



8th Foundation Course Batch, Military engineer Services



Colonial Constitutional Reforms (1861-1935)

Debate Motion - This house believes that British constitutional reforms in India were intended to hinder, rather than facilitate, genuine self-rule.

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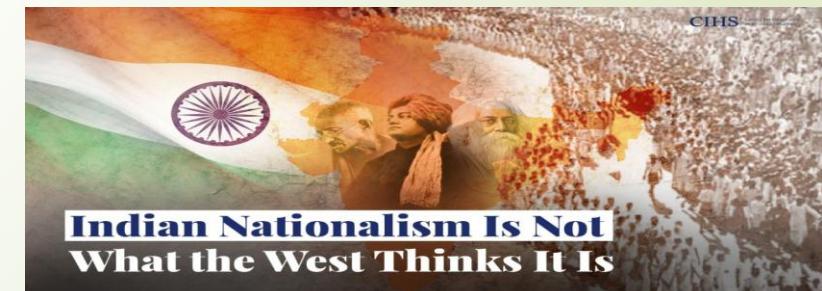
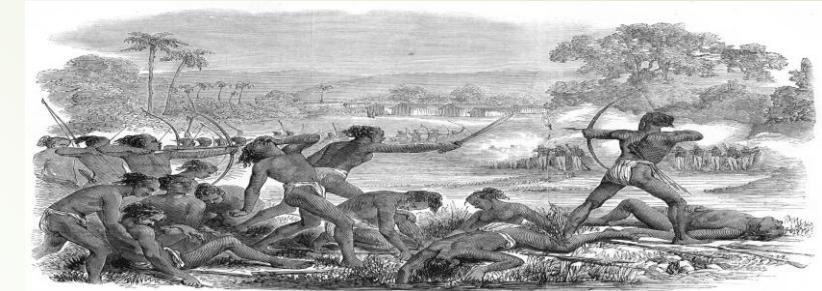
Introduction

Need of Constitutional Reforms

- ▶ Tribal, Peasant's uprising.
- ▶ Annexation policies of British.
- ▶ Revolt of 1857.
- ▶ Rising Indian nationalism and political awareness.
- ▶ Pressure from Indian Leader and Political Organization.
- ▶ Effectively handle the administrative control.
- ▶ Effect of international events.

Govt of India Act 1858:

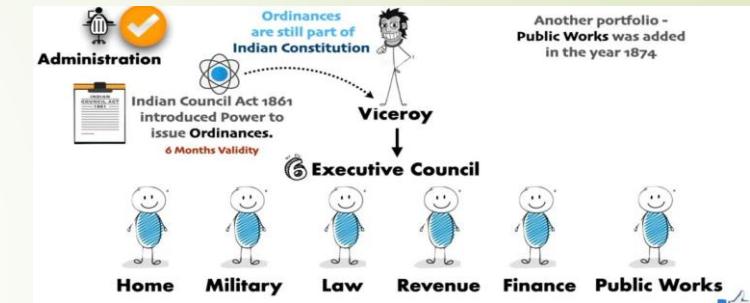
- ▶ Transfer of Power
- ▶ Creation of office of secretary of state and Legislative Council.



Major Acts & Constitutional reforms

Indian Council Act 1861 & 1892:

- ▶ Indian Participation (Nominated members).
- ▶ Viceroy's Ordinance making Powers.



Arms Act & Vernacular Press Act, 1878

- ▶ Control & Suppression against rule.
(Highly discriminatory & racist)
- ▶ Silencing Indian News Papers.



Factories Act, 1881 & 1891

- ▶ Regulation of working conditions.

Major Acts & Constitutional reforms

Govt of India Act 1909 (Morley-Minto reforms)

- ▶ Expansion of legislative councils.
- ▶ Retain majority of official members in central legislative council.
- ▶ Introduce non-official majority in provincial legislature.
- ▶ Indirect election introduced.
- ▶ Forbade discussion on foreign policy and relations with princely states.
- ▶ Separate electorate to Muslims.



Major Acts & Constitutional reforms

Govt of India Act 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford reforms)

Provinces:

- ▶ Dual Governance structure.
- ▶ First time budget was divided in 2 parts – (Central, Provincial)
- ▶ Voting rights for women (Limited)
- ▶ Separate electorates for Sikh, Christians, anglo Indians & Europeans.

