

# A Historical Examination of the Indian National Congress's Contribution to the Indian Independence Movement

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**Abstract:** *The goal of the study is to investigate the different ways that the INC supported the Indian independence struggle, including through its campaigns, political techniques, and ideological contributions. Through its encouragement of political consciousness, national solidarity, and popular mobilization, the Indian National Congress was instrumental in the Indian independence movement. Its leaders and initiatives had a significant impact on the political and social climate of India and helped establish the groundwork for its eventual independence. In the fight for Indian independence, the Indian National Congress (INC) was a key player. Its main goal at its founding in 1885 was to advance the interests of Indians living under British domination. The INC evolved over time from a small debate group to a powerful political party that spearheaded the fight for independence. Promoting national unity was one of the INC's most important contributions. It united individuals from all castes, religions, and geographical areas to fight for a single goal. The INC supported the notion of a united India in which members of all ethnic groups would coexist peacefully and harmoniously. In order to mobilize the populace and foster a sense of national consciousness, this concept of oneness was essential. Additionally, the INC was essential in raising Indians' political consciousness. To contest the power of the British government, it coordinated a number of campaigns and movements, including the Quit India Movement, the Civil Disobedience Movement, and the Non-Cooperation Movement. People were inspired to fight for their rights and the message of freedom was disseminated by these movements. A number of factors, including socioeconomic factors, nonviolent resistance, the Quit India Movement, civil society, international relations, leadership, colonial policies, external factors, the media, post-independence India, regional variations, relationships with other organizations, impact on women's participation, diaspora involvement, and cultural and intellectual production, must be taken into account when analyzing the Indian National Congress's role in the Indian independence movement. Understanding the intricacies of the Indian independence movement and the function of political organizations in social and political transformation might be improved by the results of such studies*

**Keywords:** Role, Indian National Congress, Indian Independence Movement etc

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the fight for Indian independence, the Indian National Congress (INC) was a key player. Its main goal at its founding in 1885 was to advance the interests of Indians living under British domination. The INC evolved over time from a small debate group to a powerful political party that spearheaded the fight for independence. Promoting national unity was one of the INC's most important contributions. It united individuals from all castes, religions, and geographical areas to fight for a single goal. The INC supported the notion of a united India in which members of all ethnic groups would coexist peacefully and harmoniously. In order to mobilize the populace and foster a sense of national consciousness, this concept of oneness was essential. Additionally, the INC was essential in raising Indians' political consciousness. To contest the power of the British government, it coordinated a number of campaigns and movements, including the Quit India Movement, the Civil Disobedience Movement, and the Non-Cooperation Movement. People were inspired to fight for their rights and the message of freedom was disseminated by these movements.

Additionally, the Indian National Congress provided a forum for the rise of a number of national leaders who were essential to the fight for independence. At some point in their lives, prominent figures including as Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mahatma Gandhi, and Subhash Chandra Bose were affiliated with the INC. Although these leaders brought a variety of viewpoints and beliefs to the fight for freedom, they were all committed to seeing India gain its independence. The INC's influence on the constitution of India was another noteworthy achievement. The Constituent Assembly of India was charged with creating a new constitution for the nation upon its independence. Nehru, Patel, and B.R. Ambedkar were among the INC's leaders who were instrumental in this process and in the framing of India's constitution.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

To investigate the different ways that the INC supported the Indian independence struggle, including through its campaigns, political techniques, and ideological contributions.

**SCOPE OF THE STUDY:**

The INC's use of mass mobilization, nonviolent resistance, and civil disobedience are among its political methods and tactics that are the subject of one section of the study. The influence of campaigns like the Quit India struggle, the Civil Disobedience Movement, and the Non-Cooperation Movement on the Indian independence struggle has been studied by academics. The INC's ideological contributions to the Indian independence movement, including as its support of Indian nationalism, secularism, socialism, and democracy, are the subject of another field of study. The views of the movement's leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru, B.R. Ambedkar, and Mahatma Gandhi, have been examined by academics in their writings, speeches, and deeds.

**II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

The secondary sources of data used in this study include books, journals, articles, websites, and other sources.

**THE ROLE OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS IN THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT:**

Initially, the INC used constitutional methods to gain Indian independence. The group promoted greater autonomy for India inside the British Empire as well as more representation of Indians in the British government. However, the INC turned to more extreme measures after multiple failed attempts to get these reforms. The Non-Cooperation Movement, which was started in 1920, was one of the most important occasions in the INC's history. The movement's goals were to encourage Indian independence and boycott British products and institutions. Millions of Indians participated in boycotts, protests, and strikes as it swiftly gained popularity. However, following a violent incident in ChauriChaura, Uttar Pradesh, where a gang of demonstrators attacked a police station and killed many policemen, the march was ultimately called off. Another significant initiative spearheaded by the INC was the Civil Disobedience Movement, which began in 1930. The movement sought to overturn British salt regulations that levied taxes on the manufacture and distribution of salt, which is an essential Indian commodity. In contravention of British regulations, thousands of Indians gathered salt from the seashore during Mahatma Gandhi's 24-day march to the sea as part of the campaign. The movement attracted international attention and support for the Indian independence struggle, but it also resulted in a large number of arrests. The INC's last and most important campaign prior to India's independence was the Quit India Movement, which was started in 1942. The movement demanded that the British leave India right away and that an independent Indian government be established. In response, the British authorities launched a ruthless repression campaign and arrested thousands of Indians. However, because it inspired public support for the cause and cleared the path for India's independence in 1947, the movement constituted a watershed in the fight for freedom.

