

HIS5B09 HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA

MODULE-4

TOPIC- **The Ghadar Party**

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- The Ghadr Party was a revolutionary group organized around a weekly newspaper 'The Ghadr' with its headquarters at San Francisco.
- These revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada in search of better employment opportunities.
- Ghadr was established in 1913 by the efforts of Lala Hardayal, Ramchandra, Bhagwan Singh, Kartar Singh Saraba, Barkatulla & Bhai Parmanand.
- To carry out revolutionary activities, the earlier activists had set up a 'Swadesh Sevak Home' at Vancouver and 'United India House' in Seattle.

- The Ghadrites intended to bring about a revolt in India with their plans encouraged by two events in 1914—the Maru incident and the outbreak of the First World War.
- *Komagata Maru Incident*
- The importance of this event lies in the fact that it created an explosive situation in the Punjab.
- Komagata Maru was the name of a ship which was carrying 370 passengers, mainly Sikh and Punjabi Muslim would-be immigrants, from Singapore to Vancouver.
- They were turned back by Canadian authorities after two months of privation & uncertainty.
- It was generally believed that the Canadian authorities were influenced by British Government.
- The ship finally anchored at Calcutta in September 1914 but the inmates refused to board the Punjab-bound train.
- In the ensuing with the police near Calcutta, 22 persons died.



- Inflamed by this and with the outbreak of the War, the Ghadr leaders decided to launch violent attack on British rule in India.
- They urged fighters to go to India. Bengal revolutionaries were contacted; Political dacoities were committed to raise funds mainly in Punjab.
- Thus, an explosive situation was created in Punjab.
- **Ghadr programmes mainly included**
- Assassinations of officials
- Publish revolutionary and anti-imperialist literature
- Work among Indian troops stationed abroad, procure arms and bring about a simultaneous revolt in all British colonies.

# The Berlin Committee (Revolutionaries in Europe)

- The Berlin Committee for Indian Independence was established in 1915
- Founded by Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Bhupendranath Dutta, Lala Hardayal & foreign office under Zimmerman Plan.
- These revolutionaries mobilised the Indian settlers abroad to send volunteers and arms to India
- Mainly aimed to incite rebellion among Indian troops there & to organize an armed invasion of British India to liberate the country.
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# Mutiny in Singapore

- Among the scattered mutinies during this period, the most notable was in Singapore on February 15, 1915
- Founded by Punjabi Muslim 5th Light Infantry and the 36th Sikh battalion under Jamadar Chisti Khan, Jamadar Abdul Gani and Subedar Daud Khan.
- It was crushed after a fierce battle in which many were killed