

The Quit India Movement of 1942

The Second World War had created crisis in India. It was fought by Britain and the Indians felt that India was unnecessarily dragged into it causing suffering to them. Therefore, the Indians, in general, were annoyed with the Indian government and were mentally prepared to fight against it if necessary. The condition of the people in Bengal also became miserable. The Congress Working Committee met at Wardha in July and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the British from India. The All-India Congress Committee ratified this 'Quit India' resolution at its meeting at Bombay on August 8, 1942. All members were arrested and the Congress was declared an illegal organisation. The people resorted to 'hartals', processions and mass meetings. The movement could not remain nonviolent. The Government suppressed the movement with a heavy hand. The movement went underground.

~~spearhead~~ The movement was spearheaded mostly by the students, the peasants and the members of the lower middle class. The

collapsed because it lacked organisation and leadership. Many sections of the Indian society like the native rulers, the police, the army and the bureaucracy remained loyal to the Government and helped it in suppressing the movement. Even the intellectual elite and the upper middle class had lost its faith in the methods of Gandhiji and therefore, did not support it actively. But the movement created a favourable opinion in foreign countries concerning India's freedom.