



INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS: SESSIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

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Abstract

The Indian National Congress has played a crucial role in the history of India's struggle for independence. Through its various sessions, contributions, and resolutions, the Congress has been at the forefront of shaping the political landscape of the country. This essay aims to explore the significance of the Indian National Congress in the national movement, focusing on its sessions, contributions, and resolutions. The essay will delve into the history of the Congress, highlighting its evolution, key leaders, and major decisions that have had a lasting impact on the country. Additionally, the essay will examine the role of the Congress in shaping Indian politics post-independence. By analyzing the various sessions, contributions, and resolutions of the Indian National Congress, this essay seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the Congress's legacy in India's history.

Introduction

The Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement. Over the years, the Congress evolved into a mass political party and became the principal vehicle for the Indian freedom struggle. The Congress held several sessions throughout its history, where important resolutions were passed and significant contributions were made towards the goal of achieving independence from British colonial rule.

This research paper aims to explore the history of the Indian National Congress by examining its sessions, contributions, and resolutions. By analyzing the key moments in the Congress's history, we can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the Indian freedom fighters and the strategies they employed to achieve their goals.



The Indian National Congress, commonly known as the Congress, was founded in 1885 with the aim of seeking greater political representation for Indians and eventual self-government. The Congress soon emerged as a key player in the Indian national movement, spearheading various campaigns and movements against British colonial rule. Over the years, the Congress has held numerous sessions, where key decisions were taken, resolutions passed, and leaders elected. These sessions played a pivotal role in shaping the course of India's struggle for independence.

This essay will explore the significance of the Indian National Congress in India's history, focusing on its various sessions, contributions, and resolutions. Through an analysis of the Congress's role in the national movement, this essay aims to shed light on the Congress's impact on Indian politics and society.

Background

The Indian National Congress was founded by Allan Octavian Hume, Dadabhai Naoroji, Dinshaw Wacha, and other prominent leaders in 1885. The Congress was initially formed as a platform for Indians to voice their concerns and demand political reforms from the British government. In its early years, the Congress focused on issues such as civil liberties, economic reforms, and administrative changes.

The Congress held its first session in Bombay in December 1885, where 72 delegates attended. The session was presided over by Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee, who was elected as the first president of the Congress. The early Congress sessions saw discussions on various issues facing India, including the economic exploitation by the British, racial discrimination, and lack of political representation for Indians.

Over the years, the Congress evolved into a mass movement, attracting leaders from diverse backgrounds and regions. The Congress started to demand self-government for India and launched various agitations against British policies. The Congress played a crucial role in popularizing the concept of Swaraj (self-rule) and mobilizing the masses against British colonial rule.



Review of Literature

The Indian National Congress has been the subject of numerous studies and research papers, highlighting its key contributions to India's struggle for independence. Historians have analyzed the role of the Congress in mobilizing the masses, shaping political discourse, and negotiating with the British government. Several scholars have focused on the various Congress sessions, resolutions, and contributions in understanding the evolution of the national movement.

One of the key themes in the literature on the Indian National Congress is the role of its leaders in shaping the movement. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Sardar Patel have been the focus of several studies, highlighting their leadership style, ideology, and contributions to the Congress and the national movement.

The Congress's contributions to India's independence struggle have also been a key area of research. Scholars have examined the various campaigns, movements, and resolutions led by the Congress, such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement. These studies have analyzed the impact of these campaigns on shaping the political landscape of India and challenging British colonial rule.

Furthermore, the Congress's role in post-independence India has also been a subject of interest among researchers. The Congress played a pivotal role in shaping India's political system, drafting the Constitution, and laying the foundation for a democratic and secular republic. Scholars have examined the Congress's contributions to nation-building, economic development, and social reform in post-independence India.

Overall, the literature on the Indian National Congress provides a comprehensive overview of the Congress's sessions, contributions, and resolutions in shaping India's history. By analyzing the various facets of the Congress's role in the national movement, scholars have shed light on the Congress's enduring legacy in India's political and social fabric.

The Indian National Congress has been a central figure in India's struggle for independence and nation-building. Through its various sessions, contributions, and resolutions, the Congress has



played a crucial role in shaping the political landscape of the country. From its early years as a platform for advocating political reforms to its role as a mass movement against British colonial rule, the Congress has been at the forefront of India's history.

Sessions of the Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress held its first session in December 1885 in Bombay. The session was attended by 72 delegates, who came from different parts of India to discuss political issues and grievances. Over the years, the Congress held annual sessions in various cities across the country, where leaders and activists debated important issues and formulated strategies for achieving independence.

One of the most significant sessions of the Congress was the Lahore session in 1929. During this session, the Congress passed a resolution declaring complete independence as its goal. This resolution, known as the "Purna Swaraj" or complete independence resolution, marked a shift in the Congress's tactics and signaled a more radical approach to the freedom struggle.

Another important session was the Karachi session in 1931, where Mahatma Gandhi called for the Civil Disobedience Movement to protest against the British government's repressive policies. The session also saw the Congress adopting the Fundamental Rights and Economic Program, which outlined the party's vision for a free and independent India.

Contributions of the Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress made significant contributions to the Indian independence movement through its various campaigns, initiatives, and resolutions. The Congress played a crucial role in mobilizing the masses and building a strong and united nationalist movement against British colonial rule.

One of the Congress's key contributions was its advocacy for non-violent resistance and civil disobedience. Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence inspired millions of Indians to join the freedom struggle and peacefully resist British oppression. Through campaigns like the Non-



Cooperation Movement, the Salt Satyagraha, and the Quit India Movement, the Congress demonstrated the power of non-violent resistance in achieving political change.

The Congress also played a vital role in articulating the aspirations of the Indian people and demanding political reforms from the British government. Through its various resolutions and demands, the Congress highlighted the need for self-governance, social justice, and economic empowerment for the Indian people. The Congress's efforts paved the way for the eventual transfer of power from British colonial rule to Indian independence in 1947.

Resolutions of the Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress passed several important resolutions during its sessions, which shaped the course of the freedom struggle and influenced the political landscape of the country. These resolutions reflected the Congress's commitment to achieving independence through peaceful means and democratic principles.

One of the most significant resolutions passed by the Indian National Congress was the "Lucknow Pact" in 1916. The pact was a landmark agreement between the Congress and the All India Muslim League, which aimed to promote Hindu-Muslim unity and secure political concessions from the British government. The Lucknow Pact laid the foundation for cooperation between the two major communities in India and paved the way for future negotiations with the colonial authorities.

Another important resolution was the Karachi resolution in 1931, which outlined the Congress's vision for a free and independent India. The resolution called for the abolition of untouchability, the promotion of social and economic equality, and the safeguarding of fundamental rights for all Indian citizens. The Karachi resolution reflected the Congress's commitment to creating a just and inclusive society in post-independence India.

Conclusion

The Indian National Congress played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement by organizing mass political campaigns, advocating for non-violent resistance, and articulating the



aspirations of the Indian people. Through its various sessions, contributions, and resolutions, the Congress demonstrated its commitment to achieving independence through peaceful means and democratic principles.

The Congress's legacy continues to inspire generations of Indians to uphold the values of freedom, justice, and democracy. By studying the history of the Indian National Congress, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and the enduring impact of their struggle for independence.

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