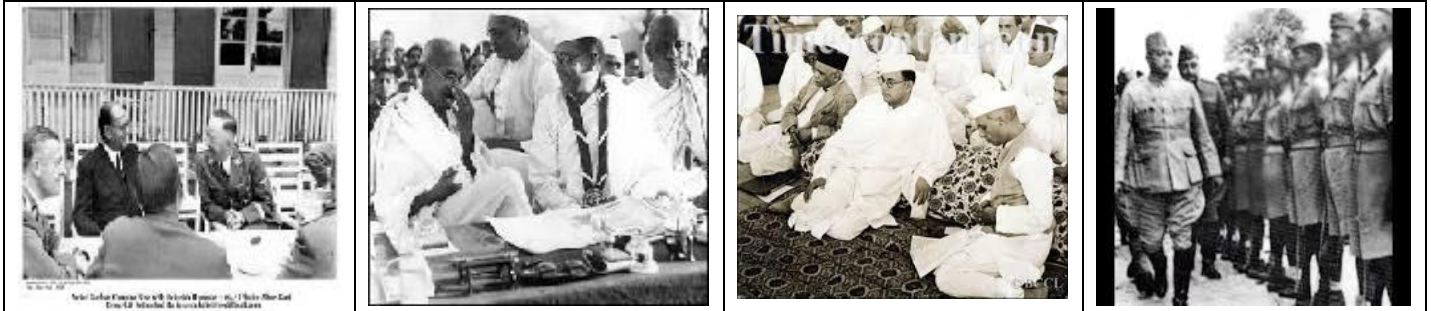


SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE



Subhas Chandra Bose (23 January 1897 – 18 August 1945) was one of India's greatest freedom fighter, whose attempt during World War II to get rid of British rule in India with the help of Nazi Germany and Japan left a troubled legacy in the history. In the year 1923 he was elected as the president of All India Youth Congress. He stood for unqualified Swaraj (self-governance), including the use of force against the British. He observed party organization and saw communism and fascism in action. This led to a confrontation with Gandhi and Indian National Congress. Later S.C. Bose started Swaraj Party in 1922 with his political guru Chittaranjan Das. By 1938 Bose had become a leader of national stature and agreed to accept nomination as Congress President. He was elected president again over Gandhi's preferred candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya. However, due to the maneuverings of the Gandhi-led clique in the Congress Working Committee, Bose found himself forced to resign from the Congress presidency. On 22 June 1939 Bose organised the All India Forward Bloc a faction within the Indian National Congress. On the outbreak of World war, Bose advocated a campaign of mass civil disobedience to protest against Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's decision to declare war on India's behalf without consulting the Congress leadership. Having failed to persuade Gandhi of the necessity of this, Bose organized mass protests in Calcutta calling for the 'Holwell Monument' commemorating the Black Hole of Calcutta, which then stood at the corner of Dalhousie Square, to be removed. He was thrown in jail by the British, but was released following a seven-day hunger strike. Later Bose escaped from British surveillance at his house in Calcutta on 19 January 1941 to Germany. The honorific Netaji ("Respected Leader") first applied to Bose in Germany, by the Indian soldiers of the Indische Legion and by the German and Indian officials in the Special Bureau for India in Berlin, in early 1942. He revived the Indian National Army, popularly known as 'Azad Hind Fauj' in 1943 which was initially formed in 1942 by Rash Behari Bose. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had visited London during pre-independence period to discuss the future of India, with the members of the Labor party. His sudden disappearance from Taiwan on 18th August 1945, led to surfacing of various theories, concerning the possibilities of his survival.

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Where & when born

Subhas Chandra Bose was born on 23 January 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province, to Prabhavati Devi and Janakinath Bose, an advocate.[30] He was the ninth in a family of 14 children.

Brief history of the person -personal

He was admitted to the Protestant European School, like his brothers and sisters, in January 1902. He continued his studies at this school which was run by the Baptist Mission up to 1909 and then shifted to the Ravenshaw Collegiate School. The day Subhas was admitted to this school, Beni Madhab Das, the headmaster, understood how brilliant and scintillating his genius was. After securing the second position in the matriculation examination in 1913, he got admitted to the Presidency College where he studied briefly.