Central Govt:

- ▶ No. of Indians in viceroy executive council increased.
- ▶ Bicameral legislature at central
- ▶ Unequal Seats allocation based on importance of province

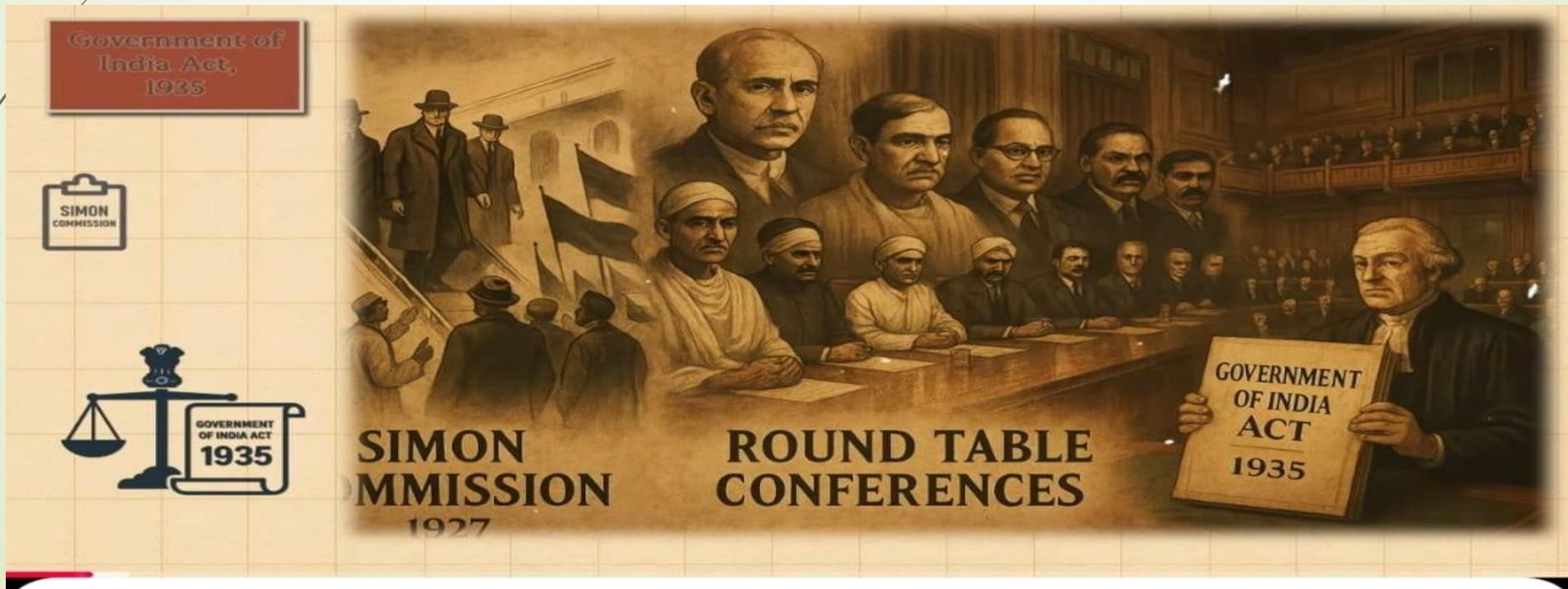
Other Provisions: Creation of High Commissioner for India in London.

Govt of India Act,1935

We framed the Act of 1935 because we thought that was the best way...of maintaining British influence in India.
- Lord Linlithgow, viceroy (1936-43)

We are provided with a car, all brakes and no engine.
- Jawaharlal Nehru

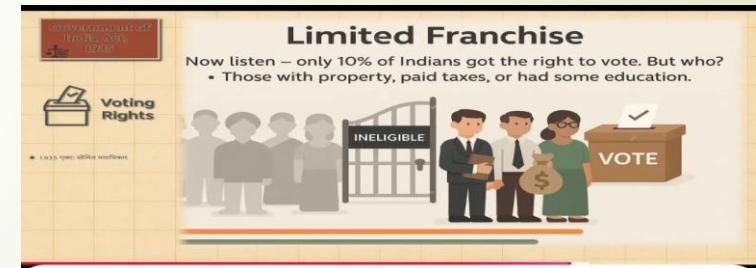
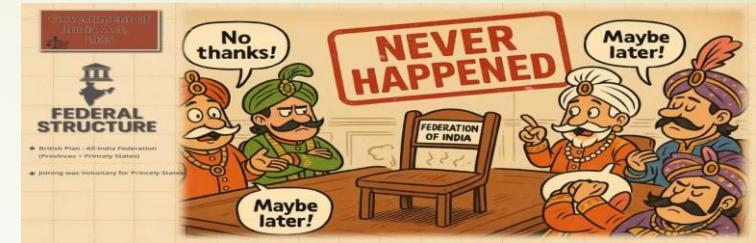
Background



Govt of India Act,1935

Provisions

- ▶ Proposal of All India Federation
- ▶ Seats reservation for Depressed classes and women
- ▶ Extension of Franchise for voting rights
- ▶ Provincial Autonomy: Dyarchy Abolished
- ▶ Dyarchy at central level

