

## Revolutionary Activities

The idea of opposition to British Rule led to three streams or reactions from – Moderates, Extremist and Revolutionaries.

Methods of this opposition:

**Moderates** – Constitutional Opposition

**Extremist** – Passive Resistance (no bodily harm)

**Revolutionaries** – Active Resistance (direct positive harm to unpopular British Officers)

Political frustration with both moderates and extremist leads to Revolutionary thought. The revolutionaries target British officers to force them to leave India by hurting their morale and striking fear in minds of British officers

The idea of opposition which was preached by extremist was transformed into practice by revolutionaries. We can say, it was practical manifestation of extremist politics (the kind of radical ideas that had generated action).

### First Phase of Revolutionaries (1895-1919)

**Main Characteristics:** Lacked central leadership, lack of organization, lack of social support, No proper Objective → They were Emotional Nationalist having intense love for motherland → Work of Individual Heroes

The revolutionary terrorism started from **Maharashtra**, then Bengal, then spread to other parts of India like Punjab, then UP and so on.

After the 1857 rebellion, **Vasudeva Balvant Phadke made an attempt to organise an armed resistance (1877-78) → Ramosi Peasant Force**. Within another twenty years Chapekar Brothers came forward with their terrorist activities.

**In MH**, during the closing years of 19<sup>th</sup> Century and beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> Century, we have some of the revolutionary activities like:

- **Chapekar Brother (1897):** Atrocities like the pollution of sacred places and the breaking of idols were committed by European soldiers at the time of house searches in Poona. Chapekar tells that they wanted to "take revenge" for such acts. Damodar Chapekar, Mahadeo Vinayak Ranade and Balkrishna Chapekar killed the plague commissioner of Poona – **Commissioner Walter Charles Rand and Military Escort Lt. Ayerst**.
- Revolutionaries in Maharashtra, they came under a banner of cultural organization and **Mitra Mela (1897)** was organized by **Ganesh Savarkar**. The organization published Kal Newspaper. Subsequently when Mitra Mela was banned its name was changed to

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**Abhinav Bharat by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (1904)** → In 1906 he also established Abhinav Bharat in London.

- **Nasik Conspiracy Case (1909):** Anant Lakshman Kanhare killed the DM of Nasik, Jackson → Anant Laxman Kanhere assassinated Justice Jackson of Nasik court for awarding life imprisonment to **Ganesh Savarkar**.
- **Bharat Mata Society** → Ajit Singh → Founded Bharat Mata Society + **Journal: Bharat Mata** → Protest against high rates of irrigation

Subsequently the Revolutionary movement reached **Bengal**:

- **Anushilan Samiti (1902)** Founded by Promotha Mitter → Secret revolutionary society was established in **Dhaka and Midnapore + Promoted themselves as cultural organization** → **Anushilan Samiti of Dacca and Midnapore** was very effective → At Dacca Pulin Bihari Das was the leader + At **Midnapore Bhupendranath Dutta and Barindranath Ghosh** were active
- **Barrah Dacoity (1908)** → Robbing the zamindar of Barrah
- Out of these '**Yugantar**' Group was very famous → Yugantar established by Barindra Ghosh. It was very impressive and useful in mobilizing ideas of Revolution.
- Some revolutionary magazines and newspapers were also published to encourage youth to join revolutionary activities – **Bhavani Mandir (Aurobindo Ghosh), Sandhya (Bramha Bandhab Upadhyay), Bandi Jeevan (Sachin Sanyal), Shakti, Mukti Kaun Pathe** (what way is the liberation?) (Abhinash Chandra Bhattacharya), Bande Mataram by Bipin Chandra Pal and edited by Aurobindo Ghosh.
- **Swadesh Bandhav Samiti** at Barisal by Ashwini Kumar Dutta
- **Alipore Conspiracy Case (1906-10)** was very important → Barindra Ghosh conducted raid on Alipore Arms Depot – Barindranath Ghosh and Aurobindo Ghosh were arrested → CR Das was their lawyer → Person accompanying B. Ghosh, Narendra Gosain, who was son of a wealthy landlord turned approver → In order to save Aurobindo Ghosh, **Kanhaiya Lal Dutta and Satyendranath Basu** killed Gosain in jail → Both awarded death penalty → Gosain was the only evidence to testify involvement of Aurobindo Ghosh. Aurobindo Ghosh was acquitted and Barindranath Ghosh was given life imprisonment
- **Muzzafarpur Conspiracy Case (1908)** → A case within Alipore Conspiracy case. Two young boys of tender age, **Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki** tried to kill the District Judge of Muzzafarpur Kingsford → Kingsford was saved, two British ladies killed + Chaki killed himself when injured → Khudiram Bose at age of 18yrs/8months/18days British hanged him to create fear among

