



BHAGAT SINGH: THE REAL HERO

Biju Mathew

RESEARCH ARTICLE



Author Details: Assistant Professor in History & Academic Counsellor, Sree Narayana Guru Open University, Kollam, Kerala, India

Corresponding Author:
Biju Mathew

Abstract

The life of Bhagat Singh stands as a poignant testament to the fervent desire for independence that permeated early 20th-century India. Born in 1907 in a politically charged environment, Singh was deeply influenced by the ideologies of nationalism and social justice, which later shaped his revolutionary fervor. His remarkable journey from a young idealist to a formidable freedom fighter is emblematic of the broader struggle against British colonial rule. As an intellectual, Singh sought not only liberation from colonial oppression but also dreamed of establishing a society characterized by equality and justice. This essay will explore the key events, motivations, and philosophical underpinnings that defined Singh's life and actions, ultimately revealing how his legacy continues to inspire contemporary movements for justice and equality in India and beyond. By examining Singh's contributions, we can better understand the intricate relationship between individual agency and collective resistance in the quest for freedom. Bhagat Singh remains a pivotal figure in India's struggle for independence, embodying the spirit of youthful defiance and revolutionary fervor. His contributions are manifold; he was not only a key participant in the revolutionary activities against British colonial rule but also a profound thinker who articulated the need for socialism and justice. His writings, particularly those advocating for the rights of the working class, resonate with contemporary socio-political movements, highlighting the importance of equality and resistance against oppression. In today's context, Singh's legacy is particularly relevant as protests worldwide echo his calls for justice and freedom, demonstrating the enduring influence of his ideals. Through his sacrifice and martyrdom, Singh inspires modern activists, encouraging them to challenge societal injustices and galvanize collective action. Thus, his life and contributions not only shaped India's past but continue to inspire future generations in their quest for a fair and equitable society.

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Introduction

The quest for India's independence from British rule was marked by a multitude of valiant figures, yet few resonate as profoundly as Bhagat Singh. Born in 1907 in a politically active Sikh family, Singh emerged as a prominent revolutionary, embodying the youthful fervor and deep-seated discontent of his generation. His intellectual engagement with revolutionary ideologies, combined with a fierce commitment to social justice, shaped his approach to combating colonial oppression. Singh's actions during the 1920s, including his involvement in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association and subsequent martyrdom, positioned him as a symbol of resistance that transcended time and place. His legacy remains influential, inspiring countless individuals to advocate for freedom and justice. Thus, a detailed exploration of Bhagat Singh's life and ideologies reveals not only his pivotal role in the Indian freedom movement but also the enduring relevance of his principles in contemporary struggles for equity and justice.

Overview of Indian independence movement

The Indian independence movement represents a complex tapestry of social, political, and cultural transformations that unfolded over several decades, ultimately culminating in the end of British colonial rule in 1947. This movement was marked by a diverse array of leaders and ideologies, from the nonviolent resistance of Mahatma Gandhi to the more radical approaches advocated by figures like Bhagat Singh. Singh, a prominent revolutionary, sought to inspire a younger generation to challenge colonial authority directly and fervently believed in using action for revolutionary change. The struggle for independence involved not just political discourse but also socio-economic upheaval, evidenced by various local uprisings and the formation of organizations

aimed at organizing the masses against oppressive colonial policies. Furthermore, the emotional and cultural dimensions of this struggle were crucial in fostering a sense of unity among India's diverse populace, accentuating themes of identity and self-determination pivotal to the fight for freedom, as seen in the actions of organizations like the ABVP that later emerged post-independence (Tyagi A, 2023), (Rabbani M et al., 2022).

Significance of Bhagat Singh in the freedom struggle

The significance of Bhagat Singh in the Indian freedom struggle extends well beyond his revolutionary activities; his legacy influences contemporary politics and cultural memory as well. Singh's ideologies, rooted in socialism and anti-imperialism, resonate with various groups today, particularly within leftist circles that invoke his memory to advocate for justice and equality in Pakistan. Scholars argue that his figure embodies the struggles against the erasure of regional identities, particularly in the context of Punjabi culture, where he has become a symbol of resistance against national narratives imposed by dominant groups (Bano et al., 2023). Additionally, Singh's life story illustrates the radicalization of South Asian immigrants in the early 20th century, reflecting broader struggles against colonial oppression and social injustice, which parallels the sentiments during the Ghadar movement (Englesberg et al., 2015). Thus, Bhagat Singh stands as a compelling figure whose contributions continue to shape the discourse on freedom and identity.

