

India 1960

The End of the Nehru Era

OSUMUN 2024

Crisis Director: Andrei Sasu

Dear Delegates,

It is my sincerest pleasure to welcome you to the OSUMUN 2024 *India 1960: The End of the Nehru Era* crisis committee. My name is Andrei Sasu and I will be your Crisis Director. I am a senior at Ohio State and am pursuing degrees in Political Science and History. Last year, I was the Crisis Director of the historical fiction committee *Rebuilding Russia: The Central Siberian Republic*. I am looking forward to hearing your speeches and reading your notes once more this March.

This committee is based on a pivotal moment in Indian history, something that will be expanded upon in this background guide. All of the positions are historical and relevant to the time period, and it is expected that delegates will do research at least on the general ideological positions of the people assigned to them. As you will see, some of the positions are controversial and, considering the recency of the committee, these people and events are in the memories of people living today. With this in mind, I would like to see delegates take up these roles with sensitivity and respect and not make inflammatory and offensive statements. Though it might be realistic, we wish to create a fun debate environment and particularly heavy topics should be avoided regardless.

If you need clarification on any information in this background guide or questions on the committee in general, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at sasu.2@osu.edu. I look forward to meeting you all!

Best Regards,

Andrei Sasu

History

Pre-Colonial

Before the conquests of the several European empires, India was a land of diverse princedoms, kingdoms, and empires. The most significant, the Mughal Empire, controlled much of the subcontinent under a Muslim state with Turko-Persian origins. The empire, based in Delhi, served as a unifying state for hundreds of years. However, after the growing economic dominance of European colonial companies – such as the British and Dutch East India Companies – and interventions by foreign empires, the Mughals fell and the EIC became the dominant authority in the subcontinent.

Company

The East India Company ruled the subcontinent alongside native states that aligned themselves with the British Empire. This system, usually called a ‘divide and conquer’ strategy, provided the Company a disunited Indian population and gave it authority and legitimacy. The Company – which was allowed to govern their territory without the necessity of laws from London – ruled from three principal cities: Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, with Calcutta and the Bengal Presidency being the largest. The EIC conducted primarily economic operations in its early years, but the political and administrative responsibilities of the Company grew, putting more pressure on it in the eyes of the Crown.

In this faux-government phase, the Company found itself in economic trouble and unable to generate enough revenue to keep itself out of bankruptcy. This, along with changes to internal policy, caused a period of instability that would lead to the end of Company rule in the subcontinent. In particular, the reform of traditional Indian laws like the abolition of sati, the self-immolation of widows, and the legalization of widow remarriage. On the administrative level, several princely states were disgruntled by British rules that overrode traditional Indian governance processes. Many local rulers lost privileges they previously enjoyed, and land reform caused many landowners to lose land, giving them cause for alarm. Most infamously, rifles used by the armies of the EIC needed to be greased in order to maintain their quality. The most popular grease used were animal fats, especially beef tallow and pork fat. This caused significant unrest among the soldiers of the EIC, but top administrators ordered that soldiers be given freedom in how to grease their rifles.

The combination of these factors and several others caused a mass uprising in Company territory and mutiny of several princely states in 1857. This event, known as the Indian Rebellion of 1857 or the Sepoy Mutiny, is considered the first mass struggle for independence in Indian colonial history. The war lasted for over a year and resulted in the punishment of mutinied princes, the breakdown of logistical systems, and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Indians. Back in London, Parliament passed the Government of India Act, nationalizing and liquidating the East India Company and installing a traditional colonial government, the British Raj, in its place with its capital in Calcutta.

Colonial

The British Raj was intended to reform the colonial government in India to ensure the control of the British and the alleviation of social issue that plagued the Company's rule. Several famines killed millions of Indians nonetheless, particularly due to policies on agriculture and the commercialization of land plots, an issue which the government did attempt to alleviate using newly built railroads. By the late 19th century, the Raj served the role of a proper government, with social, economic, and military policy being debated, albeit primarily by British colonial officers with limited native participation.