His nationalistic temperament came to light when he was expelled for assaulting Professor Oaten for the latter's anti-India comments. He later joined the Scottish Church Collegiate the University of Calcutta and passed his B.A. in 1918 in philosophy. Bose left India in 1919 for England with a promise to his father that he would appear in the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination. He went to study in Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and matriculated on 19 November 1919. He came fourth in the ICS examination and was selected, but he did not want to work under an alien government which would mean serving the British. As he stood on the verge of taking the plunge by resigning from the Indian Civil Service in 1921, he wrote to his elder brother Sarat Chandra Bose: "Only on the soil of sacrifice and suffering can we raise our national edifice."

He resigned from his civil service job on 23 April 1921 and returned to India to join in main stream politics.

On 6 July 1944, in a speech broadcast by the Azad Hind Radio from Singapore, Bose addressed Mahatma Gandhi as the "Father of the Nation" and asked for his blessings and good wishes for the war he was fighting. This was the first time that Gandhi was referred to by this appellation

In the consensus of scholarly opinion, Subhas Chandra Bose's death occurred from third-degree burns on 18 August 1945 after his overloaded Japanese plane crashed in Japanese-occupied Formosa (now Taiwan). However, many among his supporters, especially in Bengal, refused at the



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time, and have refused since, to believe either the fact or the circumstances of his death. Conspiracy theories appeared within hours of his death and have thereafter had a long shelf life, keeping alive various martial myths about Bose.

Career in political

Earlier, Bose had been a leader of the younger, radical, wing of the [Indian National Congress](#) in the late 1920s and 1930s, rising to become Congress President in 1938 and 1939. However, he was ousted from Congress leadership positions in 1939 following differences with [Gandhi](#) and the Congress high command. He was subsequently placed under house arrest by the British before escaping from India in 1940.

The Indian National Congress, the main instrument of Indian nationalism, praised Bose's patriotism but distanced itself from his tactics and ideology, especially his collaboration with Fascism. The British Raj, though never seriously threatened by the INA, charged 300 INA officers with treason in the INA trials, but eventually backtracked in the face both of popular sentiment and of its own end

Leadership qualities

Bose was elected as the President of All India Youth Congress and also the Secretary of Bengal State Congress. Bose worked as the CEO of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation for Das when the latter was elected mayor of Calcutta in 1924. In 1927, after being released from prison, Bose became general secretary of the Congress party and worked with Jawaharlal Nehru for independence. His most memorable role was as General Officer Commanding (GOC) Congress Volunteer Corps. In 1939 Congress meeting Bose was elected as President of Congress. On 22 June 1939 Bose organized the All India Forward Bloc a faction within the Indian National Congress.

Bose arrived in Germany in April 1941, where the leadership offered unexpected, if sometimes ambivalent, sympathy for the cause of India's independence, contrasting starkly with its attitudes towards other colonised peoples and ethnic communities. In November 1941, with German funds, a Free India Centre was set up in [Berlin](#), and soon a Free India Radio, on which Bose broadcast nightly. A 3,000-strong [Free India Legion](#), comprising Indians captured by [Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps](#), was also formed to aid in a possible future German land invasion of India. By spring 1942, in light of Japanese victories in southeast Asia and changing German priorities, a German invasion of India became untenable, and Bose became keen to move to southeast Asia. [Adolf Hitler](#), during his only meeting with Bose in late May 1942, suggested the same, and offered to arrange for a submarine. Identifying strongly with the [Axis powers](#), and no longer apologetically, Bose boarded a German submarine in February 1943. In Madagascar, he was transferred to a Japanese submarine from which he disembarked in [Japanese-held Sumatra](#) in May 1943.

With Japanese support, Bose revamped the [Indian National Army](#) (INA) then composed of Indian soldiers of the British Indian army who had been captured in the [Battle of Singapore](#). To these, after Bose's arrival,



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were added enlisting Indian civilians in Malaya and Singapore. Before long the [Provisional Government of Free India](#), presided by Bose, was formed in the Japanese-occupied [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#). Bose had great drive and charisma—creating popular Indian slogans, such as "[Jai Hind](#),"—and the INA under Bose was a model of diversity by region, ethnicity, religion, and even gender. In late 1944 and early 1945 the [British Indian Army](#) first halted and then devastatingly reversed the Japanese [attack on India](#). Bose had earlier chosen not to surrender with his forces or with the Japanese, but rather to escape to Manchuria with a view to seeking a future in the Soviet Union which he believed to be turning anti-British. He died from third degree burns received when his plane crashed in Taiwan during his escape. Some Indians, however, did not believe that the crash had occurred, with many among them, especially in Bengal, believing that Bose would return to gain India's independence.

Critical moments of independence, struggle, war etc.

