

PROJECT: CITIZENSHIP

Modern democracy is based on the idea of self-government, the right of a country to be governed by its own people. The term self-government is strongly associated with the struggles of countries rebelling against colonial rule. You may first remember hearing about the idea of self-government when studying the American Revolution. In India, Mohandas Gandhi championed the idea of self-government, advocating for what he called *Swaraj*, or "home-rule."

India's road to independence was nearly 100 years long. As you read this chapter did you notice similarities between India's struggle and the American colonies' struggle for independence from Great Britain? Did you notice any similarities between what the two countries were fighting for? It may come as a surprise that two colonies on opposite sides of the world would have the same issues under the rule of the same empire. The ideas of self-government, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom from unlawful arrest are not important only to Americans, but to citizens all over the world.

Directions

Review the Bill of Rights below. Using the accompanying graphic organizer, write down the similarities between the rights of citizens in the U.S. and the rights that citizens in India were protesting for. Remember the importance of self-government to countries that have been under colonial rule, in this case, both the American colonies and the Indian colonies.

Helpful Link: [Bill of Rights](#)

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Indian Revolution and American Revolution Comparison

Struggles Faced by India/ Rights Desired by India	Struggles Faced by American Colonies/ Rights of the United States