With the growth of an educated middle class of Indians, both from English and Indian universities, an intelligentsia of independence-minded people grew in political prominence. In 1885, the first session of the Indian National Congress was held in Bombay, one of the most important and cosmopolitan cities in the Raj. They gained popular support, and in 1892 the first Asian, Dadabhai Naoroji – president of the INC at the time –, was elected to the British Parliament. Throughout the early 20th century, the INC continued to rail against the imperialist policies of the Raj and of London, with extremists in the Congress declaring *Swaraj* as one of its aims. In the 1920s, Congress officials, including Gandhi, began the Non-Cooperation movement, beginning large-scale protests against the Raj and exhorting non-violent resistance. In that same decade, sectarian violence between Muslims and Hindus began gaining prominence, beginning a division between Muslim and Hindu leaders. Nonetheless, Jawaharlal Nehru, the president of the INC in 1929 and 1930, declared that total independence was the ultimate goal of the Congress. In 1935, another act of Parliament created a constitution for the Raj and clarified the structure and roles of the government. In 1937, the first provincial legislature elections were held, resulting in 7 out of 11 provinces either having a majority for the INC or a coalition INC government.

During World War Two, the Indian National Congress was staunchly against India as a belligerent in the conflict. A new wave of civil disobedience began, though focused more on individual resistance rather than as a mass movement considering the sensitivity of the government to supposed subversion during wartime. As such, Congress officials and British officials negotiated for their support in the war in the Cripps Mission. Congress demanded the transfer of power to Congress from the imperial government, but this was not agreed to, and the mission failed. After this failure, Congress began the significant Quit India Movement, causing

mass demonstrations and mass arrests in turn. Gandhi played a leading role in this movement and supported the use of non-violent means.

On the other side of the spectrum, Subhas Chandra Bose, an extremist in the INC, collaborated with Nazi Germany directly, even creating a military unit that would be transferred to the Waffen SS. Bose's dedication to a violent insurrection against the British Raj along with the lack of support from the Nazi leadership and the invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany, led him to leave for Japan, where he created the Indian National Army and formed a rival government, the Azad Hind, which was recognized by almost all of the Axis Powers. The Azad Hind managed to take control of border regions of Assam in east India, though it was pushed back and several Indian National Army officers were charged with treason. Bose, fleeing to Japanese occupied Taiwan, died in a plane crash.

After the war, a constituent assembly was established to decide the future of independent India with separated districts based on Muslim and Hindu provinces as supported by the All-India Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In the majority of provinces, pro-independence parties – i.e. INC and AIML – won ruling majorities. After significant splitting between the INC and AIML, the League called for a Direct Action Day in 1946, which led to significant communal violence and riots in the city of Calcutta in which 20,000 people died. This event debatably ensured the independence of Pakistan from India.

Independence

As time came for the independence of India and the adoption of a constitution, Lord Mountbatten began negotiations for the partition of India and Pakistan which was put into effect in 1947. Partition was a violent and tragic affair, with millions displaced and killed by communal violence from Muslims and Hindus. In addition, the Sikh community was split in half, causing significant unrest among Sikhs.

In 1947, Jammu and Kashmir, a princely state in the Himalayas with a Hindu leader and Muslim population, acceded to India, causing a war between India and Pakistan. Most of the fighting was localized in the princely state, and a UN mediated ceasefire resulted in the capture of some Muslim-majority territories in the northwest of Kashmir by Pakistan. This would be the first of

many conflicts between India and Pakistan for the region, an issue which is still under cold war to this day.

The princely state of Hyderabad refused to accede to the Indian union, leading to an alternative method by the Indian state to take control of the territory. Under pretenses of putting down riots and uprisings, India invaded the princely state in 1948, capitulating them in 5 days. Mass killings of Muslims in Hyderabad, assisted by the Indian Army, killed more than 30,000 people.

On November 26, 1949, the constitution of India was adopted into law, cementing the country as a republic.

In the first elections after independence in 1952, The Indian National Congress took 364 out of 489 seats in the parliament, starting a decades long pattern of almost complete INC hegemony over the democracy of India. Jawaharlal Nehru was elected as the prime minister, and a socialist economic agenda was adopted as official government policy. This began with the First 5-Year Plan, in which the government funded agriculture, irrigation, energy, communications, and transportation. Later, the Second Five Year Plan focused on building up the country's industrial sector, increasing steel production and many other necessary capital goods. Another important reform was the implementation of several Hindu Code bills meant to reform and modernize laws in India. After much debate along with extreme and moderate bills, Nehru was able to pass the Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu succession Act, Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act. These acts reformed Indian society in an important way and provided women greater rights, but also codified Hindu laws and legally defined who was a Hindu.

Throughout the 1950s, the organization of the Indian state in relation to the various Union States was debated hotly, to the point of violence in some cases. One such case was the movement for the creation of an Andhra Pradesh separated from the large, multilingual state of Madras which led to a riot and the deaths of several protesters. In 1956, the government passed the State Reorganization Act which, as the name suggests, redrew the boundaries of several states as well as created new ones. This was the culmination of the linguistic autonomy movement throughout India, though many more reorganization acts would be passed for the several states and Assam. In 1960, the Bombay Reorganization Act split the large state of Bombay into the Union States of

Gujarat and Maharashtra. The next year, the Indian army invaded and annexed Goa from the Portuguese, giving the country the borders it has at committee start (see appendix).