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people. Nandalal Bannerjee, the police officer who had arrested Prafulla Chaki was gunned down

- **Chandini Chowk Bomb Case or Delhi Bomb Case (1912)** → Lord Hardinge was shifting his office → Khudiram Bose, Basanta Kumar Biswas and Sachin Sanyal. Basanta Kumar Biswas threw the Bomb, Viceroy suffered injuries. The case was filed against Lala Hanumant Sahai, Basanta Kumar Biswas, Bhai Balmukund, Amir Chand and Awadh Behari. Lala Hanumant Sahai was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Kalapani and the other four were sentenced to death for their roles in the conspiracy.
- **Taxi-Cab Dacoity and Boat Dacoities (1915)** by Jatin Mukherjee aka 'Bagha Jatin' and other associates who were members of Anushilan Samiti. They carried out political dacoities with the help of taxi-cabs and boats looting money from British Industrialist and treasury.

The Revolutionary Movement spread in **foreign land**:

- **Shyamji Krishna Verma** was a lawyer → published '**Indian Sociologist**', established **India House (1904)** to support revolutionary activities. One of the members Madal Lal Dhingra killed **Curzon Wylie (1909)** in London. Wylie was adviser to Secretary of State who advised partition of Bengal.
- Madam Bikhaji Kama → **Mother of all revolutionaries** → **Paris India Society (1905)** + Hoisted Tricolour at Stuttgart in Germany **(1907)** → Flag containing religious symbols of Hindus, Muslims and Christians



When London and Paris did not remain safe haven for revolutionary activities, after they passed series of laws, assets were confiscated → Revolutionaries found safe space in America and Canada

- In **1913**, **Ghadar Party** was established by **Lala Hardayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Bhai Parmanand** at San Francisco. Lala Hardayal was philosopher, ideologue of revolutionary movement, generated funds for many revolutionary activities. His goal was to **regenerate the revolt of 1857** to violently overthrow the British rule. Published the **Magazine Ghadar** in many languages and published articles such as Gadhar ki Goonj, Angrezi Raj ka Kaccha Chittha. Members arrived in India in 1915, **members roused citing the Komagata Maru incident.**

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Later Rash Bihari Bose called to handle the movement after which he escaped to Japan in 1915.

- In **1914, Komagata Maru Incident** → A law passed in Canada stating those immigrants not coming directly from source country will not get entry into Canada, this law was passed mainly to discourage Indian revolutionaries. Supreme Court of Canada allowed some Indians to enter on Humanitarian Ground → encouraged by this, **Gurdit Singh** living in Japan, hired a ship Komagata Maru from Hong Kong and many revolutionaries were aboard this ship → But it was stopped in territorial waters with over **376 passengers** → **Shore Committee under Husain Singh and Sohan Lal Pathak** was negotiating with Canada Government on behalf these → Meanwhile WW-I broke out and Canada being an ally of British → The ship was returned to India and landed at Calcutta → There was stampede when revolutionaries tried to jump from Ship to avoid arrest → British opened fire → Disastrous end to ghadrtees and thus sharp decline in revolutionary activities.

