Christian missionaries took every opportunity to expose the abuses in the Hindu as well as the Islamic religion. They denounced idolatry, ridiculed the Hindu gods and goddesses and criticized the philosophy and principals of Hinduism and Islam. The teaching of Christian doctrines were made compulsory in educational institutes run by the missionaries. Thus, the interference of the British authorities in social customs and practices through social legislation and the encouragement given by the government to Christian missionaries in their proselytizing activities created a sense of apprehension and hatred in the minds of Indians.

**Military Causes**

- **Service Conditions:** The sepoys of the Bengal army, were Brahmins and Rajputs had special grievances of their own. Among them were unsatisfactory conditions of service, encroachment upon their religious customs, and offences against their dignity and self-respect. They had a strong sense of resentment, as their scale of salary was very low compared to their English counterparts. In the guise of enforcing discipline, the British authorities prohibited the Hindus and the Muslim sepoys displaying their religious marks. The Hindu sepoys were forbidden to wear vermilion mark on their forehead, or turban on their head. The Muslims sepoys were forced to shave off their beard. These restrictions wounded the religious sentiments of the sepoys.

- **Withdraw of Allowances:** The British authorities used to withdraw the allowances after the conquest and annexation of a province and post the same troops in those very provinces on reduced salaries. These measures demoralized the sepoys. In 1844 four Bengal regiments refused to move to Sindh till extra allowance was sanctioned. Mutinous spirit was also displayed in 1849 by the sepoys in various provinces.

- **The General Service Enlistment Act:** The Hindu soldiers nursed grievances against the British as they were forced to go on expedition to Burma and Afghanistan, which violated their religious beliefs. To live among Muslims and to take food and water from them was disliked to their ancient customs. Besides, crossing the seas was prohibited by the religion as the one who crossed the forbidden seas was bound to lose his caste. In order to prevent any kind of resistance from the sepoys against their deployment abroad, Lord Canning’s government passed the General Service Enlistment Act in 1856. By this act all future recruits to the Bengal army were required to give an undertaking that they would serve anywhere their services required.

**Impact of the Revolt**

- The control of Indian administration was transferred from the East India Company to the crown by the Government of India Act, 1858. It ended the era of annexation and expansion and the Queen’s proclamation declared against any desire for “extension of territorial possessions” and promised to respect the rights of dignity and honour of native princes as their own.
The Act of 1858 ended the dualism in the control of Indian affairs and made the crown directly responsible for management of Indian affairs. Following this, fundamental changes in the administrative set up were made in the executive, legislative and judicial administration of India by passing the Indian Councils Act of 1861, the Indian High Court Act of 1861 and the Indian Civil Service Act of 1861.

The British policies towards Indian States changed radically and the states were now treated as the bulwark of the empire against future contingencies. The Indian army was thoroughly reorganized and the number of European troops in India was increased. All the superior posts in the armed forces were reserved for the Europeans. The policy of associating Indian members with legislative matters and administration was started. A humble beginning in this direction was made by the Indian Councils Act of 1861.

The revolt left a legacy of racial bitterness. The entire Indian people were dubbed as unworthy of trust and subjected to insults, humiliations and contemptuous treatment.

The era of territorial expansion gave place to the era of economic exploitation in a more subtle way. The policy of ‘divide and rule’ between Hindus and Muslims was started.

The attitude of the British towards social reforms became contrary to what it was before 1857. They now sided with orthodox opinion and stopped encouraging social reformers.

### Centers of the Revolt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Suppression</th>
<th>After Revolt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>Bahadur Shah (nominal), Bakht Khan (real)</td>
<td>Sepoy's pressure</td>
<td>John Nicholson (1857 Sep)</td>
<td>Bahadur Shah deported to Rangoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kanpur</td>
<td>Nana Saheb (Dhondu Pant)</td>
<td>Did not get the pension &amp; title</td>
<td>Colin Campbell</td>
<td>Nana Saheb escaped to Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jhansi</td>
<td>Rani Lakshmi Bai</td>
<td>Doctrine of Lapse</td>
<td>Hugh Rose</td>
<td>Rani died fighting. Huge Rose had paid her tribute as “only man among the rebels”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucknow</td>
<td>Begum Hazrat Mahal (Avadh), Maulvi Ahmadullah of Faizabad.</td>
<td>Annexation of Avadh</td>
<td>Colin Campbell</td>
<td>Hazrat Mahal escaped to Nepal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrah (Bihar)</td>
<td>Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Died fighting. He was oldest leader to lead army himself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bareilly</td>
<td>Khan Bahadur Khan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Died fighting.</td>
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Policies After 1857

- An Act of Parliament in 1858 transferred the power to govern from the East India Company to the British Crown. While authority over India had previously been wielded by the directors of the Company and the Board of Control, now this power was to be exercised by a Secretary of State for India aided by a Council.

