

Revolution, Reform and Social Change

*A Half-Century of Crisis and
Achievement (1900–1945)*



China and Japan

The Russian Revolution

Nationalism and revolution

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about nationalism and revolution in Mexico, India and the Middle East and be able to answer these key questions:

- What were the causes of early 20th century revolutions in Mexico, India and the Middle East?
- What were the effects of imperialism on these nations?
- What factors led to the growth in nationalist movements there during the early 1900s?



The Mexican-American War



The **Mexican-American War** greatly affected Mexican history in the mid-1800s, resulting in the loss of over half of their territory to the United States. To review the main events of this war, either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline.

Press **start** to begin.

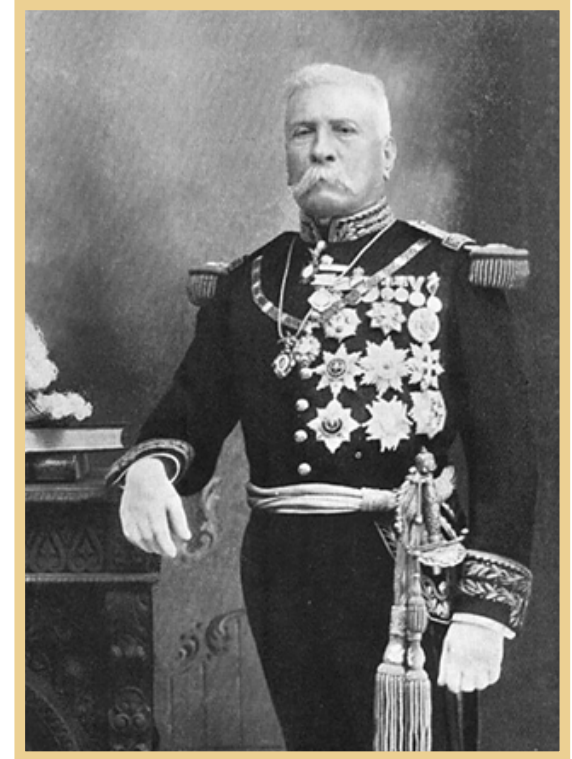
start



Beginning in 1900, Mexico experienced an economic depression.

The American downturn in 1907–1908 worsened financial issues, which in turn exaggerated political and social issues that had developed over the previous 30 years.

Ruled by **Porfirio Díaz** since 1877, the “Porfiriato” government was characterized by racism, classism and oppression.



While Díaz and his officials lived in luxury, unrest grew among the poorer classes, culminating in the Mexican Revolution.



In the three decades leading up to the Mexican Revolution, Porfirio Díaz ruled the country with an iron fist. Though he ushered in an era of modernization at the beginning of his presidency, his rule, and the nation, were soon riddled with issues. See if you can use this image to identify and describe the changes made under Díaz that helped launch the nation into civil war.

Press on the numbers to find out more.

Press **start** to begin.

start



How do you think these factors led to a revolution?



The Mexican Revolution



The **Mexican Revolution** was an ongoing series of internal rebellions and battles between 1910 and 1920. Watch the animation to find out more about it.

Press **start** to begin.

start





What can you remember about the key leaders in the Mexican Revolution?
Drag each piece of information to the correct person.

Press **start** to begin.

start





At the beginning of the 1900s, India was a jewel in the crown of the British Empire, to which it had belonged since 1858.

Securely under British control, Indians felt a great deal of pride in their role in the empire and fought alongside European troops in World War I.



However, as the war raged on and many Indians died for what appeared to be further British expansion, an undercurrent of resentment and disapproval of the empire began to grow.



Indians began to resent their imperial rulers for many reasons:

Despite creating a new, Western educated class, society's highest positions were reserved only for the British.

The British forced westernization on Indian society, attempting to restructure India's class system.



In World War I, Indian troops fought and died to extend British control in the Middle East.

Britain controlled Indian trade and grew rich from the profits, giving minimal returns to India.

Britain took over India's worldwide markets for goods such as textiles, causing a decline in Indian industry.



