



Original Article

# Untold Counter Part of INA with Special Reference to Netaji Subhaschandra Bose

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### Abstract

The Indian National Army (INA), under the leadership of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, played a pivotal yet often underrepresented role in India's struggle for independence. While mainstream narratives have largely focused on non-violent resistance, the INA represents a radical and militant counterpoint that challenged British colonial rule through armed struggle. This paper delves into the lesser-known aspects—the "untold counterpart"—of the INA, examining its ideological foundations, military campaigns, international alliances, and the personal sacrifices of its members. Special emphasis is placed on Netaji Subhaschandra Bose's strategic vision, leadership style, and the global political maneuvering that he undertook to secure support for India's liberation. Through archival research, personal memoirs, and historical accounts, the study aims to shed light on the INA's contribution to India's freedom and how it redefined the course of the independence movement. Netaji Subhaschandra Bose is a bolder and more visionary leader of India's freedom struggle, a national icon whose legacy of patriotism, oneness, and sacrifice inspires millions. His leadership of the Indian National Army (INA) and his revolutionary moves against British colonialism, while taking into account the contentious nature of his alliances, are an essential part of India's historical and contemporary identity. His 1945 plane crash death remains a mystery of history, to continue fueling speculation but not cutting into his lasting impact as an icon of resistance and struggle for liberty

**Keywords:** Indian National Army (INA), Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, Indian Independence, Movement, Armed Struggle, Forgotten History, Azad Hind Fauj, World War II, Colonial Resistance, Nationalism, Japan-India Relations

### Introduction

The Indian freedom struggle is often viewed through the lens of non-violent resistance led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. However, the narrative is incomplete without acknowledging the militant and revolutionary efforts made by parallel movements, especially the Indian National Army (INA), led by the charismatic and visionary leader, Netaji Subhaschandra Bose. The INA, also known as the Azad Hind Fauj, was not just a military outfit but a symbol of defiance against British colonialism, fueled by Bose's unwavering commitment to achieving complete independence for India through armed resistance. This paper explores the "untold counterpart" of the INA—a dimension that remains overshadowed by dominant historical accounts.

It highlights how Netaji diverged from mainstream political ideologies, seeking support from Axis powers during World War II, and building an army composed largely of Indian prisoners of war and expatriates in Southeast Asia. His efforts redefined patriotism, expanded the geographical scope of the freedom movement, and instilled fear within the colonial establishment. [1]

Despite the INA's eventual military defeat, its ideological impact was far-reaching. It challenged the moral legitimacy of British rule and contributed significantly to the growing discontent within the British Indian Army, leading many historians to argue that the INA hastened the end of British imperialism in India. This study aims to delve deeper into this often-overlooked aspect of India's freedom struggle, with special emphasis on the leadership, strategy, and vision of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, whose legacy continues to inspire generations of Indians. [2]

### Aim:

To explore and analyze the lesser-known aspects of the Indian National Army (INA) with special emphasis on the role, vision, and leadership of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, and to assess the INA's impact on India's freedom struggle beyond the mainstream historical narratives.

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**Objectives:**

1. To examine the historical background and formation of the Indian National Army (INA).
2. To analyze the leadership style, strategic decisions, and ideological motivations of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose.
3. To explore the international alliances and diplomatic efforts undertaken by Bose, particularly with Japan and Germany, in support of India's independence.
4. To highlight the lesser-known or untold contributions of INA soldiers and supporters, especially from Southeast Asia.
5. To evaluate the impact of the INA and Bose's efforts on the morale of the British Indian Army and on the eventual decolonization of India.
6. To understand why the INA's contribution remains underrepresented in mainstream historical narratives and explores the reasons behind this historical marginalization.
7. To inspire a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of India's independence movement by acknowledging the role of armed resistance alongside non-violent methods.

**Review of Literature**

The history of India's freedom struggle has been widely documented, with significant emphasis on non-violent resistance led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. However, the contributions of the Indian National Army (INA) and Netaji Subhaschandra Bose remain relatively underrepresented in mainstream historiography. Over the years, several scholars have attempted to shed light on the INA's role and Bose's leadership, though many aspects still remain unexplored or marginalized.

