**India up to 1910**

Opposition to Colonial Rule

* India has a strong culture spanning thousands of years. Multi-faith nation of many provinces.
* Growing resentment of British treatment of Indians – authoritarian rule supported by Army and Indian Civil Service. Large army staffed by British Officers and Indian Troops controlled 300 million Indians. The army and Admin were paid for out of Indian taxes.
* British interests around the world and trade routes were paid for by Indian taxes and manned by Indian troops.
* Many Indians were used as indentured servants in British colonies – although this stopped in 1920 under criticism. Diaspora Indians were a critical stimulus for the growth in Nationalism.
* British policy of ‘divide and rule’ – stressed differences and enforced the caste system to prevent the formation of a united opposition.

Economic Factors

* Britain derived great economic benefit from India. Indian taxes were sent to London to fund capital projects and admin and army not reinvested in India.
* Balance of trade – India supplied raw materials to Britain who manufactured the goods and resold them to India. By 1914 India was the biggest importer of British goods. India was ‘de-industrialised’ by the British.
* Also crops – a move to cash crop production from staple foods meant Indians had to rely on exported foods.

Rise in Nationalism

* 1905 - Partition of Bengal – serious nationalist opposition began when Britain tried to divide Bengal along religious lines. Many felt it was an attempt to curb growing Bengali Nationalism.

Growth of Political Parties

* Early political opposition – *INC* – educated Indian, mainly Hindi serving the wealthy and elite groups in India. Did not question British Rule but wanted to increase Indian representation in the government.
* Partition of Bengal – created a radical element in INC – called New Party – especially strong in Calcutta, Poona and Lahore. Moderates were being marginalized in favour of radicals calling for more active opposition.
* 1906 – *Muslim league* formed – aimed to protect Muslim interests – similar to INC – educated middle-upper class representation. Bengal Muslims became concerned with rising Hindu nationalism during partition crisis and support for the Muslim League increased as they sought to protect their own interests.
* British could no longer control situation and in Morley Reforms offered increased Indian representation in central and provincial legislative councils. The first elections were held in 1910. Muslims were given their own representation and reserved seats. First Victory for Indian representation. Bengal was reunited and capital was moved from Calcutta to Delhi – this cooled the rising tension and moderates were back in control.

Growing literacy and education

* Britain did bring western education to India but only for a small minority.

Mass mobilization

* Partition of Bengal 1905 – an anti-partition party used petitions, media protests and rallies to show their opposition. When these failed, they organized a boycott of British goods. Made public bonfires of British goods and urged Indians to buy local goods. Very effective – British imports dropped by 25% and Indian cities like Bombay expanded as they tried to serve the gap in goods. The British reacted with ineffective mass arrests. – Significant – Congress realized the power of a boycott and nationalists were more united over the issue of Bengal.

Leadership

* Moderates in INC and Muslim League dominated early politics
* Tilak – Radical INC member who established the New Party – he encouraged direct confrontation and active opposition. He demanded self-rule or swaraj. The British saw him as a dangerous troublemaker and sent him to prison in 1908 – he was released in 1914.