Bose was elected president of the [Indian National Congress](#) for two consecutive terms, but had to resign from the post following ideological conflicts with [Mohandas K. Gandhi](#) and after openly attacking the Congress' foreign and internal policies. Bose believed that Gandhi's tactics of non-violence would never be sufficient to secure India's independence, and advocated violent resistance. He established a separate political party, the [All India Forward Bloc](#) and continued to call for the full and immediate independence of India from British rule. He was imprisoned by the British authorities eleven times.

His stance did not change with the outbreak of the [Second World War](#), which he saw as an opportunity to take advantage of British weakness. At the outset of the war, he left India, travelling to the [Soviet Union](#), [Nazi Germany](#) and [Imperial Japan](#), seeking an alliance with each of them to attack the British government in India. With Imperial Japanese assistance, he re-organised and later led the [Azad Hind Fauj](#) or [Indian National Army](#) (INA), formed with Indian [prisoners-of-war](#) and plantation workers from [British Malaya](#), Singapore, and other parts of Southeast Asia, against British forces. With Japanese monetary, political, diplomatic and military assistance, he formed the [Azad Hind Government](#) in exile, and regrouped and led the [Indian National Army](#) in failed military campaigns against the allies at [Imphal](#) and [in Burma](#)

Principles & Practices

Bose advocated complete unconditional independence for India, whereas the [All-India Congress Committee](#) wanted it in phases, through [Dominion](#) status. His political views and the alliances he made with Nazi and other militarist regimes at war with Britain have been the cause of arguments among historians and politicians, with some accusing him of fascist sympathies, while others in India have been more sympathetic towards the [real politik](#) that guided his social and political choices.

Subhas Chandra Bose believed that the [Bhagavad Gita](#) was a great source of inspiration for the struggle against the British. [Swami Vivekananda](#)'s teachings on universalism, his nationalist thoughts and his emphasis on social service and reform had all inspired Subhas Chandra Bose from his very young days. The



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fresh interpretation of the India's ancient scriptures had appealed immensely to him. Many scholars believe that Hindu spirituality formed the essential part of his political and social thought throughout his adult life, although there was no sense of bigotry or orthodoxy in it. Subhas who called himself a socialist, believed that socialism in India owed its origins to Swami Vivekananda. As historian Leonard Gordon explains "Inner religious explorations continued to be a part of his adult life. This set him apart from the slowly growing number of atheistic socialists and communists who dotted the Indian landscape."

Bose's correspondence (prior to 1939) reflects his deep disapproval of the racist practices of, and annulment of democratic institutions in Nazi Germany. However, he expressed admiration for the authoritarian methods (though not the racial ideologies) which he saw in Italy and Germany during the 1930s, and thought they could be used in building an independent India.

Bose had clearly expressed his belief that democracy was the best option for India. However, during the war (and possibly as early as the 1930s), Bose seems to have decided that no democratic system could be adequate to overcome India's poverty and social inequalities, and he wrote that a socialist state similar to that of Soviet Russia (which he had also seen and admired) would be needed for the process of national rebuilding. Accordingly, some historians suggest that Bose's alliance with the Axis power during the war was based on more than just pragmatism, and that Bose was a militant nationalist, though not a Nazi nor a Fascist, for he supported empowerment of women, secularism and other [liberal](#) ideas; alternatively, others consider he might have been using populist methods of mobilization common to many post-colonial leaders. Bose never liked the Nazis, but when he failed to contact the Russians for help in Afghanistan, he approached the Germans and Italians for help. His comment was that if he had to shake hands with the devil for India's independence he would do that.

His most famous quote/slogan was "Give me blood and I will give you freedom". Another famous quote was [Dilli Chalo](#) ("On to Delhi!") This was the call he used to give the INA armies to motivate them. [Jai Hind](#), or, "Glory to India!" was another slogan used by him and later adopted by the Government of India and the Indian Armed Forces.

Awards and achievements

Founder of Indian National Army. Founded Swaraj Party, and Forward Bloc a faction within Congress Party. On 23 August 2007, Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe visited the Subhas Chandra Bose memorial hall in Kolkata. Abe said to Bose's family "The Japanese are deeply moved by Bose's strong will to have led the Indian independence movement from British rule. Netaji is a much respected name in Japan."

Literary Works

Subhash Chandra Bose also researched and wrote the first part of his book *The Indian Struggle*, which covered the country's independence movement in the years 1920–1934. Although it was published in London in 1935, the British government banned the book in the colony out of fears that it would encourage unrest.



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Sources

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