- The Secretary of State was a member of the British Cabinet and as such was responsible to Parliament. Thus the ultimate power over India remained with Parliament. The Secretary of State controlled the small details of administration. The Viceroy was now reduced to a subordinate status in relation to the British government in matters of execution of policy.

- British industrialists, merchants, and bankers increased their influence over the Government of India. This made the Indian administration even more reactionary than it was before 1858, for now even the pretence of liberalism was gradually given up.

- The Indian Councils Act of 1861 enlarged the Governor-General’s Council for the purpose of making laws, in which capacity it was known as the Imperial Legislative Council. The Imperial Legislative Council possessed no real powers and should not be seen as a sort of elementary or weak parliament. It was merely an advisory body. It could not discuss any important measures and no financial measures at all, without the previous approval of the government.

- Changes in the Army: The Indian army was reorganized after 1858, most of all to prevent the recurrence of another revolt. The rulers had seen that their bayonets were the only secure foundation of their rule. Several steps were taken to minimise, the capacity of Indian soldiers to revolt. First, the domination of the army by its European branch was carefully guaranteed. The proportion of Europeans to Indians in the army was raised and fixed at one to two in the Bengal army and two to five in the Madras and Bombay armies. Further, the European troops were kept in key geographical and military positions. The crucial branches of the army like artillery and, later in the twentieth century, tanks were put exclusively in European hands.

- Relationship with Princely states: The Revolt of 1857 led the British to reverse their policy towards the Indian States. Before 1857, they had availed themselves of every opportunity to annex princely states. This policy was now abandoned. Most of the Indian princes had not only remained loyal to the British but had actively aided the latter in suppressing the Revolt.
The earliest public association in modern India was the Landholders’ Society - an association of the landlords of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, founded in 1837 with the purpose of promoting the class interests of the landlords. In 1843, was organised the Bengal British Indian Society to protect and promote general public interests. Landholders’ Society and Bengal British Indian Society were merged in 1851 to form the British India Association. This association was dominated by members of the landed aristocracy and its primary objective was safeguarding their class interest.

However, the Association struck a liberal note and when the time came for the renewal of the charter of the East India Company, it sent a petition to the Parliament praying for establishment of a separate legislature of a popular character, separation of judicial and executive functions, reduction in the salaries of higher officers, abolition of salt duty, abkari and stamp duties etc. The prayers of the Association were partially met and the Charter Act of 1853 provided for the addition of six members to the governor-general’s council for legislative purpose.

Similarly, the Madras Native Association and the Bombay Association were established in 1852. Similar, though lesser known clubs and associations, such as the Scientific Society founded by Sayyid Ahmad Khan, were established in different towns and parts of the country. The period after 1858 witnessed a gradual widening of the gulf between the educated Indians and the British Indian administration. As the educated Indians studied the character of British rule and its consequences for the Indians, they became more and more critical of British policies in India.

The discontent gradually found expression in political activity and the existing associations no longer satisfied the politically-conscious Indians. In 1866, Dadabhai Naoroji organised the East India Association in London to discuss the Indian question and to influence British public men to promote Indian welfare. Later he organised branches of the Association in prominent Indian cities. Two other Associations namely National Indian Association, founded by Mary Carpenter in 1867 and

Indian Society, founded by Anandmohan Bose in 1872 were also formed in London. Justice Ranade and others organised the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha in the 1870. The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha brought out a quarterly journal under the guidance of Justice Ranade. This journal became the intellectual guide of new India particularly on economic questions.
- The Madras Mahajan Sabha was started in 1884 and the Bombay Presidency Association in 1885. The Bombay Presidency Association was organized by the popularly called brothers in law - Mehtas, Telang and Tyabji, representing the three chief communities of Bombay town. These organisations were mainly devoted to criticism of important administrative and legislative measures.