1. B.F. Manlove's "The Indian National Army: A Study in Indo-Japanese Relations" offers an early academic inquiry into the relationship between INA and Japan during World War II. Manlove focuses primarily on the strategic dimensions of the INA but does not fully engage with the internal structure or lesser-known members of the organization.
2. Hugh Teye's "The Springing Tiger" (1959) is one of the first comprehensive accounts of the INA written by a British intelligence officer. While Teye provides detailed descriptions of military campaigns and Netaji's wartime strategies, his work largely reflects the colonial viewpoint, often underestimating the ideological and emotional motivations of the INA soldiers.
3. An Indian perspective is offered by R.G. Khosla's "The Legacy of Netaji and INA", which stresses the psychological impact of the INA trials on the Indian public and the British military. Khosla suggests that the mass support for INA soldiers during the Red Fort trials created a moral crisis for British rule in India.
4. Sugata Bose's "His Majesty's Opponent" (2011) stands out as one of the most balanced and scholarly biographies of Subhaschandra Bose. This work places Netaji's political choices in the broader context of global anti-colonial movements, providing insight into his motivations and vision for a liberated India.

5. Krishna Bose and Leonard Gordon's works further explore the personal and ideological dimensions of Bose's leadership. These accounts offer rare insights into Bose's private correspondences, his relationships with INA members, and the sacrifices made by Indian expatriates in Southeast Asia.
6. Academic journals and recent theses have started to pay attention to the contributions of INA women soldiers like Captain Lakshmi Sahgal and the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, yet many of their stories remain fragmented or anecdotal.

Despite these efforts, there still exists a significant gap in literature regarding the "untold" counterpart of INA—particularly the experiences of rank-and-file soldiers, lesser-known leaders, INA's social reforms, and how Bose's alternative vision of India differed fundamentally from that of mainstream nationalist leaders. This review thus reveals a need for deeper, more inclusive historical exploration that does justice to the INA's contribution and Netaji's revolutionary path, both of which played a vital role in shaking the foundations of British colonial authority in India.

**Research Methodology**

The present study adopts a qualitative and historical research methodology to explore the untold aspects of the Indian National Army (INA), with special reference to the leadership and vision of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose. The research is based on secondary sources, archival materials, and analytical interpretation of both published and unpublished historical records.

**1. Research Design:**

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. It aims to uncover lesser-known facts, analyze historical narratives, and evaluate the contributions of Netaji and the INA beyond the mainstream freedom struggle.

**2. Data Collection Methods:**

Books, academic journals, biographies, and historical accounts related to Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA. Published and unpublished theses, dissertations, and conference papers. Government reports, INA trial records, and parliamentary debates (where available). Digital archives such as the National Archives of India, Netaji Research Bureau, and British colonial records. Letters, speeches, and official correspondences of Subhaschandra Bose. Newspapers and magazines from the World War II period, especially reports on INA activities and the Red Fort trials. Analysis of documentaries, oral history interviews, and video archives on INA veterans and Bose's legacy.

**3. Data Analysis Techniques:**

Content Analysis is used to interpret and categorize themes from historical texts and speeches. Comparative Historical Analysis is employed to contrast the INA's contributions with other nationalist movements. Thematic Analysis helps identify recurring patterns in the narratives surrounding INA's untold history and Netaji's ideological stance.

**4. Scope and Limitations:**

Focuses on the lesser-known dimensions of the INA and Bose's leadership. Covers the period between 1941 (formation of the INA) to 1945 (end of World War II), with some reference to post-independence impacts. Due to the historical nature of the study, primary data from

eyewitnesses is limited. Some archival materials may be classified or inaccessible. Interpretations are subject to the availability and authenticity of sources.

#### 5. Ethical Considerations:

All secondary and archival sources used in the research are properly credited. Care is taken to avoid political bias or misrepresentation of historical figures and events. The study aims to respect the sentiments and sacrifices of all those involved in the INA movement. Here is a well-structured section for the "Need for the Study" on your topic Untold Counterpart of INA with Special Reference to Netaji Subhaschandra Bose"

#### Need for the Study

The history of India's freedom struggle has predominantly centered around the non-violent resistance movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. While this narrative has been essential in shaping India's identity as a democratic and peaceful nation, it often overlooks the contributions of revolutionary movements such as the Indian National Army (INA) and the pivotal role played by Netaji Subhaschandra Bose. The INA, formed during World War II with the support of Imperial Japan, symbolized a bold and militant approach to achieving Indian independence. Its existence challenged the colonial belief that Indians would not rise against British rule through armed struggle. However, despite its historical and psychological impact on both the British administration and the Indian populace, the INA remains underrepresented in mainstream historical discourse.

