**Introduction**

What is a nation?

The game you are about to play tries to answer this question as it applies to South Asia after World War II. The issues that you will learn about over the next week are just as important today as they were back then. During the six decades since World War II much has changed about the world. Governments have risen while others have fallen – bringing both the promise for a better life along with bloodshed and strife.

This game begins in India in June 1945, at the British capital of South Asia, Simla. Four groups of people are coming together to decide the future of South Asia: the British, Indian National Congress, Muslim League, and Gandhi supporters.

**Roles**

British- currently control all of South Asia. After World War II the British realize that it is time for India to gain more independence. In order to organize the next phase of Indian History the British have called together a conference in the Indian town of Simla so every important group can sit down and talk.

Indian National Congress (INC)- is the most powerful organization in South Asia. The INC says it represents all Indians but its critics say that it only tries to benefit Hindus in the region. The INC is coming to the Simla Conference expecting the British to leave for their members to become the next rulers of India.

Muslim League­- is the second most powerful organization in South Asia. The Muslim League represents the millions of Muslims in the region. Worried that the INC will dominate South Asia when the British leave, the Muslim League has been making public comments that South Asia should split up into several different countries.

Gandhi supporters- followers of the incredibly popular Gandhi want the next phase of India’s history to be both British free and peaceful. The INC and the Muslim League must learn to work together so India can move forward.

**Materials**

1. Intro to India- Presentation puts the conference in context of world events. It also reviews key vocabulary that will be needed the following days.

2. Train to Simla – Provides background information leading up to conference.

3. Resource Pack- Charts, maps, articles, and timelines to help each group accomplish the objectives.

4. Role Cards – Describes the objectives of the four groups along with information that will help in achieving their goals.

**Simulation - Time Line**

Day 1

Students are introduced to the simulation, go over Intro to India, and the four potential roles. As a class read and decipher the essay, Train to Simla. Students at the end of class will write down which group they would like to represent at the conference.

Day 2

Students will be assigned to group roles. In their groups they finish the Train to Simla, examine the resource pack, and their role cards.

Day 3

Students develop their plan for the future of South Asia to be presented at the conference.

Day 4

**Simla Conference Day**

Students come to class with their arguments prepared. The moderator (teacher) leads a discussion on the future of South Asia. Each group presents their argument and sees if compromise between the groups is possible.

Day 5

Students reflect on the simulation, their role, and the future of South Asia.

**Evaluation**

Over the course of the South Asia simulation the teacher will be looking at several factors to determine your grade:

1. Teamwork/participation in group.

2. Degree of authenticity (does the student adopt/become the role they are supposed to be).

3. Quality of argument presented on Day 4.

4. Written reflection.

**Learning Objectives**

3. Analyze and use geographic tools to interpret the effects of population growth on resources and vice versa.

6. Compare and contrast cultures of a region by their religions and ethnicities.

7. Analyze major historical events, and significant figures that played a key role in colonization and independence.

**Citation**

Embree, Ainslie Thomas., Mark C. Carnes, and Ainslie Thomas. Embree. *Defining a Nation: India on the Eve of Independence, 1945*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2005. Print.

**British Governor Generals** (British officers who currently control India)

**Role Card**- The below information outlines your groups role in South Asia, objectives, and past history. You must use all of this information to develop a plan for the region’s future. At the conference all four groups are going to present their plans and see if they can agree on important issues.

This simulation will require you to think outside the box. The solutions to some of your objectives will need to come from your group working together and will not necessarily be provided for you. Be creative in your solutions.

**Objectives –** Research and find out the answers to the below questions. Your goal is to try and get the other groups to agree to your answers to the below questions.

How would the British feel about these issues?

1. What type of government will India have? How should the government organize? Where should the capitol be?

2. Should anything happen to the Caste system?

3. What is the official language of India?

4. Should South Asia be one country called India or should it spit up? If so what should the boundaries be?

5. What should the role of British be? If they are to stay or leave when is this going to happen?

**Description**

The British Governors General, having been newly appointed to be in charge to do not have complete knowledge of everything happening in India. As recent arrivals they are going to have to listen to what the other groups once at the beginning of the conference.

The invitations to the conference indicate that the British seek to propose and carry out a plan for Indian independence during the Simla conference. At the conference the British may come up with a plan to leave South Asia and while making sure a new government is going to be formed.

The British have publicly proclaimed that their mission is to accomplish Indian independence and make sure that all sides are happy with the outcome of the Simla Conference. When this happens it will allow for an honorable withdrawal from South Asia. The leader of Britain, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who is the British Governor’s boss has made it no secret of his wish to keep up good relations with India. If possible the Prime Minister would like to have trade agreements with newly formed country along with military bases.