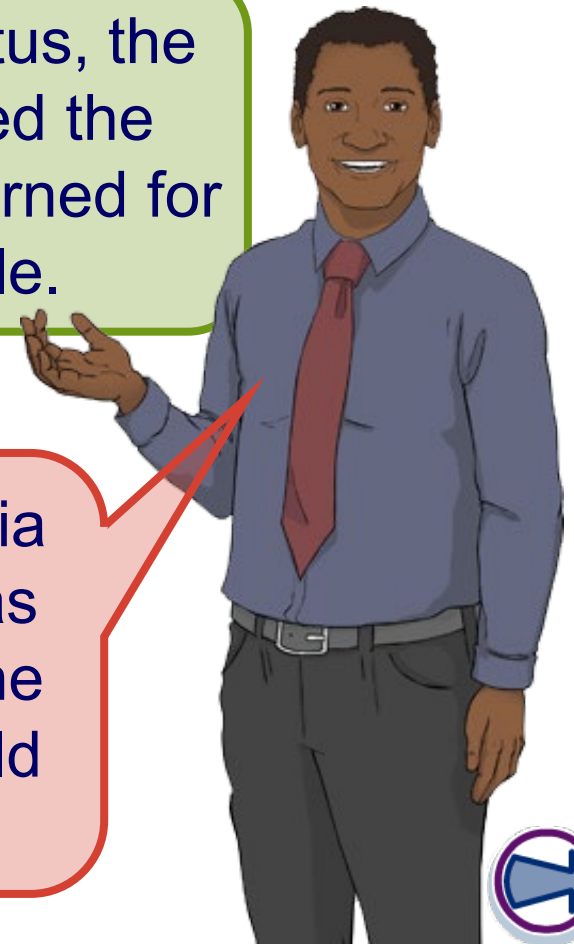
The Montagu Declaration

Recognizing the growing resistance to British rule, in 1917 the British issued the **Montagu Declaration**.



Promising India dominion status, the declaration temporarily raised the hopes of Indians who now yearned for a constitution and self rule.

Very quickly, however, India found that the promise was hollow and realized that the Montagu Declaration would never be honored.





In reaction to the growing frustration with British rule during and after World War I, the **Indian National Congress** became a leading organization in the fight for India's independence. Under the rule of **Mohandas Gandhi**, this group became the focus of British resistance.

Can you identify Gandhi's main tactics from the images provided? Once you have identified them, press on the images to learn more.

Press **start** to begin.

start

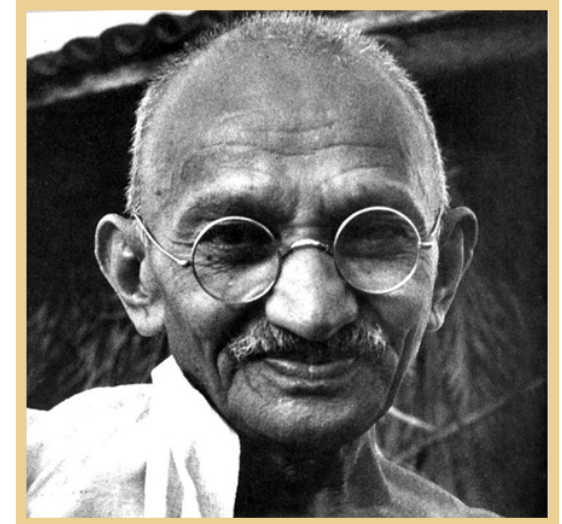


Why do you think Gandhi chose to use these tactics?



Gandhi's only objective was independent rule for India. He earned the nickname Mahatma, meaning "Great Soul".

With the support of the Indian National Congress, Mahatma Gandhi's movement of civil disobedience from 1930 to 1934 helped move India much closer to realizing this independence.



Britain granted provincial autonomy with the 1935 **Government of India Act**. Though the nation remained under British control, local, Indian governments were established on the basis of direct elections.





Can you drag these key events of the Indian independence movement into chronological order?

Press **start** to begin.

start





What do you know about **Zionism**?
Watch this animation to find out about
the Zionist movement of the early 1900s.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Throughout the first half of the 20th century, thousands of Zionists immigrated to Arab occupied Palestine. Look at the data set by pressing the info button and plot the changes in population in Palestine from 1919 to just after World War II. Alternatively, press the **play** buttons to automatically plot the bars.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Can you explain this pattern of immigration?



Since the 1400s and the **Muslim conquests**, people of the Middle East have been primarily Arabic speaking Muslims.

As the people were dedicated first and foremost to their religion rather than their political leaders or country, nationalism did not develop as quickly or as strongly as it did in other areas of the world.



Colonized mainly by the British and the French, once strong and independent nations in the Middle East soon found their futures determined by Christian rulers.





Nationalism in the Middle East



In the early 20th century many young Arabs began to outwardly oppose external influence, clinging to Woodrow Wilson's concept of **self-determination**. Groups of Arabs began to unite on a local level against European powers and the Ottoman Turk autocrats who ruled much of what had been the Islamic Empire. Press the green nations on the map to learn more about nationalist movements in the Middle East.

Press **start** to begin.

start





What can you remember about the changes that happened in the Middle East during the first half of the 20th century?
Drag each piece of information to the country it refers to.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your knowledge of revolution, reform and social change in the early 20th century with this quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of early 20th century revolution, reform and social change by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary. Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

start

