

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Making of the National Movement 1870s-1947

Q1. Why were people dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s?

Ans. _____

Q2. State the demands of the Congress made in its early years.

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Q1. Why were people dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s?

Ans. People were dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s due to the following reasons:

- i. The Arms Act was passed in 1878, disallowing Indians from possessing arms.
- ii. In the same year the Vernacular Press Act was also enacted in an effort to silence those who were critical of the government. The Act allowed the government to confiscate the assets of newspapers including their printing presses if the newspapers published anything that was found "objectionable".
- iii. In 1883, there was a furore over the attempt by the government to introduce the Ilbert Bill. The bill provided for the trial of British or European persons by Indians, and sought equality between British and Indian judges in the country. But when white opposition forced the government to withdraw the bill, Indians were enraged.

Q2. State the demands of the Congress made in its early years.

Ans. The Congress in the first twenty years was "moderate" in its objectives and methods. During this period it made several demands.

- i. The Congress demanded a greater voice for Indians in the government and in administration.
- ii. It wanted the Legislative Councils to be made more representative, given more power, and introduced in provinces where none existed.
- iii. It demanded that Indians be placed in high positions in the government. For this purpose it called for civil service examinations to be held in India as well, not just in London.
- iv. The demand for Indianisation of the administration was part of a movement against racism, since most important jobs at the time were monopolised by white officials.
- v. Other demands included the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the repeal of the Arms Act and the freedom of speech and expression.
- vi. It demanded reduction of revenue, cut in military expenditure, and more funds for irrigation.