Brief biography of Bhagat Singh

Emerging as a prominent figure in the Indian freedom struggle, Bhagat Singh was born on September 28, 1907, in Banga, Punjab, into a politically active family that influenced his revolutionary fervor. His early exposure to anti-colonial movements spurred his desire to challenge British rule, particularly after witnessing the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which marked a pivotal moment in his life. Singh's commitment to agitating against oppression led him to join the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, where he adopted more radical approaches to liberation. His actions, including the dramatic protest against the repressive Simon Commission in 1928 and subsequent assassination of a British police officer, cemented his status as a revolutionary icon. Singh's execution on March 23, 1931, at the young age of 23, transformed him into a martyr figure, inspiring generations of Indians in their fight for freedom and self-determination (Alonso IH, 2023), (Tyagi A, 2023).

Purpose and scope of the essay

In examining the life and legacy of the Indian freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, the purpose of this essay extends beyond a mere biographical account; it aims to contextualize Singh's revolutionary ideals within the broader framework of India's struggle for independence. By exploring his formative experiences and political activism, the essay delves into the socio-political landscape of early 20th-century India and how it shaped Singh's philosophies and actions. Furthermore, the scope of the essay encompasses an analysis of Singh's impact on contemporary movements for social and political change, which remains resonant today. By incorporating perspectives from popular culture, such as the cinematic portrayals of Singh, the essay also interrogates the ways in which modern interpretations influence public perceptions of his martyrdom and legacy, underscoring the enduring significance of Bhagat Singh's contributions to India's nationalist movement (Gupta A, 2023), (Tyagi A, 2023).

Thesis statement

The enduring legacy of Bhagat Singh serves as a powerful thesis statement that encapsulates the complexities of his role in India's freedom struggle and his continued relevance in contemporary discourse. His radical approach to anti-colonialism and deep-seated belief in socialism inspired generations, particularly among leftist and Marxist groups, who invoke his memory to challenge contemporary socio-political injustices, as highlighted in the research where Bhagat Singh's figure is utilized to critique the erasure of regional and linguistic identities in Pakistan (Bano et al., 2023). Furthermore, Singh's life story resonates deeply with immigrant narratives, particularly those of South Asian laborers in the early 20th century, whose struggles echo his fight against oppression and inequality (Englesberg et al., 2015). Thus, Singh's emblematic representation of resistance and hope transcends historical boundaries, continually fueling discussions about national identity and social justice in modern India and beyond.

Early Life and Influences

Bhagat Singh's early life was profoundly shaped by the socio-political milieu of early 20th-century India, which ignited his fervent desire for independence. Born into a family with a history of political activism, he was influenced by the radical ideas circulating during his formative years. The prevailing atmosphere of resistance to British colonial rule instilled in him a sense of justice and urgency, compelling him to critique oppressive systems. His education at institutions like the National College in Lahore further fueled his political consciousness, where he encountered diverse ideological frameworks. Notably, the tumultuous events surrounding the Jallianwala Bagh massacre left an indelible mark, reinforcing his belief in armed struggle against colonial oppression. Bhagat Singh's engagement with student politics, particularly at Jawaharlal Nehru University, showcases how early political interactions fostered his resolve for value-based dissent, reinvigorating nationalistic sentiments among his peers (Jean-Martelli T, 2019). Ultimately, his early influences unified to forge a revolutionary identity that resonated deeply with India's freedom movement.

Birth and family background

Bhagat Singh was born into a politically active Sikh family in Banga, Punjab, on September 28, 1907, which played a crucial role in shaping his revolutionary ideals. His father, Kishan Singh Sandhu, and uncle, Ajit Singh, were both involved in the struggle against British colonialism, fostering an environment of political awareness and activism from a young age. This familial legacy of dissent against oppression deeply influenced Singhs worldview and commitment to the fight for Indias independence. His exposure to the oppressive realities faced by South Asians, particularly following events like the racially charged expulsion of Punjabi laborers in Bellingham, Washington, further galvanized his revolutionary zeal (Englesberg et al., 2015). The familial emphasis on nationalism, combined with the broader socio-political context of his upbringing, provided Bhagat Singh with a strong foundation for his emergent identity as a freedom fighter committed to challenging colonial authority (Bano et al., 2023).