- Sisir Kumar Ghosh founded the Indian league in 1875 with the objective of “stimulating the sense of nationalism amongst the people” and of encouraging political education. Within a year of its foundation, the Indian league was superseded by the Indian Association.

### Political and Nationalist Organizations

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Founder</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>British India Society</td>
<td>William Adams</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
<td>1843</td>
<td>British India Society</td>
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<td>Calcutta</td>
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<td>1851</td>
<td>British India Association</td>
<td>Devendranath Tagore</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
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<td>1852</td>
<td>Madras Native Association</td>
<td>Gazalu Lakshminarasa Chetty</td>
<td>Madras</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Bombay Association</td>
<td>Jagannath Shankar</td>
<td>Bombay</td>
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<td>1862</td>
<td>London India Committee</td>
<td>C.P. Mudaliar</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>East India Association</td>
<td>Dadabhai Nauroji</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>National India Association</td>
<td>Mary Carpenter</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>1872</td>
<td>Indian Society</td>
<td>Anand Mohan Bose</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>1876</td>
<td>Indian Association</td>
<td>Anand Mohan Bose and S.N. Banerjee</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
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<td>1883</td>
<td>Indian National Society</td>
<td>Shishir Chandra Bose</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
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<td>Indian National Conference</td>
<td>S.N. Banerjee</td>
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<td>1885</td>
<td>Bombay Presidency Association</td>
<td>Feroz Shah Mehta and Telang</td>
<td>Bombay</td>
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<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>A.O. Hume</td>
<td>Bombay</td>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>United Indian Patriotic Association</td>
<td>Sir Saiyad Ahmad</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>Servants of India Society</td>
<td>G.K. Gokhale</td>
<td>Bombay</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Home Rule League</td>
<td>Annie Besant and Tilak</td>
<td>Pune</td>
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<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>U.P. Kisan Sabha</td>
<td>M.M Malviya, Gari Shankar and Indra Narayan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>M.N. Roy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Leader(s)</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>Servants of People Society</td>
<td>Lala Lajpat Rai</td>
<td>Tashkent</td>
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<td>Awadh Kisan Sabha</td>
<td>Nehru, Ramchandra and Gauri Shankar</td>
<td>Pratapgarh</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>Indian Trade Union Congress</td>
<td>N.M. Joshi (Founder), Lala Lajpat Rai (President)</td>
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<td>1927</td>
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<td>Madras</td>
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<td>1928</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>Khudai Khidmatgar</td>
<td>Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan</td>
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<td>1934</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>All India Student Federation</td>
<td>Minoo Masani, Ashok Mehta</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Forward Bloc</td>
<td>Subhash Chandra Bose</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Indian Bolshevik Party</td>
<td>N.D. Majumdar</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Radical Democratic Party</td>
<td>M.N. Roy</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>Indian Bolshevik Lenin Party</td>
<td>Ajit Rai and Indrasen</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Revolutionary Socialist Party</td>
<td>Satyendra Nath Tagore</td>
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Introduction

In the first half of the 20th century, revolutionary groups sprang up mainly in Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab. The revolutionaries were not satisfied with the methods of both the moderates and extremists. Hence, they started many revolutionary secret organizations.

Revolutionary Activities in Maharashtra

Vasudeo Balwant Phadke

- Phadke was influenced by the vision of Justice Ranade.
- He held the British government to be responsible for the sufferings of the people during the famine in the Deccan in 1876-77.
- Phadke denounced the British policy of ruthless exploitation of India.
- The government ordered the army to suppress the uprising.
- Avoiding pitched battle; Phadke recognized his force & started guerilla warfare against the British. He was ultimately captured and was sentenced to transportation for life. He was deported to Aden where he died in 1883 in jail.

The Chaypekar Brothers, Damodar, Vasudev and Balkrishan

- They established the Hindu Dharma Sanrakshini Sabha in 1894.
- During the Ganapati festivals of 1894, they circulated leaflets in Poona, and asked the Hindus to rise in arms against that rule as Shivaji had done against the Muslim rule.
On 22 June 1897, W.C. Rand & Lieutenant C.E. Ayearst were shot dead by Damodar & Bal Chapekar.

