

HISTORY OF INDIA
The Post-colonial Period

1920s
After World War I, British parliament leaders proposed rewards for the valiant Indian contribution to the war effort: over one million Indian volunteers enlisted and sent overseas. But no such rewards materialized and disillusion followed.

1930s
Gandhi and his followers set off on a 200-mile journey from Ashram Ahmedabad to the Arabian Ocean where Gandhi wanted to pick up a few grains of salt. This action formed the symbolic focal point of a campaign of civil disobedience in which the state monopoly on salt was the first target. The British monopoly on the salt tax in India dictated that the sale or production of salt by anyone but the British government was a criminal offense punishable by law.

By 1930 Muslims also began to raise the possibility of a separate Islamic state and the independence movement became increasingly divided.

1940s
The Labour Party victory in the British elections in July 1945 dramatically altered the political landscape of India. For the first time, Indian independence was accepted as a legitimate goal.

By this stage the Independence movement was split into two clear camps. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the leader of the Muslim League, championed a separate Islamic state, while Congress Party, led by Jawar-lal Nehru, campaigned for an independent greater India.

To appease the Muslim League, a decision was made to divide the country. But the decision to divide the country into separate Hindu and Muslim territories was immensely contested. Some areas were clearly Hindu or Muslim, while most others had evenly mixed populations, and there were isolated "islands" of communities in areas predominantly settled by other religions. The two overwhelmingly Muslim regions (West- and East-Pakistan) were on opposite sides of the country, divided by a Hindu India.

Violence erupted immediately after Independence in Kashmir. Despite ruling over a predominantly Muslim population, the local maharaja refused to sign up with either India or Pakistan until an invasion of Pakistani Pashtun tribes persuaded him to throw in his lot with India.

1950s
The independent republic of India was officially born in 1947.

BRITISH EMPIRE

DEMOGRAPHY

- Indian National Congress
- Janata Dal
- Bharatya Janata Party
- Janata Party
- Muslim League
- British Raj

POLITICS

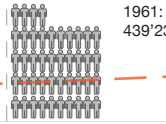
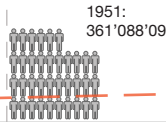
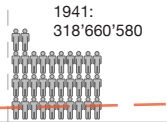
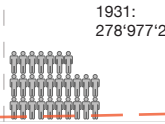
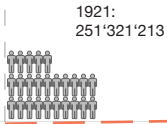
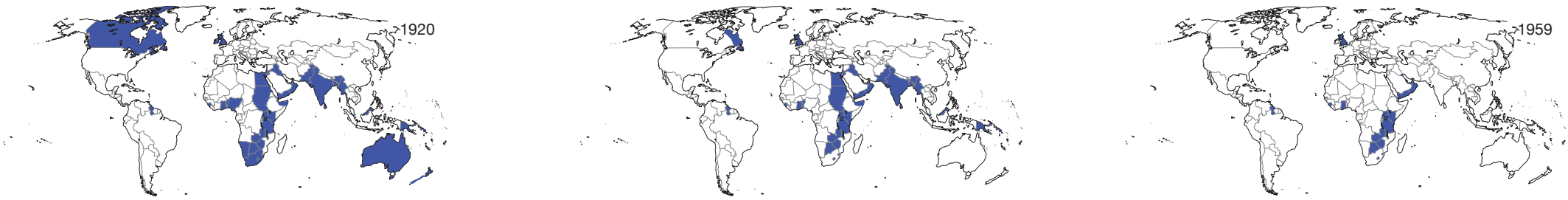
KEY EVENTS

ECONOMY

CULTURE

FORMATION OF NATIONS

- British Raj
- Colonial regions until 1954 (French) /1961 (Portuguese)
- Bhutan
- Afghanistan
- Tibet (detached from China until 1952)
- Nepal



1920 Gandhi becomes the new leader of Indian National Congress. He leads a campaign of nonviolent resistance to British rule.

1923 Nehru becomes general secretary on the Indian National Congress.

1921: 251'321'213

1931: 278'977'238

1941: 318'660'580

1951: 361'088'090

1961: 439'234'771

1930 SALT MARCH

1942 Gandhi launches the "Quit India" movement.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah (1876-1948) is the leader of the Muslim League. He started to campaign for an independent state Pakistan in 1942.

1947 - 1964 Jawahar Lal Nehru (1889-1964)

1947 INDEPENDENCE

India gains full independence from Great Britain on 15 August and is divided into the dominions of India (predominantly Hindu) and Pakistan (predominantly Muslim).