Education and early political awareness

Education played a pivotal role in shaping the early political awareness of Bhagat Singh, reflecting broader trends in the Indian revolutionary movement. From a young age, Singh was immersed in an intellectual environment that valued revolutionary ideologies, which honed his ability to critique colonial oppression. His exposure to various political texts and revolutionary literature not only informed his political beliefs but also fostered a sense of urgency regarding India's liberation. Singhs education was not merely formal; it included engaging with the works of global revolutionaries, thus placing his struggles within a wider context of anti-colonial resistance. The politicization of students became a significant aspect during this period, as organizations like the ABVP mobilized young minds for nationalist causes, underscoring the interplay between education and political activism. Ultimately, Singhs formative experiences underscore the critical intersection of education and early political awareness in the fight for Indian independence (Jesús F Cháirez-Garza, 2024), (Tyagi A, 2023).

Influence of revolutionary ideologies

The influence of revolutionary ideologies during the Indian freedom struggle was significant in shaping the actions and beliefs of figures like Bhagat Singh. Inspired by a lineage of activism, including his father and uncle, Singhs ideological development was marked by a transition from traditional nationalism to a more radical and socialist outlook, reflecting the tumultuous socio-political climate of his time. Central to this shift was the profound impact of events such as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which ignited a strong desire for vengeance against colonial repression. Singhs alignment with socialist principles underscored his commitment to addressing not only political freedom but also socio-economic inequalities prevalent in Indian society, influenced by the broader movement of communist ideologies that were gaining traction in India, especially after the October Revolution in 1917 (Lone MB, 2024). Singhs advocacy for revolutionary means, encapsulated in slogans like "Inquilab Zindabad," galvanized youth and redefined the narrative of resistance against British rule (Vetal A, 2024).

Impact of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 significantly shaped the trajectory of the Indian independence movement, leaving an indelible mark on the consciousness of the nation. This brutal event, where British forces opened fire on unarmed Indian civilians, not only galvanized widespread outrage but also deepened the resolve among revolutionaries, including Bhagat Singh. The massacre served as a turning point, transitioning many from moderate reformism to more radical methods of resistance. As described in *The Ghost of Amritsar*, this period was pivotal in the formation of diverse identities within the Indian subcontinent, which contributed to the burgeoning revolutionary spirit against colonial oppression (Horne et al., 2023). Singh and his contemporaries sought to channel the collective grief and anger into actionable change, laying the groundwork for future efforts towards independence (Mutter et al., 2024). Ultimately, Jallianwala Bagh epitomized the extreme measures of colonial brutality, fostering an unyielding commitment to freedom amongst Indian nationalists.

Role of literature and philosophy in shaping his thoughts

The interplay between literature and philosophy significantly informed Bhagat Singhs revolutionary ideology, allowing him to formulate a nuanced critique of the socio-political landscape of his time. His readings encompassed a wide array of philosophical works that instilled in him a rational consciousness and a commitment to social justice. Singh's atheistic viewpoints, as elucidated in his writings, were not merely radical stances but reflections of an intense engagement with religious and cultural paradigms that he perceived as detrimental to societal progress. He vehemently challenged blind faith and the caste system, advocating for a universal platform that transcended identity. His philosophical inquiries were further shaped by the historical context surrounding South Asian immigrants, which he related to the injustices faced by his compatriots, thus deepening his revolutionary fervor. Singhs literary contributions, infused with revolutionary ideas, aimed to awaken a collective consciousness among the masses, urging them toward a profound socio-political upheaval (Kumar et al., 2020), (Englesberg et al., 2015).

