

Handout B: 1920-22 Non Co-operation Campaign

The 1920 – 22 Non Co-operation movement was organized by Gandhi and adopted by the Indian National Congress to compel the British colonial government in India to grant 'swaraj' (self-government or self-rule) to Indians. It partially arose in response to the British government's massacre of innocent Indians in Jallianwalla Bagh, Amritsar in April 1919. Initially, Gandhi promised 'swaraj' within a year of the onset of the movement which was supposed to be nonviolent. The program included boycott of foreign goods and British-made cloth, promotion of swadeshi (home-grown) goods and industries, surrender of posts and titles conferred by the British, boycott of elections, government run educational institutions, law courts, and government service, with the eventual goal of refusal to pay taxes. Many students left British schools to join national educational institutions that emerged at the time. Faced with a united Indian front for the first time, the British government was shaken.

In February 1922, an incident of mob violence occurred in the town of Chauri Chaura. After a crowd of protesters were troubled by the police, an angry mob set fire to the police station where the constables taking shelter inside were trapped and burnt alive. Twenty-two policemen were killed. Gandhi was devastated at the violent turn the campaign had taken. While all the Congress leaders shared his dismay, many felt that the campaign that had reached such momentum should continue. Gandhi decided...

What do you think Gandhi decided to do? Choose between the options below.

- A) Continued the campaign*
- B) Called off the campaign.*

Explain your choice. Use the quotes and background information to support your prediction.