

Rise of Nationalism in India, Reasons, Major Events, Significance

August 2, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



The **Rise of Nationalism in India** marked a turning point in the country's history. It began taking shape in the late 19th century, when Indians started developing a shared sense of identity and purpose against British rule. What began as an awakening of collective unity soon grew into a powerful movement that challenged colonial domination. This spirit of nationalism not only inspired reforms and resistance but also laid the groundwork for the freedom struggle that contributed to independence in 1947.

Nationalism in India

Nationalism is the belief and movement that stresses loyalty and devotion to one's nation. It calls on people to unite around shared identity, history, language, culture, and common aspirations. Often, nationalism grows stronger when a country faces domination or injustice at the hands of outside powers. At its core, it stands for self-rule and collective unity.

Nationalism in India took shape as a response to British colonial rule. The experience of foreign exploitation gradually made Indians recognize their shared past and common future. Literature, social reform, and cultural

revival nurtured this collective spirit. Over time, this idea of unity transformed into a powerful movement that bound Indians together in the struggle for independence.

Main Reason for the Rise of Nationalism in India

Several developments in the 19th and early 20th centuries pushed Indians toward nationalism:

- **British Rule and Exploitation:** Heavy taxation, economic drain, and racial discrimination bred deep resentment.
- **Western Education:** Exposure to ideas of liberty, equality, and **democracy** from European revolutions inspired educated Indians to demand similar rights.
- **Economic Hardship:** The collapse of Indian handicrafts, decline of industries, and suffering of farmers revealed the exploitative nature of colonial rule.
- **Social and Religious Reform Movements:** Thinkers like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** and **Swami Vivekananda** fought social evils and revived cultural pride, fostering unity.
- **Rise of the Press:** Regional newspapers and journals spread nationalist thought, evaluate British policies, and mobilise public opinion.
- **Indian National Congress (1885):** Provided a common political platform for Indians to voice grievances and demand reforms.
- **Racial Discrimination:** Unequal treatment in jobs, education, and law reinforced the need for collective resistance.

Rise of Nationalism in India Major Events

The growth of nationalism in India was not sudden but shaped through a series of turning points. Each major event deepened the people’s resolve against colonial rule and brought India closer to freedom. The table below highlights Rise of Nationalism in India Major Events:

Rise of Nationalism in India Major Events		
Event	Year	Significance
Formation of Indian National Congress	1885	Created a political platform for Indians; initially sought reforms but later led the independence struggle .
Partition of Bengal	1905	Sparked the Swadeshi Movement ; promoted boycott of British goods and use of indigenous products.
Home Rule Movement	1916	Led by Tilak and Annie Besant, popularized the demand for self-rule across India.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	1919	Massacre of unarmed civilians by British troops in Amritsar; intensified anti-British sentiment.
Non-Cooperation Movement	1920-22	Gandhi's nationwide movement; boycott of British institutions and goods; united masses in resistance.
Civil Disobedience Movement (Salt March)	1930-34	Gandhi's Salt March challenged colonial salt laws; inspired widespread nonviolent protest.
Quit India Movement	1942	"Do or Die" call by Gandhi; demanded immediate independence; marked the final mass struggle before 1947.

Rise of Nationalism in India Significance

The Indian Nationalist Movement left behind more than just independence in 1947, it gave Indians a new sense of identity and purpose. Its impact can be seen in several ways:

- **Unity in Diversity:** It brought together people across castes, religions, and regions, shaping a collective national identity.
- **Democratic Foundations:** The values of liberty, justice, and democracy that guided the struggle later became pillars of the **Indian Constitution**.
- **Social Reform and Awareness:** The movement raised awareness against **caste** discrimination, untouchability, and **gender inequality**.
- **Inspiration for Future Movements:** It became a model for other colonies, proving that peaceful mass resistance could succeed.
- **Empowerment of Common People:** Farmers, workers, students, and women actively participated, discovering their ability to drive change.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/rise-of-nationalism-in-india/>

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