**First Phase of Revolutionary Activities ended mainly because of three factors:**

1. Repressive laws passed by British Government such as **Defence of India Act, 1915**
2. **Komagata Maru incident** was very discouraging – It had a huge adverse psychological impact on revolutionaries.
3. **Advent of Gandhi in Indian Politics** → Gandhi came to India as 'Youth Icon', Youth were inclined to Gandhi's leadership + Youth left path of violence and entered into Gandhian politics of non-violence
4. Conciliatory approach of British for Montagu Chelmsford reforms → British released many revolutionaries.

Thus by 1919 first phase of revolutionary movement had ended.

### The Second phase of Revolutionary movement (1922-34)

- The First phase ended cause of Gandhi and Second started Cause of him
- This was after **suspension of NCM** → It was huge setback to the nationalist Indians, who were aspiring for political reforms through mass movements → Youth was discouraged and disillusioned with Gandhian methods → There was projection of **failed leadership of Gandhi**
- **Main Characteristics:** All India character + Intelligence network + They had support of people, Social Support + Participation of Educated Youth + Centralised Leadership + Secular ( for instance Bhagat Singh wrote 'Why I am an Atheist') + Revolutionaries had clear objective, Republicanism and Socialism

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- Book by Bhagwati Charan Vohra “Philosophy of Bomb” – It was guiding ethics for the revolutionaries + Sachin Sanyal “Bandhi Jeevan”
- Some great revolutionaries during this time were: Bhagat Singh, Sachin Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil, Surya Sen, Chandrashekhar Azad
- **Revolutionaries established Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) in 1924** → Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Sachindra Nath Bakshi, Sachindranath Sanyal aka Sachin Sanyal and Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee. Many revolutionary organizations of India came under umbrella of this organization.
- **Kakori Conspiracy Case (1925):** Leaders involved in conducting raid on running train in robin hood style at Kakori near Lucknow to loot arms and treasury. More than 30 suspicious revolutionaries were arrested and after the trial 4 were hanged → **Ramprash Bismil** (follower of Arya Samaj, Inspired by Satyarth Prakash Inqalab Zindabad, immortalized Sarfaroshi ki tammana but written by Bismil Azimabadi), **Roshan Singh, Rajendra Lehri and Ashfaqullah Khan** – Chandra Shekhar Azad was declared absconder in this case → After this case there was subsidence in revolutionary activities.
- Revolutionaries got a new lease of life when Bhagat Singh became active in 1928 → Name of **HRA changed to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) in 1928** + Bhagat Singh founded Naujawan Bharat Sabha in 1926.
- **Lahore Conspiracy Case (1929):** Bhagat Singh + Chandra Shekhar Azad Killed Saunders, actually wanted to kill Scott for fatal lathi charge on Lala Lajpat Rai +
- **Assembly Bombing (1929):** Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt throw bomb in Delhi Assembly when assembly discussing 2 anti-India bill: Public Safety Bill and Trade Dispute Bill (required to give 1 month notice for strike). Joint trial in this case: Three people hanged in this case → **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar** hanged on 23 March, 1931 → Big jolt to revolutionary movement in India esp. North India.
- First Lahore Conspiracy Case, 1915 associated with Ghadar conspiracy.
- **In Bengal, 1930**, three local boys (18-19 age) influenced by revolutionary activities, **Badal Basu, Benoy Gupta and Dinesh Gupta** tried to hoist flag on **Writers Building (Secretariat)** killed themselves **after shooting Col. N S Simpson**.
- **Surya Sen, in Bengal** → Surya Sen popularly known as “Master Dada” as he was school teacher in Chittagong + General Secretary of Chittagong Congress Committee during NCM + Established **Indian Republican Association** + **Mass participation of women in this organization** → **Chittagong Armoury Raid** → **Kalpana Dutta was also involved** → Considered as most successful activity in history of

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revolutionary movement → Other women leaders associated with this were: **Bina Das** at her convocation ceremony → **tried to kill governor of Bengal** → imprisoned for 7 Years + **Preetilata Wadedar** → **Killed many people in a club which prohibited entry of Indians** → Pahartali European Club → Consumed Cyanide when caught + other prominent female revolutionaries include Shanti Ghosh, Suniti Chaudhary + In 1934, Surya Sen was caught and Hanged → Revolutionary movement ended