

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=3389
The Library of Congress provides a podcast of Judith M. Brown discussing her book, *Nebru: A Political Life*.
- www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/mandela/1995/sp950126b.html
The African National Congress has the full text of a speech by Nelson Mandela on the unveiling of a statue of Nehru.
- www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1941nebru.html
Fordham's Modern History Sourcebook offers the full text of Nehru's "Marxism, Capitalism and Non-Alignment" speech.

Suggested Print Resources

- Gopal, S. (ed.). *The Essential Writings of Jawaharlal Nehru*. Oxford University Press, New Delhi; 2003.
- Tharoor, Shashi. *Nebru*. Arcade Publishing, New York, NY; 2003.
- Wolpert, Stanley A. *Nebru: A Tryst with Destiny*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY; 1996.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Jeffrey Litzke, M.Ed.

Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

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GREATEST SPEECHES OF THE 20TH CENTURY™

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Historical Overview

When the long struggle against the British finally brought independence to India in 1947, Mahatma Gandhi chose Jawaharlal Nehru to be the country's first prime minister. Nehru's speech on the eve of his transformation from activist to statesman reflected the hopes, fears, insecurities and ultimate determination of a nation to be free and sparked ecstatic shouts of "Hail to India." Less than six months later he would be forced to present another famous speech upon the assassination of Gandhi, whose death would leave Nehru to face the extreme challenges of leadership without his longtime mentor.

Time Line

1608 — The first British traders become active in India.

1857 — The Sepoy Rebellion occurs.

1858 — Queen Victoria declares India to be part of the British Empire.

1885 — The Indian National Congress is formed.

1889 — Nehru is born into a wealthy Brahman family.

1929 — Nehru is elected president of the Indian National Congress.

1930 — The Salt March unites Indians.

1942 — Gandhi launches the Quit India movement.

1947 — India achieves independence.

1947 — Nehru becomes prime minister of India.

1948 — Gandhi is assassinated.

1964 — Nehru dies at age 74.

Vocabulary

Mahatma — A name meaning "Great Soul" bestowed on Mohandas K. Gandhi.

civil disobedience — An organized, nonviolent opposition to a government policy or law by refusing to comply with it on grounds of conscience.

British East India Company — One of the most powerful commercial enterprises in world history, which became a dominant force in India.

Sepoy Mutiny — An 1857-1858 Indian uprising against the British East India Company's control of the country. Following the mutiny, Great Britain declared India part of the British Empire.

Mughal — The Muslim empire, and last of the great Indian empires, which ruled India from 1526 to 1857.

Marathas — A group of Hindu, Marathi-speaking people who created a substantial empire in India in the late 17th and 18th centuries.

Sikh — One who adheres to or follows Sikhism, a religion most commonly practiced in the Indian state of Punjab.

imperialism — The direct conquest or indirect control of the economy and government of foreign nations in the pursuit of empire.

Indian National Congress — A political organization in India that led the independence movement from Great Britain in the early 20th century.

Brahman — In Hinduism, the one, absolute God to which all other gods are subordinate.

(Continued)

Fabian Socialism — A type of Utopian socialism whose advocates espoused economic, social and political reform in late 19th- and early 20th-century Great Britain.

Home Rule Movement — A national organization founded in India in 1916 to lead the drive for self-government within the British Empire.

terrorism — The use of threats or direct violence in an attempt to intimidate and coerce others.

fascist — An advocate of a system of government that glorifies the state and the leadership of a single powerful ruler.

jingoistic — A term that describes a fierce nationalism.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the British East India Company?
2. Why was India known as the Jewel of the British Empire?
3. Who were Sepoys?
4. How did Gandhi view the partition of India?
5. Why was Nehru intrigued by Gandhi's *satyagraha* activism?
6. What successes did Nehru achieve while he led India?
7. How did Gandhi perceive his legacy to India?

Discussion Question & Activities

- Nehru was a renowned orator whose most famous speech, "A Tryst with Destiny" was delivered twice, first to the Indian Parliament and then to the nation. Ask students to read Nehru's speech and to imagine that they listened to it on the radio in 1947. What emotions and feelings does his speech evoke? Speculate about how Indian listeners reacted to this speech after centuries of colonial invasion and rule. The full text of "A Tryst with Destiny" may be found at the following web site: www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1947nehru1.html
- In 1955, a conference was held in Bandung, Indonesia that was attended by many leaders of African and Asian nations. Ask students to research and discuss the ideals and goals of this conference. Students may analyze Nehru's role at this conference and evaluate the language, tone and message of his speech regarding the Cold War and Indian independence. The full text of Nehru's Bandung speech may be found at the following web site: www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1955nehru-bandung2.html
- The British agreed to leave India by 1947, but declared that the sub-continent would be split into three countries, with the largely Hindu India in the middle and East and West Pakistan on either side. Ask students to compare and contrast the views of Gandhi and Nehru on the decision to partition India, and to write newspaper reports chronicling the violent aftermath of this division.