

Change

Morale outrage - Elizabeth Fry, a Quaker*, was appalled when she learned about conditions in Newgate prison. In 1813, went to find out how women prisoners were treated. Newgate prison was the most notorious prison in London, men and women prisoners were kept in crowded, filthy and violent conditions. By deciding to visit the prison, Elizabeth put herself in danger. What she found horrified her; *"Nearly 300 women, sent there for every... crime, some [waiting for their trial, some under sentence of death, were crowded together in two wards and two cells... they saw their friends... a multitude of children... had no place for cooking, washing, eating and sleeping... all slept on the floor... 120 in one ward without... bedding... many were very nearly naked. They... drink spirits and swearing is common Everything is filthy and the smell quite disgusting."* Fry immediately organised some Quaker women to make clothing for the babies and supplied clean straw for bedding. In 1817, she founded the 'Ladies' Association for the Reform of the Female Prisoners in Newgate'. These 'Ladies': organised a prison school for the children / provided materials so that the female prisoners could sew and knit and make things to sell visited them regularly and read the Bible to them.



Consequences - Her recommendations led to the 1823 Gaols Act, which said that female prison guards were to guard female prisoners, gaolers were to be paid, there would be regular visits from priests and prison inspectors. Campaigned for better treatment of women prisoners and their rehabilitation rather than punishment. This changed the way many prisons were run.

War - Less than 80 years after gaining independence from Britain, the USA was torn apart by a civil war in which over 500,000 people died. There were many differences between the Northern and Southern states in America which became so bad that, by the end of 1860, the Southern and Northern states were on a course for war. The Northern (Union) states in America did not want the Southern (Confederate) states to break away and make their own country. On 12 April 1861, the first shots in the civil war were fired when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Most of the Fighting of the war took place in the Southern, Confederate, states. In the end, the superior firepower and resources of the Union meant a victory for the North.

Consequences - The victory of the Northern states meant that the Southern states were forced to join them in the USA. Many Southerners resented this, believing their states' rights had been trampled on. Slavery was abolished throughout the USA and former slaves were given equal rights. This was written into the US constitution. The war destroyed the sugar and cotton plantations in the Southern states. This made the South a lot poorer. Because slavery was abolished, plantations also couldn't be run in the same way. The way of life in the South was changed forever, leading to further resentment. Black Americans in the South were 'separate but equal' to white Americans. This meant African Americans were treated as inferior to white Americans. The Ku Klux Klan was founded in Tennessee in 1865. It still is, an extremist, violent organisation, whose members believe that white people are superior to all other races. Membership spread through all the Southern states. Five days after the South surrendered, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by a Confederate spy.

Peaceful protest - 1930 India was part of the British Empire from 1858 to 1947. Many Indians wanted freedom from Britain's rule and, by 1930, had developed an independence movement. January 1930, the Indian National Congress declared that India 'should be an independent nation, governing itself. The leader of Congress, Mohandas (or Mahatma) Gandhi, and his followers were committed to non-violence and they found a way of confronting the British government without violence. In India, the British government had a monopoly on making salt. Indian's were banned from making their own salt. When buying British salt, they paid tax to the British government. The tax was small, but the emotional impact was great: all Indians needed salt. Gandhi decided to make salt the symbol of British oppression. He planned a march to the sea to the west coast of India, where he would make salt himself. Thousands of people greeted the marchers and Gandhi addressed the crowds about the oppression by the British government and the need for non-violent protest. Thousands joined the march. The world's press were there and news of the march, and the motives behind lit spread throughout the world. Eventually, Gandhi himself was arrested and imprisoned.

Consequences - The British government had organised a series of conferences in London to discuss India's future. Gandhi was invited to represent India at the second one, in the autumn of 1931. A nationwide wave of civil disobedience spread throughout India. The independence movement in India was given a boost. Worldwide attention was focused on the situation in India and the independence movement. However, India did not become independent until 1947.