#### 1. To Address Historical Imbalance:

Most academic curricula and popular history give limited space to the INA's contributions. A focused study helps bring balance to the dominant narratives, acknowledging that the path to independence was multifaceted—not solely based on non-violence.

#### 2. To Highlight Netaji's Unique Vision:

Netaji Subhaschandra Bose's ideology, leadership style, and strategic alliances with Axis powers reflect a distinct vision of a free and powerful India. Understanding his approach helps explore alternative pathways that were considered for India's liberation.

#### 3. To Uncover Lesser-Known Contributions:

Many rank-and-file INA soldiers, women combatants like those in the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, and Indian expatriates in Southeast Asia played vital roles in the movement. Their stories remain largely untold or marginalized in mainstream history.

#### 4. To Reassess the Impact on British Withdrawal:

Recent scholarship suggests that the INA trials (Red Fort Trials) and post-war unrest in the British Indian armed forces played a crucial role in hastening the end of British rule. A deeper investigation into this helps re-evaluate the actual reasons behind India's independence in 1947.

#### 5. To Inspire Future Generations:

By uncovering these forgotten aspects of the INA and Netaji's leadership, the study can inspire young Indians to appreciate the complexity of the freedom movement and recognize the sacrifices of those beyond the limelight.

In this study is not just an academic exercise but a historical necessity—a step toward giving due recognition to a movement and a leader who envisioned freedom through a path that remains largely untold.

#### Statement of the Problem

The history of India's independence movement has been predominantly shaped by narratives centered on non-violent resistance and the leadership of the Indian National Congress. While this approach has received widespread recognition, it has led to the marginalization of alternative revolutionary efforts, particularly the contributions of the Indian National Army (INA) and its leader, Netaji Subhaschandra Bose.

Despite the significant impact of the INA on both the colonial establishment and Indian public consciousness—especially following the Red Fort trials—its role remains underrepresented in academic discourse, official history, and public memory. The heroism, ideological stance, military strategy, and international diplomacy of Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA are often overlooked or simplified, leaving a substantial part of India's struggle for freedom untold and unacknowledged. Thus, the problem lies in the historical neglect and incomplete representation of the INA's role and Netaji Subhaschandra Bose's alternative vision for Indian independence. This study seeks to address this gap by critically exploring the "untold counterpart" of the INA and highlighting the broader impact of this revolutionary force in shaping India's journey to freedom.

#### Recommendations

Based on the findings and analysis of the untold aspects of the Indian National Army (INA) and the unique contributions of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, the following recommendations are proposed:

#### 1. Inclusion in Academic Curriculum

The history of the INA and the leadership of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose should be more comprehensively included in school and university history syllabi. Educational boards should incorporate diverse narratives of the freedom struggle, including the contributions of revolutionary and military movements alongside non-violent resistance.

#### 2. Preservation and Promotion of Historical Records

Government and private institutions should digitize and preserve INA-related archives, letters, photographs, and personal testimonies of surviving members and their families. Establishment of dedicated INA museums and research centers in various parts of India, particularly in regions like Manipur, Nagaland, and Tamil Nadu where INA was active.

#### 3. Public Awareness Campaigns

Conduct documentary screenings, exhibitions, seminars, and heritage walks to raise public awareness about the INA and Netaji's vision. Leverage digital platforms and social media to highlight lesser-known stories of INA soldiers, especially women like Captain Lakshmi Sahgal and members of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

#### 4. Encouragement of Scholarly Research

Academic institutions should promote interdisciplinary research on Netaji and the INA, encouraging students to explore political science, military history, international relations, and gender studies aspects. Scholarships and research grants should be made available to scholars focusing on underrepresented narratives in India's freedom movement.

#### 5. National Recognition and Honours

The Government of India should consider posthumous recognition and national honours for unsung INA heroes. INA memorials should be upgraded,

maintained, and promoted as national heritage sites to honor the sacrifices of its members.

**6. Balanced Historical Narrative**

Historians and authors are encouraged to present a balanced account of India’s freedom movement by including revolutionary paths such as that of Netaji Bose and the INA. Textbooks and public discourse should acknowledge multiple pathways to independence, ensuring that the legacy of armed resistance is not forgotten.

**7. Strengthening Indo-Southeast Asian Historical Ties**

As the INA had strong links with Southeast Asia, India should collaborate with countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Japan to document and preserve shared historical experiences. Joint cultural and historical projects could help uncover more archival material and personal histories connected to the INA.

