Freedom and Its Limits

Assess democracy and human rights after the British Raj

MWH.C.7.3 "Assess the impact of independence movements on human rights and the global expansion of democracy in South Asia. Describe the fall of the British Raj and the emergence of an independent India and Pakistan, including the influence, ideas..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions that expanded political rights, circle two events that threatened human rights, and number two choices that shaped India's international relationships.

Independence and Its Aftermath

1. In 1930, Mohandas Gandhi walked to the sea to make salt. British law made Indians buy taxed salt instead of producing it themselves. Gandhi's Salt March turned an everyday necessity into a public challenge to colonial rule. He urged satyagraha, or nonviolent resistance to injustice, and led campaigns of civil disobedience, including breaking unfair laws and accepting arrest. These actions drew many Indians into politics and drew world attention to demands for self-rule. Yet independence was not Gandhi's victory alone: organizers, workers, soldiers, and political leaders also challenged the British Raj, whose power weakened after World War II.

2. In August 1947, Britain ended its rule, and British India was divided into independent India and Pakistan. Pakistan initially included eastern and western regions separated by Indian territory; its eastern region became Bangladesh in 1971. Partition aimed to create a Muslim-majority homeland, while India had a Hindu majority. New borders split communities and sent millions of people across them. Communal violence killed hundreds of thousands and forced families from their homes, exposing how national independence could coincide with severe violations of human rights. India's constitution took effect in 1950. It established a secular republic, protected religious freedom, and gave adult citizens the vote.

3. Independence also shaped choices beyond the new borders. India and Pakistan fought wars, including conflicts over Kashmir, a territory both claimed; these disputes kept military pressure on their relationship. During the Cold War, India helped lead the Non-Aligned Movement rather than formally joining either the U.S. or Soviet bloc. At home, India held competitive elections while building a state-led economy with socialist policies. Beginning in 1991, reforms reduced many controls on private business and expanded trade. These shifts widened economic opportunities for some, but poverty and unequal access to rights remained. Independence opened paths toward democracy, not a guarantee of equal outcomes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Gandhi's Salt March challenge British rule and expand political participation?

2. What does partition show about the difference between national independence and protection of human rights?

3. How did India's constitution expand political rights for adults of different religions?

4. How did independence shape India's relationships with other countries in two different ways?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Respond to this claim in five or six sentences: "Independence immediately brought equal rights and stable relations to South Asia." Make a judgment using evidence from at least two paragraphs, including one gain for democracy, one limit on human rights, and one later policy or international relationship.

ANSWER KEY

Freedom and Its Limits

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.7.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions that expanded political rights, circle two events that threatened human rights, and number two choices that shaped India's international relationships. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Gandhi's Salt March challenge British rule and expand political participation?	**It defied a British salt law and drew many Indians into politics while attracting world attention to self-rule.**
2	What does partition show about the difference between national independence and protection of human rights?	**India and Pakistan gained independence, but partition brought deadly communal violence and forced millions from their homes.**
3	How did India's constitution expand political rights for adults of different religions?	**It gave adult citizens the vote and established a secular republic that protected religious freedom.**
4	How did independence shape India's relationships with other countries in two different ways?	**India fought wars with Pakistan, including conflicts over Kashmir, and helped lead the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I disagree that independence immediately brought equal rights and stable relations to South Asia. India's constitution took effect in 1950, protecting religious freedom and giving adults the vote, a major gain for democracy. Yet partition forced millions to move and exposed families to deadly violence, so independence did not protect everyone's rights. Later wars between India and Pakistan, including conflicts over Kashmir, also show that relations were not stable. India's role in the Non-Aligned Movement gave it a way to make independent choices in the Cold War. These mixed results show that political freedom opened possibilities without solving every problem.

Accept supported judgments that distinguish gains in political rights from continuing violence or inequality. For the marking job, accept the Salt March or constitutional voting rights as expanded participation, partition violence or displacement as threats to rights, and the wars or nonalignment as international choices.