Revolutionary Activities

Bhagat Singhs revolutionary activities were characterized by a profound commitment to the liberation of India from British colonial rule, marking him as a significant figure in the nationalist movement. His early exposure to the realities of oppression, particularly during events like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, instilled in him a sense of urgency for action. Initially aligned

with Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, Singhs disillusionment following Gandhis abrupt withdrawal catalyzed a shift towards more radical methods. This change was evident when he merged his organization, the Navjawan Bharat Sabha, with the Hindustan Republican Association, renaming it the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, in pursuit of a more militant approach to resistance. His slogan, "Inquilab Zindabad," resonated deeply with the youth of India, symbolizing a definitive break from passive resistance (Vetal A, 2024). Singhs initiatives and ultimate sacrifice highlight the fervor that drove revolutionary activities during this pivotal time in Indian history (Dr. Balmiki L, 2024).

Formation of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)

The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), founded in the early 1920s, marked a significant evolution in India's revolutionary landscape, directly aligning with the ideals espoused by Bhagat Singh. Formed out of the necessity to galvanize youth against colonial oppression, the HSRA sought to promote a socialist agenda that would address the socio-economic injustices prevalent in Indian society. Singhs involvement deepened the organizations commitment to armed struggle, reflecting his belief that revolutionary violence was essential for awakening political consciousness among the masses. The HSRA emerged during a period of political disillusionment, where traditional methods of protest seemed ineffective, embodying a radical departure from the approaches of earlier movements. This revolutionary fervor would eventually be contextualized within broader narratives of resistance, as the HSRA represented not only a tactical evolution in the fight against colonial rule but also a cultural symbiosis that resonated with contemporary anti-colonial sentiments, underscoring the unfinished business of revolution (Axel et al., 2018). As Singh and his comrades embarked on their daring endeavors, the HSRA also faced critical scrutiny, provoking debates about the intersection of literature and politics during this tumultuous period. These discussions echoed through subsequent literary movements, as the ideological underpinnings of the HSRA informed the narratives of various Hindi Progressive novels, highlighting the profound impact of revolutionaries like Singh on the cultural and political fabric of India (Ren et al.).

Key revolutionary actions and events

Bhagat Singhs revolutionary actions were pivotal in galvanizing the Indian independence movement against British colonial rule. His involvement in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association marked a significant shift towards militant resistance, particularly through events such as the assassination of John Saunders in 1928, which aimed to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. Notably, Singhs subsequent arrest following the Assembly Bombing in 1929 showcased his strategic thinking; he used this platform to promote his ideological beliefs and challenge imperial authority. Singhs trial became a catalyst for widespread public awareness and outrage against British rule, ultimately inspiring countless Indians to join the freedom struggle. The lasting legacy of Singhs actions can be traced in contemporary narratives, particularly in films and literature that evoke nationalist sentiments, highlighting the societal impact of revolutionary figures like him in shaping modern Indian identity and resistance against oppression (Łuszczkiewicz et al., 2019), (Bano et al., 2023).

The significance of the Central Legislative Assembly incident

The Central Legislative Assembly incident on April 8, 1929, holds critical significance in the narrative of Indias struggle for independence, particularly in the context of Bhagat Singhs evolution as a revolutionary figure. This event, wherein Singh and his compatriot Sukhdev Thapar deliberately threw non-lethal bombs in the assembly to protest against repressive laws, epitomized a turning point in the approach towards British colonial authorities. Rather than seeking violence, their intention was to make a statement against colonial oppression, highlighting the inadequacy of conventional methods of protest during that period. Singh's actions not only attracted public attention but also sparked discussions about the necessity of radical measures in the fight for freedom, thereby inspiring a generation of young Indians. The incident reflects the interplay of various political motivations and societal sentiments, revealing the growing disillusionment with the prevailing political landscape and the emergence of more militant forms of resistance (Sharma Y et al., 2023), (Dahal K, 2018).

Bhagat Singh's collaboration with other freedom fighters

The significance of Bhagat Singhs collaboration with other freedom fighters cannot be overstated, as it exemplified the collective struggle against colonial oppression in India. Singh was not a solitary figure but rather part of a broader network of activists who sought to galvanize the Indian populace towards independence. His alliance with contemporaries such as Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru enabled the formulation of strategic plans, including the iconic assassination of British police officer John Saunders, which aimed to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. This act of defiance showcased the burgeoning revolutionary spirit ignited by their shared ideologies and commitment to radical change. Furthermore, Bhagat Singhs engagement with radical organizations, such as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, facilitated the dissemination of revolutionary literature and ideas that rallied support among various segments of society, illustrating how collaborative efforts can profoundly alter the trajectory of a movement (N/A, 2024), (Alonso IH, 2023).