Damodar was arrested immediately after and was sentenced to death.

**Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**

- Savarkar joined the Abhinav Bharat Society founded by his elder brother Ganesh Damodar.
- At the time of his departure from India, Savarkar and his brother were also leaders of an association known as the Mitramela, started around 1899.
- Savarkar later proceeded to London in 1906, but his organization continued to flourish in India.

**Revolutionary Activities in Bengal**

The revolutionary activity in Bengal was the outcome of the failure of constitutional agitation to prevent the partition of Bengal in 1905.

**Anushilan Samiti**

- The first revolutionary organization in Bengal was the Anushilan samiti founded in 1902. The Anushilan Samiti was established by Pramathanath Mitra, a barrister from Calcutta and Satish Chandra Basu.
- The people associated with this samiti were Sri Aurobindo, Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Tagore, Jatindranath Banerjee, Bagha Jatin, Bhupendra Natha Datta, Barindra Ghosh etc. Bhupendra Nath Datta was brother of Swami Vivekananda.
- Barindra Ghosh was sent to Paris to learn the science of Bomb Making and here he came in touch with Madam Bhikaji Cama.
- Madam Cama was already associated with the India House and the Paris India Society.
- Its members Kudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki were entrusted with the task of assassination of Kingsford the vindictive judge who had sentenced many political prisoners to heavy terms of punishment.
- On 30th April 1908, they threw a bomb at the carriage in which they believed Kingsford to be travelling. But unfortunately, two British ladies who were in the carriage were inadvertently killed. Kudiram was arrested and hanged on 11th August 1908.
- They published a periodical named Jugantar, which openly preached armed rebellion in order to create the necessary revolutionary mentality among the people. Both Sandhya and Jugantar openly preached the cult of violence.

**The Alipore Conspiracy (1908)**

- The government's search for illegal arms in Calcutta led to the arrest of thirty-four persons including the Ghosh brothers and their trial came to be known as Alipore conspiracy case.
- One of the arrested persons Narendra Gosain became the approver, but he was shot dead in jail before giving evidence.
- Of the accused in the Alipore conspiracy case, fifteen were found guilty and some of them including Barindra Kumar Ghosh were transported to life.
- After the Alipore conspiracy case, Rash Behari Bose planned a nationwide-armed uprising with the help of Indian soldiers of the British army. However following the discovery of the plot by the police, Rash Behari Bose escaped to Japan & continued his revolutionary activities there.
Revival of Revolutionary Nationalism

After the First World War, the British government, released some of the revolutionaries to create a more harmonious atmosphere. On the plea of Gandhiji, C.R. Das and other leaders, most of the revolutionary nationalists either joined the Indian national movement or suspended their own activities. The non-cooperation movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi was suddenly suspended following the mob violence at Chauri chaura in U.P.

Many young people began to question the very basic strategy of the national leadership & its emphasis on non-violence and began to look for alternatives. Some of them were convinced with the idea that violent methods alone would free India.

Gradually two separate groups of revolutionary nationalism developed one in Punjab, U.P., and Bihar and the other in Bengal.

Hindustan Socialist Republican Association

- Hindustan Socialist Republican Association before 1928 was known as the Hindustan Republican Association. Bhagat Singh, Yogendra Shukla and Chandrasekar Azad were the key functionaries of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.
- The group is also considered one of the first socialist organizations in India. HSRA was rejuvenated by the ideologies of the Bolsheviks involvement in the Russian Revolution of 1917.
- Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was first launched during a meeting in Bholachang village, Brahmapur subdivision of East Bengal. Freedom fighters like Pratul Ganguly, Narendra Mohan Sen and Sachindra Nath Sanyal were present at the meeting.
- The association was formed as an outgrowth of the Anushilan Samiti. The name Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was implicative after a similar revolutionary body in Ireland. Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was always in the forefront of revolutionary movements in the northern parts of India.
- The association consisted of younger generations of U.P, Bihar, Punjab, Bengal and Maharashtra. The group possessed ideals, which were directly opposite to Mahatma Gandhi’s Congress.
- HSRA in non-violent protest advancement against the Simon Commission at Lahore decided to support Lala Lajpat Rai.
- But in the protest procession, the police plunged into a mass lathi charge and the wounds imposed on Lalaji proved life-threatening to him.
- To avenge the death of Lajpat Rai; Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Chander Shekhar Azad, and Jai Gopal were given the charge to assassinate J.A. Scott, who had ordered the unlawful lathi-charge but unfortunately British official J.P. Saunders, got killed in confusion.
- On April 8th 1929 a bomb was detonated near the empty treasure benches, followed by another bomb explosion in the Central Assembly. Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt carried out the bombing and got arrested.
- After the Assembly Bomb Case trial on 23rd March 1931 Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged. Baikuntha Shukla was also hanged for murdering Phanindranath Ghosh who had become a government approver which later on led to the hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.
- Another key revolutionary of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Chandrasekar Azad was killed on 27th February 1931 in a gunfight with the police.