In addition to hosting the Simla Conference, the Governor Generals currently control the organizations that run India. Since the Simla is where the British have all of their offices located the Governor Generals can talk to the British military and police authorities throughout the conference.

The Governor General s currently control are staffed by British officials who were trained in London; the majority of the middle/lower level positions are staffed by native Indians. The Governors Generals also control the British armed forces and can issues orders to the Royal Indian Army and the Royal Indian Navy (forces whose officers are British but most of whose soldiers and sailors are Indian).

This means, for example, that for the duration of the war the Governors General can order the arrest and imprisonment of nearly anyone in the country for anything they want. The can also ban any organizations, direct the movement of military forces and police units, and otherwise issue orders to all government agencies. They can do so publically, by making announcements; or they can talk to people in private.

It is important for the Governor Generals to keep in mind that Great Britain doesn’t have very much money and its economy back home is struggling. By the time of the Simla Conference the native Indian population is becoming increasingly tired of British rule. Indian’s know that the British are weak and are seeking a way out of the country.

**Indian National Congress** (The main political party of Hindu Indians)

**Role Card**- The below information outlines your groups role in South Asia, objectives, and past history. You must use all of this information to develop a plan for the region’s future. At the conference all four groups are going to present their plans and see if they can agree on important issues.

This simulation will require you to think outside the box. The solutions to some of your objectives will need to come from your group working together and will not necessarily be provided for you. Be creative in your solutions.

**Objectives –** Research and find out the answers to the below questions. Your goal is to try and get the other groups to agree to your answers to the below questions.

How would the INC feel about these issues?

1. What type of government will India have? How should the government organize? Where should the capitol be?

2. Should anything happen to the Caste system?

3. What is the official language of India?

4. Should South Asia be one country called India or should it spit up? If so what should the boundaries be?

5. What should the role of British be? If they are to stay or leave when is this going to happen?

**Description**

Since its founding 1885, the Indian National Congress (INC) has been the leading the movement for Indian independence from Great Britain. The INC enjoys the support of most Hindu’s in India. It is safe to assume that all members of Congress will lose this game if India has not been granted its freedom and the British remain powerful in India.

Even though 75% of the population of India is Hindu the INC claims to represent all people of India including Muslims.

The INC wants Great Britain to leave South Asia so it could then run the country. The INC would love it if the British officials would go home and the INC could just take their jobs. The INC believes that since China is currently having a civil war and the Japan is in ruins that India has the potential to be the most important country in all of Asia. The INC dismisses the claims of princely states and the Muslim League that they should be able to run their own territory.

The members of INC are divided about whether India should try to become a modern country or should continue to be a country that makes its living from farming as Gandhi wants. Some members of the INC suggest that India’s new government should be made just like the United States while others want to become Communists. Some members of the INC want to establish India as a Hindu nation forcing all people to follow Hindu laws.

At the end of Simla Conference the INC wants all of South Asia to be one country, perhaps called “Great India.” If all of South Asia is one country it would have enough natural resources to one day become the most powerful country in the world. If “Great India” is allowed to separate in to multiple countries the INC is worried that it would like the natural resources to become a great country.

The INC believe since there are so many more Hindus than Muslims it is their right to dominate/rule India. Yet everyone realizes that holding the country together after the Simla Conference will be a difficult task. Muslims, Gandhi supporters, and the untouchables may all work together against the INC if they aren’t careful.

The INC has to also keep in mind the popularity of Gandhi in South Asia. Gandhi wants to keep India stuck in the past by not changing how Indians have lived for the last four hundred years. The INC wants to build roads, factories, and schools so India can truly become powerful.

**Muslim League** (The organization that represents the interests of Muslims)

**Role Card**- The below information outlines your groups role in South Asia, objectives, and past history. You must use all of this information to develop a plan for the region’s future. At the conference all four groups are going to present their plans and see if they can agree on important issues.

This simulation will require you to think outside the box. The solutions to some of your objectives will need to come from your group working together and will not necessarily be provided for you. Be creative in your solutions.

**Objectives –** Research and find out the answers to the below questions. Your goal is to try and get the other groups to agree to your answers to the below questions.

How would the Muslim League feel about these issues?