The impact of his revolutionary activities on the youth

The revolutionary activities of Bhagat Singh significantly resonated with the youth of India, igniting a passionate spirit of nationalism and defiance against colonial oppression. His fearless approach, exemplified by his radical actions and poignant

writings, inspired a generation to challenge the status quo. Young Indians viewed Singh not only as a martyr but also as a dynamic leader who epitomized courage and sacrifice for the cause of freedom, leading to the widespread adoption of his rallying cry, Inquilab Zindabad, which became a mantra of resistance among the youth. The emotional weight of his legacy was further amplified by his tragic execution at the age of 23, which solidified his status as a symbol of resistance and ignited fervent idealism among young revolutionaries across the nation. Ultimately, Singh's revolutionary fervor instilled a pervasive sense of agency, motivating countless youths to actively engage in the struggle for India's independence, as seen in his profound influence on both historical and contemporary cultural narratives (Vetal A, 2024), (Pandey SK et al., 2024).

Arrest and Trial

The period of Bhagat Singh's arrest and subsequent trial marked a significant turning point in the Indian independence movement, reflecting the complex interplay between revolutionary fervor and legal proceedings that sought to suppress dissent. Singh's capture following the assassination of John Saunders ignited national outrage, transforming him into a martyr-like figure for the cause of freedom. His trial was not merely a legal event but a platform for political expression, where Singh utilized the courtroom to articulate his revolutionary ideals and critique British imperialism. As articulated in the revolutionary literature of the time, the trial was emblematic of the broader resistance against colonial oppression, parallel to how women's experiences of dissent and detention were articulated in works like *Of Captivity and Resistance* (Purkayastha S, 2023). Singh's conviction and subsequent execution not only galvanized youth across the nation but also illuminated the brutal realities of colonial justice systems, emphasizing how the revolutionary life involved continuous struggle, as depicted in *Waiting for Swaraj* (Vaidik A, 2021).

Circumstances leading to his arrest

The circumstances leading to Bhagat Singh's arrest were steeped in the tumultuous socio-political climate of colonial India. Singh, deeply influenced by the oppressive environment following events like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, increasingly embraced revolutionary ideals, advocating for the overthrow of British rule. In 1928, the assassination of Lala Lajpat Rai by police sparked his determination to avenge the nationalist leader's death, culminating in the killing of Superintendent J. A. Scott. However, Singh's eventual capture would arise from a fortuitous series of events. After a failed bombing in the Central Legislative Assembly, where he aimed to protest the repressive laws without causing harm to individuals, he voluntarily took responsibility for his actions, understanding the political ramifications they entailed. This calculated decision was indicative of his fervent commitment to Indian independence and positioned him as a martyr in the fight against colonial oppression (Englesberg et al., 2015) (Mutter et al., 2024).

The trial process and legal challenges

The trial process and legal challenges faced by Bhagat Singh and his associates serve as a stark illustration of the oppressive legal measures employed by colonial authorities to suppress dissent. Singh's trial became a political spectacle, reflecting not only his anti-colonial sentiments but also the broader aspirations of a nation striving for freedom. The British government utilized a combination of draconian laws and biased judicial practices to manipulate the trial's outcomes in their favor, effectively stifling any legitimate defenses. This manipulation is indicative of the systemic injustices faced by many activists of the time, with courts prioritizing colonial interests over fair legal proceedings. The political nature of Singh's trial highlights the increasingly radicalized anti-colonial sentiments that emerged in response to such repressive measures, positioning Singh as a martyr for the cause of independence and galvanizing mass support for revolutionary movements in India (Bano et al., 2023), (Englesberg et al., 2015).

Bhagat Singh's defense and political statements

The political statements and defenses articulated by Bhagat Singh remain crucial in understanding his ideological framework and commitment to socialism and anti-imperialism. Singh's writings reflect a fervent critique of colonial oppression, asserting that the struggle for freedom transcended mere political independence; thus, it demanded a societal transformation rooted in class struggle. His defense during the trial for the murder of John Saunders illustrated not only his disdain for the colonial judicial system but also showcased his embracing of martyrdom as a strategy to inspire future generations. As noted by (Bano et al., 2023), Singh's legacy continues to resonate among contemporary leftists in Pakistan, who invoke his memory to challenge national narratives imposed by dominant identities. Furthermore, the context of transnational radicalism as discussed in (Webb et al., 2018) highlights the influence of Singh's ideals on the global fight against imperialism, ensuring that his political statements remain relevant even today.

