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SAGES – Imagining India

Research Essay – Outline

April 1, 2009

Tentative Thesis: India is rising as an economically and politically viable nation in the modern world. However, India is still developing and has been for decades. In examining the years before and after India’s independence one can see how nationalism and the idea of a state have shaped modern India. Two influential times in India’s history have had a great impact on nationalism: the years before independence and the years of India’s partition. The former time shows how India began to develop the sense of a true nation, where as the latter shows that India was only at the beginning stages of development and it still had to grow to become a true nation.

Construction of nationalism: the fight for independence and Gandhi – examine the influence of his nonviolent fight for independence and his legacy in India today

* Gandhi and nonviolence and his ability to “control” the masses
* Bring up the comparison between Nehru and Gandhi
* How did he inspire nationalism?
* He has become the symbol of India (statues of him around the world)
* What did Gandhi want for India in the future? (how did he imagine India)
* Why did Gandhi’s ideologies work and how do they still influence India as a nation today?

Corruption of nationalism: the partition of India and Pakistan – examine how the split caused violence and divided a nation that was once united

* Why was there such widespread violence?
* What did this do to the nationalism of India?
* Nation is only as united as its people
* Talk about Gandhi’s view of partition along religious lines
* How are the effects of partition still affecting India today? (is this violent India still represented today)
* Is India still healing from the violence of the partition?

Nationalism in modern India:

* With increasing modernization in India, how is nationalism still prevalent?
* What is the global view of India?
* What is India’s view of India?
* How has the movie industry imagined and represented India in films?
* Talk about the rejection of movies with portraying bad image of India

Primary texts for analyzing:

* Chatterjee’s Chapter on Gandhi
* Midnight’s Children or 1947 Earth

Secondary texts for analyzing:

* Midnight’s Children or 1947 Earth
* Gandhi’s *Hind Swaraj*
* Nehru’s *The Unity of India*
* “Slumdog Millionaire”
* “Rang de Basanti”
* Dennis Dalton, “Gandhi: Ideology and Authority”

Questions about essay:

* Can we use more than 2 primary texts?
* Do they have to be texts from class?
* Do you want the thesis statement to be general and the analysis to be specific?
* What kind of voice would you like us to use?