Without going into too much detail, India and many other European, African, and Asian states declared themselves part of the Non-Aligned Movement, or NAM. The NAM pronounced the neutrality of a state between the cold war of the United States and Soviet Union, though this did not mean halting interactions with either of them. In fact, India was a diplomatic battleground between the United States and Soviet Union, with a race-to-the-bottom style competition to gain India's favor. India would ride this fine line for some time, though mostly deferring to the Soviet Union. This would come to be a good choice in the early 60s for a particularly shattering moment.

In 1962, The People's Republic of China invaded Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh in the east. Both lands were holdovers from land transfers from the Imperial era, and the Communist Party of China was adamant on having those lands returned to China. China invaded the lands with their prepared roads and routes, causing a terrible blow to the Indian military. Both the Soviet Union and the United States supported India in the conflict, with President John F Kennedy even planning to send a squadron of fighters to support the Indian Air Force. The war ended after one month and one day with a Chinese victory, pushing Indian authority out of Aksai Chin and parts of Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian public was shocked by the quick loss, and then-Minister of Defense Menon left his position.

Current Situation

Coming up to the date of committee, on May 27th, 1964, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru died at the age of 74. He was until then the only leader of the independent Republic of India and had led it through the pivotal beginning years of its existence. Now, Lal Bahadur Shastri has been sworn in as Prime Minister of India, and it is time to consider the totality of Nehruvian socialism and administrative policy and determine the future of the country moving forward.

India is experiencing many challenges coming into the mid-1960s. For one, the literacy rate for Indian men in 1961 is a paltry 40%, while Indian women have an abysmal 15%. Though this is double what it was only 20 years prior, the education system is criticized by some for being the bare minimum possible, with some schools being set up in veritable shacks. Poverty was also a

significant issue for the Indian people, with an estimated 41-44% of people living on under 20 rupees per month. Exacerbating this, cities experiencing rapid urbanization due to the increase in city and industrial jobs has put strain on the infrastructure of the country in the core and the mountainous and distant periphery remains disconnected from the wider Indian market. Access to water and sanitation is also a point of issue for the burgeoning Indian nation, with water infrastructure severely lacking in many parts of the country.

The Indian economy, following Nehruvian socialism, has come to be a mixed-market system, with many industries falling under the purview of the state. Several state-owned companies dominate Indian production, but a free market is still in effect with many enterprising people making fortunes on private enterprise.

Roles

Lal Bahadur Shastri – Prime Minister of India and Nehru loyalist. Nominally left-wing and INC veteran.

Indira Gandhi – Member of Parliament and Minister of Information and Broadcasting. Nehru's daughter and supporter of the INC-left.

Morarji Desai – Member of Parliament and former Minister of Finance. INC veteran and significant member of the right-wing (read: free market) of the INC.

Gulzarilal Nanda – Minister of Home Affairs and part of the left-wing of the INC.

Swaran Singh – Minister of External Affairs and former member of the Punjabi Akali Dal.

V.K. Krishna Menon – Member of Parliament and former Defense Minister, remains an influential figure in the left-wing of the INC.

C. Rajagopalachari – Right-wing (read: free market) administrative veteran and leader of the Swatantra Party.

S.K. Patil – Mayor of Bombay and right-wing (read: free market) politician of the 'next generation of leaders.'

J.R.D. Tata – Indian entrepreneur and founder of Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, and others.

Jayaprakash Narayan – Socialist Indian politician and leader of the Praja Socialist Party

C.N. Annadurai – Leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and nominally left-wing.

K. Kamaraj – President of the Indian National Congress and known as a pragmatist by others.

E.M.S. Namboodiripad – A leader of the Communist Party of India and supporter of Marxism-Leninism.

Debaprasad Ghosh – Mathematician and president of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

J.B. Kripalani – Former member of the INC and current member of the Praja Socialist Party

M.C. Chagla – Minister of Education and former ambassador to the United States and United Kingdom.

Yashwantrao Chavan – Minister of Defense and nominally left-wing member of the INC.

Ivan Benediktov – Soviet ambassador to India.

Chester B Bowles – American ambassador to India.

Basawon Singh – Trade Unionist and part of the splinter Congress Socialist Party.

Appendix



Map of India, 1964