Public reaction to the trial

The public reaction to Bhagat Singh's trial was marked by intense emotion and widespread unrest, reflecting the growing dissatisfaction with British colonial rule. As the trial unfolded, it galvanized support for Singh, transforming him into a symbol of resistance against oppression. With the Indian populace witnessing what they perceived as a biased judicial process, protests erupted across the country, demanding his release and highlighting the oppressive nature of colonial governance. This surge of public sentiment found expression in various forms, including literature and cinema, which began to depict Singh's martyrdom

and the broader struggle for independence. Films like *Lagaan* and *Rang De Basanti*, produced in the post-colonial era, reinforced this narrative, evoking a sense of national pride and emphasizing the cultural impact of colonialism on ordinary Indians (Łuszczkiewicz et al., 2019). Consequently, the trial became a pivotal moment, fueling nationalist sentiments and solidifying Singhs legacy as a revolutionary icon (Parker et al.).

The role of media in shaping public opinion

The media has historically played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, particularly in the context of social and political movements. This influence is notably evident in the narrative surrounding Bhagat Singh, whose actions and ideologies were amplified through various media channels during the Indian struggle for independence. Prior to his execution, Singh effectively utilized print media, including pamphlets and articles, to disseminate his revolutionary thoughts, thus galvanizing public sentiment against British colonial rule. As (Bano et al., 2023) illustrates, his memory has been invoked in contemporary narratives to highlight social injustices and to critique dominant national identities. Additionally, the sensationalism surrounding events like the 1907 anti-Asian riots, noted in (Englesberg et al., 2015), showcased how media representations can incite public outrage and mobilize communities for political action. Thus, the media serves not only as a tool for information dissemination but as a catalyst for shaping collective consciousness and societal movements.

Legacy and Impact

Bhagat Singhs legacy and impact on Indias freedom struggle resonate profoundly in both historical and contemporary contexts. His unwavering commitment to revolutionary ideals and his bold actions, which included high-profile protests against British colonial rule, galvanized widespread youth engagement in the independence movement. Singhs execution in 1931 transformed him into a martyr, igniting a fervent nationalist sentiment that transcended regional boundaries and inspired subsequent generations of freedom fighters. The Ghadar Movement, which Singh was influenced by, identified pivotal strategies of direct opposition and international networking that would shape the course of Indian nationalism and other revolutionary movements, establishing a framework for resistance against colonial oppression during his time (Bhat RM, 2023). His ideologies continue to inform contemporary socio-political movements, resonating within activist circles that seek justice and equality, thus revealing how his contributions remain relevant in addressing ongoing issues of colonial legacies and social disparities (Bernards N, 2022).

Bhagat Singh as a symbol of resistance

Bhagat Singh emerged as a quintessential symbol of resistance during Indias struggle for independence, representing the fervent desire for justice and anti-colonial sentiment. His courageous acts, including the bold assassination of a British police officer and the subsequent hunger strike in jail, galvanized a generation disillusioned by British oppression. Singh's martyrdom not only inspired countless freedom fighters but also solidified his status as an enduring figure of defiance against tyranny. The resonance of his legacy can be traced through various movements, even in contemporary contexts where dissent persists against oppressive regimes, echoing similar themes of resistance against authoritarian nationalism, as seen in recent protests where marginalized voices assert their rights. Singh's life and actions serve as a touchstone for understanding the dynamics of resistance and national identity, reaffirming the need for collective memory in addressing historical injustices (Condos M, 2023), (Sharma Y et al., 2023).