1948 Mahadma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a right wing Hindu fanatic, on 30 January.

1950 India becomes a republic.

1947-1949 KASHMIR WAR I

First war with Pakistan over Kashmir. India and Pakistan both claim Kashmir to be part of their country. It ended with a bisection of Kashmir; one part governed by the Indian, the other by the Pakistani.

1962 BORDER WAR WITH CHINA



1919 Government of India Act: The constitutional reform was a direct reaction to the increasing resistance against the British colonial power.

1935 Second Government of India Act

1943 BENGAL FAMINE

On the 16th October 1942 the whole east coast of Bengal and Orissa was hit by a cyclone. A huge area of rice cultivation was flooded.

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1962 BORDER WAR WITH CHINA

1929 World economics crisis

British coinage with Queen Victoria until Independence

The economy of India is based in part on planning through its five-year plans, beginning 1951

1950 The „Anna Series“ was introduced. It was the first coinage of Republic of India. The King's Portrait was replaced by the Asoka's Lion Capital. The monetary system was retained with one Rupee consisting of 16 Annas. The 1955 Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, that came into force with effect from 1 April 1957, introduced a „Decimal series“. The rupee was now divided into 100, Paisa' instead of 16 Annas or 64 Pice.

1921 The flag was sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi. It shows three colors with a Charkha (spin wheel) across all colors. It was informally used at all sessions of the Congress till 1931. The spin wheel is one of the symbols of the nonviolent resistance.

1931 The new flag was officially accepted by the AICC (All India Congress Committee) in Bombay in August 1931.

1947 For the independence country India basically adopted the flag from the Indian National Congress - the horizontal tricolor with a blue Chakra at the center. The colors represent Hinduism (organge), Islam (green ) and a hoped-for unity and peace (white).

1945 India was as a colony of Great Britain a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member since.

1950 Mother Theresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta.

1951 First Asian Games Asian members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to launch a multi-sport event for their own continent. The first Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951, attracting only 500 competitors from 11 countries. The Asian Games are held every four years.

In the late 1950s, Bollywood released its first color film

1920

1948

4'500'000 Hindu refugees

5'900'000 Muslim refugees

Colonial regions until 1954 (French) /1961 (Portuguese)

India

Princely states integrated until 1949

Ceylon

Myranmar

Bhutan

Afghanistan

Tibet (detached from China until 1952)

Pakistan

Nepal

War



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1960s
The border war between India and China took place in 1962. The initial cause of the conflict was a disputed region of the Himalayan border in Arunachal Pradesh, known in China as South Tibet. The war ended when the Chinese captured the disputed area and unilaterally declared a cease-fire on 20 November 1962. At present China controls South Xinji-ang, an area claimed by India as Aksai Chin, whereas India controls Arunachal Pradesh an area claimed by China as belonging to South Tibet.

The second Indo-Pakistan in 1965 war was again fought over Kashmir. It ended with a status-quo ante bellum (rearrange-ment of the prewar status).

1970s
The Bangladesh Liberation war ignited after the 1970 Pakistani election, when the East Pakistani Awami League army took over. East Pakistan demanded Inde-pendence from West Pakistan. In the war India supported East Pakistan.

West Pakistan launched an air attack in Kashmir. The attacks did not succeed in inflicting substantial damage.

A cease-fire line was made to end the war (Line of Control). The Line of Control is a 450-mile line that is supposed to indicate the boundary between the part of Kashmir controlled by India and the part controlled by Pakistan.

1980s
In 1984, Indira Gandhi (daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru) was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards. Indira Gandhi's son, Rajiv Gandhi, became the next prime minister.

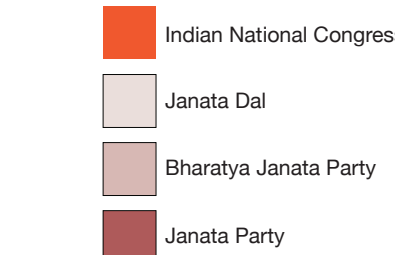
1990s
Since 1991, India has gradually opened up its markets through economic reforms by reducing government controls on foreign trade and investment. The Kargil war took place in 1999 and was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan. The cause of the war was the infiltration of Pakistani soldiers and Kashmiri militants into positions on the Indian side of the Line of Control.

2000s
In the beginning of the 21st century, India was affected by natural catastro-phes. Many thousands were killed in the Tsunami in 2004 and in the earthquake in Kashmir in 2006.

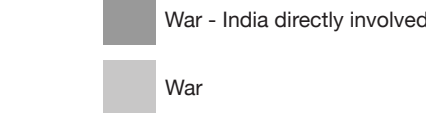
The situation in Kashmir is still insecure. India, Pakistan and China still dispute over claims for the area.

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