Pursuing PhD at University of Washington
Research: Computer Vision and Graphics
Deeply interested in history, politics, travelling and adventure sports.

Ankit Gupta
INDIA

The journey of a Nation.
From Independence to a Republic.
Outline

- Motivation
- Freedom and parricide
- Gathering the pieces
- The constitution
- Conclusion
Curiosity.

For most of us, history ends at 1947

Awareness.

To become better citizens.

Philosophy.

What defines and unites India?
Freedom and Parricide

1947-50
India: Aug 15, 1947

- Purna Swaraj Declaration on Jan 26, 1930.
- Second Anniversary of Japanese surrender.
- Chosen by Lord Mountbatten
The Ceremony

- Started at 11pm on Aug 14.
- Three speakers
  - Chaudhury Khaliquzzaman
  - Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
  - Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
Pakistan: Aug 14, 1947

- Allow Lord Mountbatten to attend both ceremonies
- To show, Pakistan did not secede from India.
What led to partition?

Need to go back in time
The Early Cracks

- Divide and rule politics by the British
- Feeling of separatism – Khilafat Movement
- Congress’s ignorance of the Muslim League
Rise of Muslim League


- 1927: ~1300 members, 1944: ~500,000 members in Bengal alone

- Fear of a ‘Brahman Baniya Raj’

- March 1940, first call for Pakistan.
“there is more likelihood of obtaining Hindu consent to Division than Muslim consent to union”

“to unite India against Muslim wishes would necessarily involve force. To divide India against Hindu wishes would not”

“the Hindus may loudly lament their brethren in Bengal and Punjab being torn from Mother India, but they are not likely to have the will to undertake a crusade on their behalf”
The Elections (1946)

- Total seats: 1585
- Congress: 927, Muslim League: 429
- The partition was inevitable
What led to partition?

- Congress’s shortsightedness
- Jinnah’s ambition
- British amorality and cynicism
The Massacre

- Reported figures for Aug 1947 – 15,000 killed
- Overall toll: 1 million dead (reported).
Could this have been prevented?

- The original plan of leaving India in June, 1948.
- The delay in announcing Punjab boundary.
- Improper use of the armed forces.
Aftermath (1947-49)

- The biggest migration in World history.
- ~8 million people coming into India.
- More than populations of countries like Austria, Norway. Almost equal to Australia!
North-West India

- ~1.5 million people in.
- Resettlement for farmers
  - Sardar Tarlok Singh.
  - Standard hectare and Graded cut policies.
- Resettlement in areas like Delhi (Patel Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Rajendra Nagar ....), Faridabad.
Eastern India

- ~400,000 immigrants in Calcutta alone.
- Inefficient settlement plans.
- Strengthening emergence of communism.
The rise of communism (1948-50)

- Led by B.T. Ranadive.
- Inspired by Mao Zedong in China (‘49) and Soviet.
- Support in dissatisfied people in Eastern parts and in Hyderabad.
West India was different

~500,000 people in Bombay camps.

No empty areas for them as in earlier two.

Spread in Bombay, Pune, Ahmedabad, other cities.

Increase in slums, fight for housing, jobs.
Gathering the Pieces

1947-49
INDIA BEFORE PARTITION

The representations of boundaries are reproduced from the map in the India Office List, 1940, prepared by the Edinburgh Geographical Institute and printed by John Bartholomew and Son Ltd. They are not necessarily authoritative.

British India

Indian States and Territories
The Problem

- All 565 princely states were given an option

- Key men involved (New states dept. in June’47)

Vallabhbhai Patel  V. P. Menon  Mountbatten
The Convincing

- Lunch parties
- Instruments of Accession
- Logical arguments
  - Resources
  - Costs of maintaining foreign consulates
  - National integrity
Three Troublemakers

Junagadh

Hyderabad

Jammu and Kashmir
Junagadh

- Hindu majority population, Muslim Ruler.
- Acceded to Pakistan.
  - (Pak perspective: exchange for J&K)
- Public outrage and revolt
  - Led by Samaldas Gandhi
- October 1947, part of India.
Hyderabad

- Key state w.r.t. geography
- Hindu majority with Muslim Nizam ruler – Mir Usman Ali.
- Nov 1947 – Foreign agreement signed with India.
- Kasim Razvi – started Razakars group. Hindus started fleeing.
Problems for neighboring states too.

June 1948 – Mountbatten resigned.

Sept 1948 – Indian army sent to Hyderabad.

Sept 17, 1948 – Hyderabad part of India.
Jammu and Kashmir
Key People

Maharaja Hari Singh

Sheikh Abdullah
Prevailing situation

- Muslim dissent
- 1932 – All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference
- Hari Singh and his minister Ramachandra Kak in favor of independent state
- Signed trade agreement with Pakistan
The Tribal Invasion

October 22, 1947
The Tribal Invasion

- Indian armies enter into the state.
- Early November – peace talks start.
- Winter – military operations on hold.
How things unfolded

- January 1 – Move to United Nations
- March 1948 – Sheikh Abdullah comes to power. Loyal to India.
- Pakistan funded govt. of Azaad Kashmir.
- The war still on.
The Tribal Invasion

Was it Tribal or Military?

Well supplied with lorries, petrol, ammunition

Openly supported by North-west Frontier Province (Pakistan) Minister, Abdul Qayyum.
Jammu and Kashmir
The Constitution

1946-49
Constituent Assembly (formed in 1946)

Over 300 members in all

Boycotted by Muslim League
Some key members

Jawaharlal Nehru
Vallabhbhai Patel
Rajendra Prasad
B. R. Ambedkar
B.N. Rau
K. M. Munshi
Alladi Krishnaswami
The National Flag

July 22, 1947
Basic Outline

- Individual vs Village
- Euro-American vs Indian precedents
- British system – PM, Cabinet, Lower and Upper Houses, Nominal President.
- Fundamental rights and Directive Principles

- Some complaints – “wanted the music of Veena or Sitar but instead got the music of an English band”
Rights of the States

Push to centralization.

Were states the “beggars at the doors of Centre”?

Need of a strong center instead of current “weak and vacillating executives in provinces”.
Muslim reservations

Vallabhbhai Patel –

“Those who want that kind of a thing have a place in Pakistan, not here.”

“Here, we are building a nation and those who choose to divide again and sow seeds of disruption will have no place here....”
Minority Rights

Women reservations

The lone fighter was a man – R. K. Chaudhuri, from his “experience as a parliamentarian and a man of the world.”
Untouchables, Tribal community.

Support led by Jaipal Singh.

Agreed after studying scale of exploitation.
The Language(s)?

- English – Inherited language of communication from British.
The Language(s)?

- English – Inherited language of communication from British.

- Official language – Hindi but till 1965, procedures conducted in English.
Final Constitution Drafted

- Nov 25, 1949
- Longest in the world
  - 395 articles
  - 8 schedules
Conclusion
We started a quest today.

A Quest to understand India.
What unites India?
India After Gandhi. (By Shri Ramachandra Guha)
Wikipedia
Thank you