1. What type of government will India have? How should the government organize? Where should the capitol be?

2. Should anything happen to the Caste system?

3. What is the official language of India?

4. Should South Asia be one country called India or should it spit up? If so what should the boundaries be?

5. What should the role of British be? If they are to stay or leave when is this going to happen?

**Description**

The claims that the INC speaks for all Indians have been sharply challenged by the rise of the Muslim League. The Muslim League is a political organization that looks after and protects Muslims in South Asia. The Muslim League think that if a unified India (India that includes Pakistan) that Hindus will take away Muslims rights. There are Muslims who live throughout India but most of them live in the North East area of South Asia. Cooperation between the Muslim League and the INC can still happen. If India breaks into two separate nations; one will be created that is mostly Hindu while the other will consist of Muslims.

Formed in 1905-06 the Muslim League became more powerful in response to some decisions made by the INC. Some Hindu’s that were part of the INC became angered when Bengal split from India. In response that committed crimes against Muslims. Seeing the growing violence the Muslim League was formed so Muslims would have a voice in India. The Muslim League claimed that Muslims, on grounds of cultural and historical differences should receive special treatment when it came to laws and serving in the government. The creation of the Muslim League in 1905 showed that Muslims were already worried that when the British left South Asia there could be violence.

The positions of the Muslims in India were changed by World War I, 1914-1918. Turkey, the only state with an Islamic ruler – the Sultan of Turkey and the leader of the Muslim world – fought against Great Britain I the war. When the British attacked the Turkish military it caused Muslims throughout the world to distrust the country. This was no different in India where the Muslim League decided that British must leave so India could be free.

The defeat of Muslim Turkey along with how Great Britain treated the country after the war was over caused protests throughout the Muslim world. The Muslims in India joined in protesting the British actions and calling for them to “quit India.” Under Gandhi’s leadership the Muslim League joined the INC in protesting in violent ways (just like Martin Luther King did).

By the 1930’s the Muslim League started to the think about splitting up India into several countries. One of those countries would be a Muslim country called Pakistan.

By the time of Simla conference the Muslim League hasn’t decided the new state that they are thinking about should include Sharia Law (have Islam written into its laws) or have no religion in its laws (like the United States). At the conference the Muslim League will need to explain to the British why they need to have a separate Muslim state. If the Muslim League can’t get the British, the INC, and Gandhi to agree on an Islamists state the Indian government that rules all of South Asia would have to be very weak or else it would feel threatened.

**Gandhi Supporters** (People of India who follow and respect Gandhi)

**Role Card**- The below information outlines your groups role in South Asia, objectives, and past history. You must use all of this information to develop a plan for the region’s future. At the conference all four groups are going to present their plans and see if they can agree on important issues.

This simulation will require you to think outside the box. The solutions to some of your objectives will need to come from your group working together and will not necessarily be provided for you. Be creative in your solutions.

**Objectives –** Research and find out the answers to the below questions. Your goal is to try and get the other groups to agree to your answers to the below questions.

How would Gandhi supporters feel about these issues?

1. What type of government will India have? How should the government organize? Where should the capitol be?

2. Should anything happen to the Caste system?

3. What is the official language of India?

4. Should South Asia be one country called India or should it spit up? If so what should the boundaries be?

5. What should the role of British be? If they are to stay or leave when is this going to happen?

**Description**

Gandhi s is a very important leader in South Asia. People look to him to decide what is right and what is wrong. During the early 1900’s Gandhi worked to support rights for all Indians regardless of their religion and place in society. He developed, by 1919, a type of protest used by Martin Luther King. This protest is called nonviolence resistance. Instead of burning and killing people that angered them Gandhi and his followers believed that by asking for things peacefully would be the best way to encourage change. During World War I the British passed a series of laws that said you couldn’t say anything bad about Britain. In response Gandhi called for a nationwide day of no one working. This was designed to show the British that they did not fully control India. The protests were supposed to be peaceful but several turned violent. In one city a large group of protestors faced off against a British military unit. Over 400 Gandhi supporters were killed. From 1919-1940 Gandhi kept trying to have nonviolent protests while always struggling to keep them peaceful.

Gandhi is a very interesting man. He believes that India should not change. He values small farming villages, the importance religion in society, and wants there to be peace. Gandhi does not like anything from Europe or the United States. He believes that these regions are trying to hurt India’s economy and culture by cultural diffusion. Gandhi often told his supporters “When India breaks free of these influences that it can truly be independent.”

Concerning the Hindu Caste system, Gandhi feels that it has a negative impact on India and should go away. He feels bad for the millions of people labeled as untouchables who live in absolute poverty.

Entering the Simla Conference, Gandhi feels the keeping the peace is the most important goal. Muslims and Hindus must be able to live side by side with each other. The British and their bad influence must also leave the country while special steps must be taken to protect Indian culture.