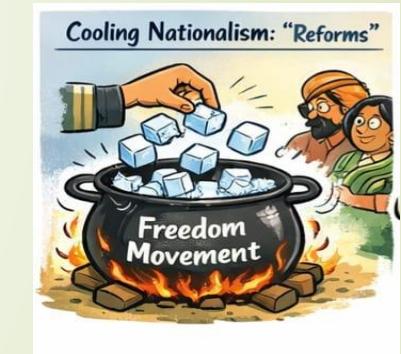
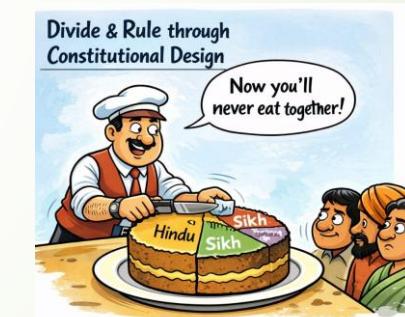
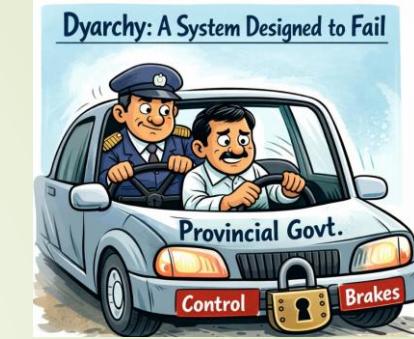
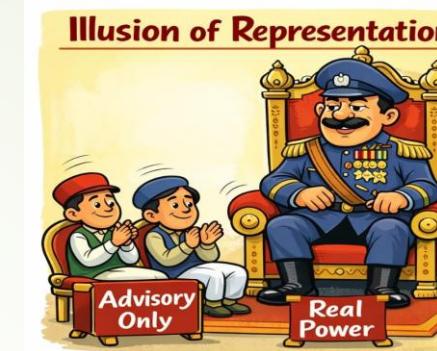


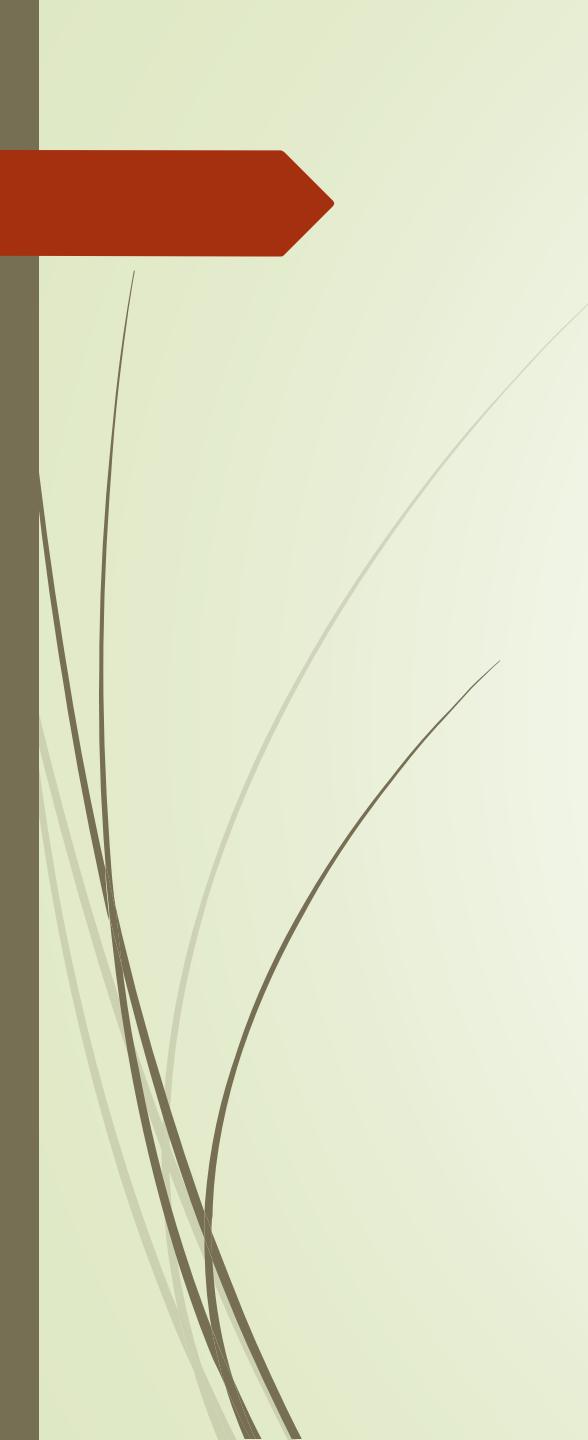
Reforms as Instrument of Control, not Empowerment

- ▶ Illusion of Representation.
- ▶ Dyarchy – a system designed to fail.
- ▶ Divide & Rule through Constitutional Reforms.
- ▶ Centralised Authority despite Federal language.
- ▶ Gradual transfer of powers, as a delaying strategy.
- ▶ Psychological impact.

Critical Analysis

- ▶ Ultimately led to growth of the Idea of Nationalism.
- ▶ Gradually laid groundwork for future demand of self – governance.





THANK YOU