Influence on future generations of freedom fighters

The legacy of Bhagat Singh continues to resonate powerfully with future generations of freedom fighters, providing not only inspiration but also a framework for resistance against oppression. His audacious actions and unwavering commitment to social justice have galvanized numerous movements across India and the globe. Singhs ability to articulate the struggles of the marginalized amid the colonial struggle illustrates the importance of intersectionality in activism, a concept that is increasingly relevant in contemporary discourse. The defiance he exhibited against imperialist forces serves as a reminder that the fight for freedom transcends mere political liberation; it embodies a broader struggle for equality and human rights. This influence manifests in various forms, from the ideologies that inform contemporary social movements to the broader cultural narratives depicted in mediums such as cinema, which along with the radicalized sentiments among early immigrants, shapes collective consciousness and mobilizes action for justice and equality (Englesberg et al., 2015), (Patel et al., 2023).

Commemoration and remembrance in India

The commemoration and remembrance of Indian freedom fighters, particularly figures like Bhagat Singh, reflect a complex interplay of cultural, political, and historical narratives within the country. In contemporary India, Bhagat Singh is revered not only as a national hero but as a symbol of resistance against oppressive regimes. His martyrdom is frequently invoked in discussions about social justice and political activism, serving to inspire new generations in their struggles. Artifacts associated with Singh's legacy, similar to souvenirs of Sikh Gurus and martyrs, are often displayed in public spaces, which helps cultivate a shared cultural memory that resonates deeply within society (Chopra et al., 2022). Furthermore, Bhagat Singhs memory is sometimes co-opted by various groups to further specific political agendas, highlighting the multifaceted nature of his commemoration (Bano et al., 2023). This ongoing engagement with his legacy ensures that his ideals remain relevant, fostering a critical dialogue about identity and justice in modern India.

Bhagat Singh's ideas on socialism and equality

Bhagat Singh's ideas on socialism and equality were crucial to his vision for a liberated India and were deeply influenced by the socio-political circumstances of his time. His writings reflect a commitment to addressing systemic inequalities that plagued society, particularly the plight of the working class and marginalized communities. Singh believed that true freedom could not be achieved without social and economic justice, advocating for a classless society where resources were equitably distributed. This perspective resonated with the struggles faced by South Asian immigrants, as noted in the historical narratives surrounding their oppression and radicalization in the early 20th century, which echoed the sentiments of movements like the Ghadar movement (Englesberg et al., 2015). His progressive ideology also paralleled the literary expressions in Hindi literature during the 1950s, where themes of social awakening and confrontations against entrenched powers reflected a broader struggle for equality (Ren et al.). Singh's legacy continues to inspire those advocating for social justice today.

Analysis of his relevance in contemporary India

In contemporary India, the legacy of Bhagat Singh resonates powerfully within socio-political movements, reflecting the nation's ongoing struggle for justice and equality. His ideology, rooted in anti-imperialist sentiment and a commitment to radical change, finds echoes in modern activism against oppression and social injustice. The rise of populism, particularly as seen in political discourse, often invokes themes reminiscent of Singh's narratives. The rhetorical strategies seen in Narendra Modi's speeches, such as the "narrative of slavery" and the concept of "Nation First," draw upon a collective memory that Singh helped to cultivate, reinforcing a potent discourse of nationalism (Inam ZB et al., 2024). Furthermore, the historical analysis of women's participation in revolutionary movements, especially in contexts of dissent, underscores the enduring pertinence of Singh's call for transformative politics (Purkayastha S, 2023). Thus, Bhagat Singh's relevance extends beyond his era, inspiring contemporary dialogues on freedom and resistance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Bhagat Singh remains a towering figure in the landscape of Indian freedom fighting, emblematic of resistance against colonial rule and the quest for justice. His life and legacy continue to inspire not only in India but also in regions such as contemporary Pakistani Punjab, where he is invoked by leftist movements to address historical injustices related to identity and representation. As highlighted in recent scholarship, Bhagat Singh's memory serves as a focal point for activists who grapple with the erasure of regional identities amidst a dominant national narrative (Bano et al., 2023). Moreover, the radicalization of early South Asian immigrants, such as those involved in the Ghadar movement aiming to dismantle oppressive structures in their new environments, echoes the fervor that characterized Singh's ideology (Englesberg et al., 2015). Thus, his revolutionary spirit transcends borders, nurturing a rich discourse that remains relevant in discussions of freedom and equity today.

