Nainita Madurai and Karishma Gupta

Broad Questions:

Compare and contrast Gandhi’s view on modernity vs. Nehru’s?

* What are Nehru’s views on modernity?
  + Political objective: social and economic issues necessary to mobilize masses
  + “Modern mind is practical and pragmatic, ethical and social, altruistic and humanitarian, it is governed by a practical idealism for social betterment” –pg. 138

How do they both view religion and incorporate it into their fight for Indian independence?

* Caste system creating rigidity
* pp. 138

Back to the timeline of progression, what do you think Nehru’s view of this are? Compared to Gandhi?

* Nehru believes in learning from the past, but to catch up to the industrialization of the west
* Gandhi believes in self-sufficient villages, small-industry, agriculture, home production of goods in order to attain home rule (*swaraj)*

Is Nehru saying that the East is inferior to the West?

* Why is there a different between the west and the east?
* Use the west as a bridge of knowledge – because they’re more industrialized
  + Economic development is set out in terms of scientific understanding of society and history

According to Nehru, why was Britain able to conquer India?

* Cycles of progression
* Business model of progression/recession
* Times of prosperity vs. times of stagnation – losing innovative spirit (“the spirit of the age”) compared to Britain excelling – their innovation led to imperialism pg. 143

What steps are required to attain a true national state? Pg. 133

* Principal political task: establish sovereign national state
  + Stand above narrow interests of groups and classes in society
  + Plan and direct economic processes – equal distribution of wealth 🡪 social justice
* Replace colonial state
* Eradicate feudalism in the countryside 🡪 fundamental land reforms
* Plan industrial development of country
* What are the results of establishing a true national state?
  + National state solves the problem of communalism
  + Communalism vs. socialism

What the difference between Nehru and Gandhi’s version of truth?

* Pg. 139 – “empirically verifiable truths”
* Uses history as a justification of truth

How is Nehru influenced by Marxism?

* Establishment of classless society
* Social, economic, and political equality irrelevant of gender, religion, caste, wealth and education
* How communalism is used to control the masses because they are persuaded by passion and spontaneity and fear rather than reason
  + Politicians take advantage of the “depressed classes” –poverty-stricken 🡪 gives them false hope and makes them think that’s what they want

How does socialism establish an even distribution of wealth, according to Nehru? Pg. 159

Pg. 145 – Nehru says that the reason Britain hindered India’s industrialization was because they wanted to protect the dominant interests of British industrial and commercial capital. But what if that weren’t the case? What if India was colonized by a country that aided in India’s industrial progress?

How is Nehru different from other politicians? Pg. 147, 148, 149

How easy was it to mobilize the masses? What qualities are required in a leader in order to mobilize the masses?

* How easily are American citizens swayed by politicians? What role does the media have in this?

The 2 England’s – Which of the two Englands came to India? What is your opinion? Pg. 145

* Shakespearean and Milton vs. savage penal code and brutal behavior
* Fuse into a single entity

Representation of Indian nation as a mother – what is Nehru’s view of this representation? How would this unite the masses?

How powerful was the spirit of Gandhi’s *satyagraha*? Pg. 149

How did Nehru’s view of peasants develop and change?

* Ignorant and subject to passion
* Powerful entity

What is Nehru’s view of Gandhi? What does Nehru believe Gandhi has the ability to do that other politicians don’t?

* Pg. 150 – knows india, understands India, is almost peasant india
* Pg. 151 - Is spellbinding
* Pg. 152 – the list

What do you think of their different styles of writing?

* + Gandhi uses words that are well understood by the masses

Do you see contradictions in Nehru’s writing (according to Chatterjee – pg. 132)? If so, what are they?

Gandhi paved the way for Nehru – what was required for the state was a combination of Gandhi and Nehru. –Gandhism was part of the process in creating the national state? After Gandhi, what did Nehru have to do – What qualities of Nehru allowed him to become the heir of Gandhi?

How was Gandhi and interlude to Nehru taking over after the independence of India? Do you believe this is true? Pg. 157

What is needed to construct a nation? Pg. 158