

17.3

India Seeks Self Rule

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Explain the impact of World War I and the Amritsar massacre on Indian nationalism.
- Evaluate the ideas of Mohandas Gandhi.
- Analyze how Gandhi led resistance to political oppression in India.

Struggle For Independence

The background of the entire slide is a photograph of a protest or rally. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible, some holding up large flags. The flags appear to be Indian national flags. The background is a bright, hazy sky with soft, pinkish-orange clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is one of historical significance and struggle.

During WWI more than a million Indians served overseas

Britain offered greater self-government, but only gave a few minor reforms

Congress in India were mostly middle-class, Western educated elite

Britain also refused to have little regard for Indian beliefs & customs

Mohandas Gandhi

**He was a leader who emerged who wanted to unite
Indians across class lines**

**Admirers began to call him Mahatma meaning “Great
Soul”**

**Gandhi came from a middle class family, went
to England to study law**

**For 20 years lived in South Africa fighting
against discriminatory laws against
Indians**

**Developed the tactic of nonviolent resistance
& returned to India a national hero**



Muslim League & Amritsar Massacre

**Muhammad Ali Jinnah- Influential leader for
India's Muslim Population**

**Muslim League founded in 1906 to protect
Muslim interests rather than Hindu**

**1919 The Rowlett Acts allow British officials to
arrest any Indian citizen suspected of
sedition**

**A peaceful protest was organized in Amritsar
when the British fired upon the crowd
killing 400**

**The [Amritsar Massacre](#) convinced Gandhi that
India needed full independence**



Civil Disobedience

1921- Gandhi takes control of the Congress Party & continues to inspire the people of India

Ahimsa- Nonviolence & reverence for all life. Gandhi believed the power of love could convert people

Civil Disobedience- The refusal to obey unjust laws, proposed by Henry David Thoreau

Gandhi hoped to end harsh treatment of the **untouchables-** The lowest group of people on India's caste system



National Pride

Gandhi began calling for nonviolent **boycotts (refusal to buy) of British goods**

His goal was to restore pride in Indian made goods & he wanted to build industry

He abandoned western-style clothing & wore a dhoti, a simple white garment

When protests turned violent he would pray & fast & call on people to practice self control

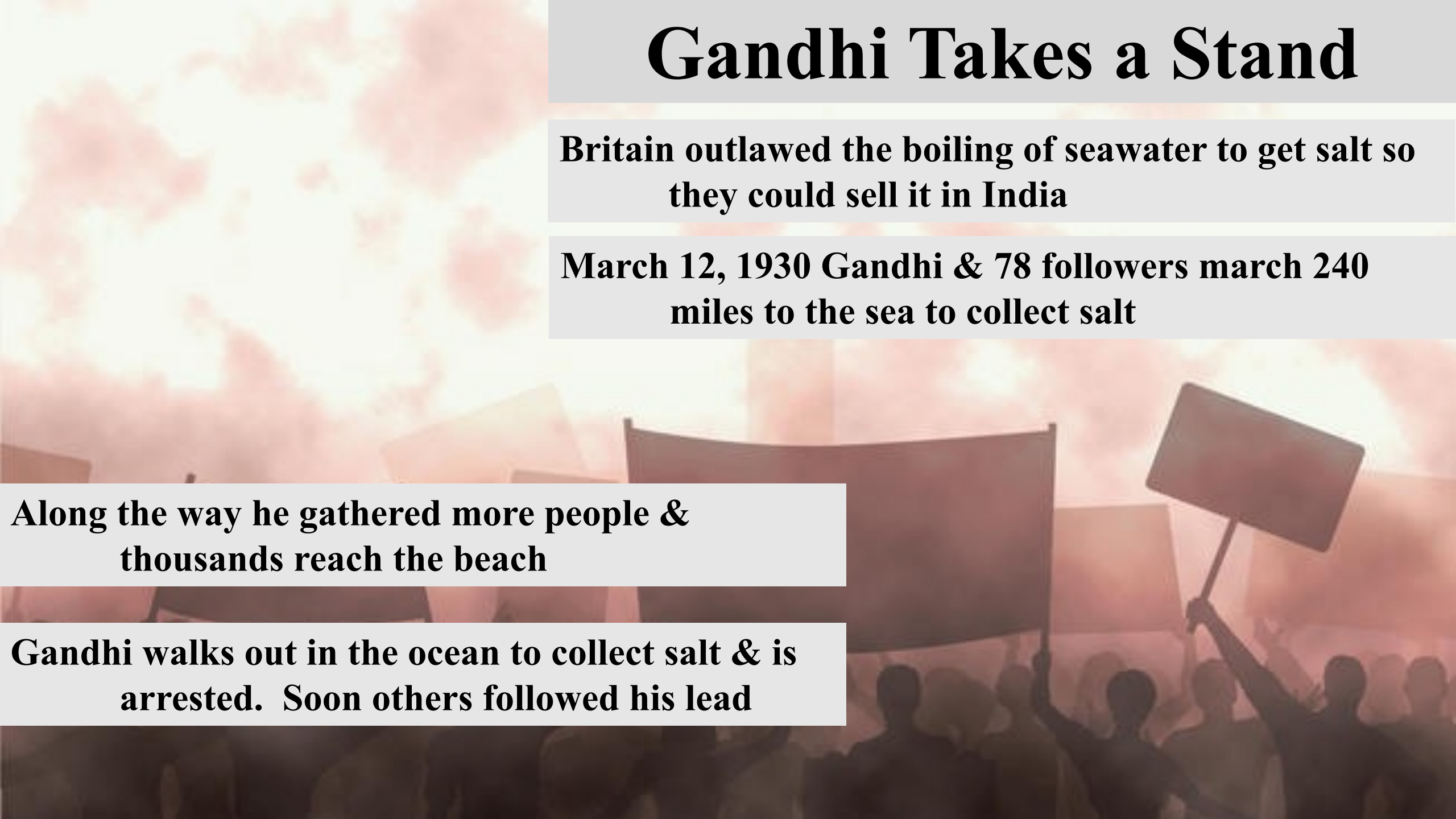
Gandhi Takes a Stand

Britain outlawed the boiling of seawater to get salt so they could sell it in India

March 12, 1930 Gandhi & 78 followers march 240 miles to the sea to collect salt

Along the way he gathered more people & thousands reach the beach

Gandhi walks out in the ocean to collect salt & is arrested. Soon others followed his lead



The Future of India

The world begins to criticize Britain's harsh treatment & an embarrassed Britain meets some demands

As a new war began to break out in 1939, Britain brought India into the war without consulting them

Millions of Indians help in WWII & fight for independence after it ends