A. Summary of key points discussed

Throughout this essay, we have delved into the multifaceted life and legacy of Bhagat Singh, an icon of the Indian independence movement. We began by examining his early influences, particularly his exposure to revolutionary ideologies, which shaped his commitment to the cause of freedom from British rule. Subsequently, we analyzed his significant activities, including his role in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) and his direct actions against colonial authority, including the infamous assembly bombing in 1929. Furthermore, we explored his philosophical writings and views on socialism, highlighting his vision for an equitable society. Finally, we reflected on his martyrdom, which continues to inspire generations of activists. The essence of Bhagat Singh's life underscores the importance of courage and conviction in the struggle for justice, cementing his place as a pivotal figure in the annals of India's fight for independence (Singh B, 2019-08-15).

B. Reflection on Bhagat Singh's contributions to Indian independence

Bhagat Singh's contributions to Indian independence are inseparable from his profound ideological commitments, which encompassed not only national liberation but also social justice and anti-imperialist sentiments. His life was marked by a relentless pursuit of revolutionary ideals that appealed to the oppressed masses, emphasizing the need for a radical overhaul of society. Singh viewed colonial oppression as intricately linked to broader systemic issues, which aligns with the broader historical narratives of revolutionaries whose dreams of a liberated future transcended national boundaries, as discussed by Ali Raza in his exploration of communist movements in colonial India (Raza A, 2020). Moreover, Singh's use of direct action as a means of protest mirrored patterns observed in the struggle against imperialist forces, revealing an acute awareness of the political economy that shaped his context (Bernards N, 2022). Ultimately, Singh's legacy continues to inspire contemporary discussions on freedom, equality, and the efficacy of revolutionary action.

C. The enduring legacy of his ideals

The enduring legacy of Bhagat Singh's ideals can be observed in the continued relevance of his revolutionary fervor and vision for a just society. As a martyred figure, Singh transcends the political movements of his era, symbolizing a relentless pursuit of freedom that resonates across generations. His beliefs incite contemporary political discourse, prompting various groups to invoke his memory and ideals in their struggles against oppression. For instance, the complexities of Singh's legacy are evident

in how his martyrdom fuels activism, as seen in the intersection of his ideology with the current political landscapes of Hindu nationalism, Maoist agitation, and even Khalistani separatism in Punjab, highlighting a “halfway” struggle for incomplete revolutionary ideals (Axel et al., 2018). Furthermore, Singh’s influence extends to movements like the Ghadr Party, which sought to unify diverse revolutionary actions, demonstrating the long-term implications of his vision on both the philosophy of resistance and the practice of historiography (Jan et al., 2018).

D. Call to action for remembering freedom fighters

The legacy of Bhagat Singh serves as a powerful catalyst for contemporary calls to action surrounding the commemoration of freedom fighters in India. As the nation reflects on its struggle for independence, it becomes imperative to recognize and preserve the memories of those who, like Singh, made significant sacrifices for the cause. This remembrance fosters a collective identity rooted in resistance against colonial oppression, prompting a critical examination of history, much like the archaeological discoveries in Ajnala that have reignited conversations about the violent past of the British Empire in India (Condos M, 2023). Moreover, the contrasting storytelling of colonial and anticolonial narratives reflects the need to acknowledge diverse perspectives on freedom, as seen through the divergent objectives of Radio SEAC and Congress Radio during the Second World War (Alonso IH, 2023). Ultimately, engaging with these historical figures invigorates discussions about citizenship, social justice, and national pride in contemporary society.

E. Final thoughts on the importance of Bhagat Singh in history

In reflecting upon the significance of Bhagat Singh in history, it becomes clear that his legacy extends far beyond the confines of time and geography. Singhs unwavering commitment to the cause of Indian independence and his radical ideologies resonate profoundly within contemporary discourses on social justice and ethical resistance. His profound belief in revolutionary action against imperial oppression, articulated through both his writings and actions, inspired generations of freedom fighters and continues to invigorate movements advocating for equality and liberty today. Moreover, his ultimate sacrifice at a young age has immortalized him as a symbol of courage and selflessness in the face of tyranny. In essence, Bhagat Singhs life serves not only as a historical milestone in Indias struggle for autonomy but also as a timeless reminder of the power of conviction, illustrating how one individuals fervor for change can amplify the collective voice of a nation yearning for freedom.

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