The Kakori Conspiracy Case

- The revolutionaries under Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chatterji, and Sachindranath Sanyal met in Kanpur in October 1924 and founded the Hindustan Republican Association. Its aim was to over throw the British rule from India. For all these activities, money was required. To achieve this objective the Hindustan Revolutionary Army stopped the down train at Kakori, a village in Lucknow district on 9th August 1925 and looted the railway cash.
The government arrested large number of young men and tried them in the Kakori conspiracy case. The chief leaders of the robbery, Ashfaqulla Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil, Roshanlal were sentenced to death.

**Trial and execution of Bhagat Singh**

- Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt were tried in the Assembly Bomb Case. While in Delhi jail, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar demanded that they be treated not as criminals, but as political prisoners.
- Jatindranath Das, who went on fast on similar grounds, died on 13th of September 1930, on the sixty fourth day of the fast in the Lahore prison.
- The trial and subsequent execution of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru on 23rd March 1931 become a political issue.
- A resolution was passed by the Karachi session of the congress in 1931 commending their brave contribution to the freedom struggle of India.

**Surya Sen**

- In the later part of 1920's, the most active & famous of the Bengal revolutionary groups was the Chittagong Group led by Surya Sen. He had actively participated in the non-cooperation movement and had become a teacher in a national school in Chittagong. A group led by Surya Sen captured the government armory on 18th April 1930, and for a while took control over Chittagong and proclaimed a provisional revolutionary government. However, it was not possible for this small group of revolutionaries to put up resistance against the army.
- They escaped to the Chittagong hills and continued to wage guerilla warfare for another three years.

**Limitations of Revolutionary Nationalists**

- They were not successful in politically activating the masses.
- Their contact with masses was lacking.

**Revolutionary Activities outside India**

**Shyamji Krishnaverma**

- He was a member of Mitramela Abhinav Bharat revolutionary group. He left Bombay in 1897 and went to London. He started a monthly journal, the Indian sociologist; an organ of freedom struggle of India in 1905.
- Shyamji established the Indian Home Rule society and a hostel for Indian students living in London, popularly known as the Indian House.
- The most important revolutionaries associated with him were V.D. Savarkar, Madanlal Dhinag, Madame Cama, and Lala Hardyal.
- In 1907 Shyamji shifted his head quarters to Paris and Savarkar took up the political leadership of the Indian House in London.

**Madanlal Dhinag**

- In 1909 Madanlal Dhinag, an associate of Savarkar assassinated Curzon-Wylie an A.D.C.to the Secretary of State for India. He was spying on Indian students.
- Madanlal Dhinag was arrested and brought to trial, and was hanged on 1st August 1909.
Madame Cama

- Madame Cama had been popularly described as the Mother of Indian Revolution. She left India in 1902.
- She took active part in editing the Indian sociologist and represented India at the Stuttgart conference of socialists in 1907.
- At the conference, Madame Cama unfurled for the first time Indian national flag on the foreign soil.
- Due to her anti-British activities, she was forced to shift her residence from London to Paris. After thirty years of patriotic service in London, Paris and other cities of Europe, her friends succeeded in repatriating her to India in November 1936. She died on 12th August 1937.

The Indian Independence Committee in Berlin

After the outbreak of the First World War, Hardyal and other Indians abroad moved to Germany and setup the Indian independence committee at Berlin, 1915. The committee planned to bring about a general insurrection in India and for this purpose foreign arms were to be sent to India from abroad; expatriated Indians were to return to mother country, where they were to be joined by Indian soldiers and by the waiting revolutionaries.