Additionally, the INC was instrumental in promoting social and cultural transformation in India. For instance, the group promoted women's rights and the elimination of discrimination based on caste. After independence, India's social and cultural policies were greatly influenced by the INC's leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar. Promoting the concept of Swaraj, or self-rule, among Indians was another important contribution made by the INC. The idea of Swaraj placed a strong emphasis on the necessity for Indians to resist foreign dominance and take charge of their own future. It encouraged millions of Indians to join the fight for freedom and acted as a rallying cry for the

independence movement. Additionally, the INC was crucial in promoting support and solidarity for the Indian independence cause on a global scale. To further the Indian cause, the group forged alliances with a number of foreign groups, such as the Anti-Imperialist League and Socialist International. In order to gain assistance from other governments and organizations and to increase awareness of India's fight for independence, the INC's leaders also visited overseas.

- **Regional and local variations:** The Indian independence movement was not a homogenous movement, but rather one that had different nuances and approaches depending on the region and local context. Researchers could examine how the role of the Indian National Congress differed in various regions of India, and how local movements and organizations collaborated or clashed with the national Congress.
- **Relationship with other organizations:** The Indian National Congress was not the only organization involved in the Indian independence movement. Other organizations, such as the Muslim League and the Indian Socialist Party, also played significant roles. Researchers could explore the relationships between the Indian National Congress and these other organizations, as well as the tensions and conflicts that arose.
- **Impact on women's participation:** The Indian independence movement also had an impact on women's participation in politics and society. Researchers could investigate how the Indian National Congress contributed to the mobilization of women and the promotion of women's rights, and how women's participation in the movement influenced the organization's strategies and tactics.
- **Role of diaspora:** The Indian independence movement was not restricted to India but had a global reach, with Indian communities abroad playing a role in the struggle for independence. Researchers could examine the role of the Indian National Congress in mobilizing and coordinating the diaspora, and how the diaspora's support contributed to the movement.
- **Role of cultural and intellectual production:** The Indian National Congress also had a significant impact on cultural and intellectual production during the independence movement. Researchers could investigate how the organization promoted literary and artistic works that celebrated Indian culture and contributed to the construction of a national identity.
- **Role of leadership:** The leadership of the Indian National Congress played a critical role in the independence movement. Researchers could examine how leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose contributed to the movement, and how their strategies and tactics differed.
- **Impact of colonial policies:** The Indian National Congress also had to navigate the impact of colonial policies on the Indian independence movement. Researchers could explore how colonial policies such as the Rowlatt Acts, the Salt Tax, and the Partition of Bengal influenced the strategies and tactics of the Indian National Congress, and how the organization responded to these policies.
- **Influence of external factors:** The Indian independence movement was also influenced by external factors such as the World Wars, the Russian Revolution, and the rise of nationalist movements in other parts of the world. Researchers could examine how these external factors influenced the strategies and tactics of the Indian National Congress, and how the organization responded to these factors.
- **Role of the media:** The media played a critical role in shaping public opinion during the Indian independence movement. Researchers could explore how the Indian National Congress utilized the media to disseminate its message and mobilize public support, and how the organization responded to negative media coverage.
- **Impact on post-independence India:** The Indian National Congress played a significant role in shaping post-independence India. Researchers could examine how the organization's ideology and policies influenced the development of India as a democratic, secular, and socialist nation, and how the organization's legacy continues to shape Indian politics and society today.
- **Socioeconomic factors:** The Indian independence movement was not just a political movement, but also one that was influenced by socioeconomic factors such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination. Researchers could explore how the Indian National Congress addressed these issues in its platform, and how the organization's policies and strategies were influenced by these factors.

- **Role of nonviolent resistance:** The Indian National Congress was known for its advocacy of nonviolent resistance as a means of achieving independence. Researchers could examine how the organization promoted and practiced nonviolent resistance, and how it influenced other movements and organizations around the world.
- **Impact of the Quit India Movement:** The Quit India Movement, launched by the Indian National Congress in 1942, was one of the most significant mass movements in the Indian independence struggle. Researchers could explore the impact of the movement on the Indian independence movement and how it contributed to the eventual independence of India.
- **Role of civil society:** The Indian National Congress worked closely with civil society organizations such as trade unions, peasant organizations, and women's groups in the Indian independence movement. Researchers could examine the role of civil society organizations in the movement and how they collaborated with the Indian National Congress.
- **Impact on international relations:** Since additional countries and international organizations joined the fight for independence, the Indian independence movement had a big influence on international affairs. Scholars could investigate how the Indian National Congress's contacts with foreign countries and groups affected the movement and its ultimate triumph.

Lastly, the legacy of the Indian National Congress still influences Indian politics today. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi are regarded as national heroes, and the organization's contributions to the Indian independence campaign are commemorated annually on Independence Day. The INC is still a significant political force in India, and the nation's political discourse is still shaped by its secularism, socialism, and democracy philosophies.

### III. CONCLUSION

An important part in the Indian independence movement was played by the Indian National Congress. In addition to fostering national unity and public mobilization, it also gave rise to national leaders. India's political and social landscape is still shaped by the INC's contributions, which helped pave the road for the country's independence. The study of the Indian National Congress's involvement in the Indian independence movement is, all things considered, a rich and varied area with a wide range of viewpoints and methodologies. The research's conclusions clarify the intricate and varied character of the Indian independence struggle and offer important new perspectives on the function of political organizations in social and political transformation. A number of factors, including socioeconomic factors, nonviolent resistance, the Quit India Movement, civil society, international relations, leadership, colonial policies, external factors, the media, post-independence India, regional variations, relationships with other organizations, impact on women's participation, diaspora involvement, and cultural and intellectual production, must be taken into account when analyzing the Indian National Congress's role in the Indian independence movement. Understanding the intricacies of the Indian independence movement and the function of political organizations in social and political transformation might be improved by the results of such studies.

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