By implementing these recommendations, India can move toward a more inclusive and accurate representation of its struggle for independence, giving due recognition to the bravery, vision, and sacrifices of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA.

| Key Themes Identified:    |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Theme                     | Insights  |
| Armed Resistance          | Seen as a legitimate parallel to non-violent struggle                       |
| Leadership of Netaji      | Revolutionary, inclusive, militarily strategic                              |
| Gender Empowerment        | Significant female participation in a combat role (Rani of Jhansi Regiment) |
| International Diplomacy   | Alliances used as tactical leverage, not ideological alignment              |
| Impact on British Rule    | Triggered unrest and psychological pressure on British forces               |
| Neglect in Historiography | Deliberate or ideological marginalization in post-independence narrativ ↓   |

**Data Analysis**

The analysis of data for this study is based on a qualitative and interpretative approach, focusing on secondary sources such as historical texts, archival documents, speeches, trial records, biographies, and academic publications.

The objective was to uncover the underrepresented narratives surrounding the Indian National Army (INA) and the visionary leadership of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose. The collected data has been thematically categorized and analyzed as follows:

**1. Formation and Ideology of the INA**

The INA was formed with the primary objective of achieving complete and immediate independence from British rule through armed struggle. Analysis of Netaji’s speeches and manifestos, such as the Azad Hind Provisional Government Declaration, shows a strong emphasis on self-reliance, nationalism, and sacrifice. The study found that the INA represented a radical departure from the non-violent approach, appealing especially to disillusioned soldiers and expatriate Indians.<sup>[9]</sup>

**2. Leadership of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose**

Analysis of primary sources (letters, speeches, military orders) reveals that Bose had a charismatic and disciplined leadership style, combining military command with political ideology. He strategically sought alliances with Axis powers (Germany, Japan), not out of ideological alignment, but to leverage global politics for India’s liberation. Bose’s formation of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, a women’s combat unit, illustrates his progressive and inclusive vision for an independent India.<sup>[4]</sup>

**3. Contributions of INA Soldiers and Unsung Heroes**

Many INA soldiers were former British Indian Army POWs and Indian expatriates in Southeast Asia who risked their lives for India’s freedom. The study highlights the lack of recognition for lower-rank soldiers, many of whom sacrificed their lives or were imprisoned, with little mention in mainstream history books. Female participation, particularly through the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, emerged as a critical but overlooked dimension of the INA’s structure.<sup>[9]</sup>

**4. Impact of INA on Indian Independence**

The Red Fort Trials (1945-46) of INA officers generated nationwide protests and united Indians across political ideologies, suggesting a psychological shift in the Indian population. Analysis of British parliamentary records and declassified documents shows that British authorities feared mutiny within the British Indian Army, influenced by INA’s ideology. This fear contributed to the British decision to expedite India’s independence, indicating that INA’s role was indirect but deeply influential.<sup>[9]</sup>

**5. Historical Marginalization of the INA**

Data from history textbooks, national archives, and academic discourse shows that INA’s role is often reduced to a footnote, with more focus on the failures than its symbolic power. Political shifts post-independence, especially ideological differences between Congress and Bose’s supporters, may have led to intentional sidelining of INA’s contributions.

The data clearly indicates that the INA and Subhaschandra Bose played a pivotal, though under acknowledged role in India’s independence movement. Their efforts challenged colonial authority militarily,

inspired mass movements, and introduced new paradigms of nationalism. Yet, due to political, ideological, and historical reasons, their full contribution remains underrepresented in mainstream discourse—hence, the need for further academic and public exploration of this "untold counterpart." [7]

### Suggestions

Based on the research findings, literature review, and data analysis, the following suggestions are proposed to ensure that the contributions of the Indian National Army (INA) and Netaji Subhaschandra Bose receive the recognition and scholarly attention they truly deserve:

#### 1. Revise and Enrich History Curriculum

Educational boards should revise history textbooks at school and university levels to incorporate detailed accounts of the INA and Netaji. Emphasis should be given not only to political movements but also to militant and revolutionary approaches to independence.

#### 2. Promote Independent Research on INA and Netaji

Scholars and academic institutions should be encouraged to undertake fresh research projects focusing on the lesser-known aspects of the INA. Government and private organizations can provide funding, fellowships, and access to archives for researchers interested in INA studies.

#### 3. Create Public Platforms to Share Untold Stories

Organize INA remembrance events, exhibitions, and cultural programs that showcase the contributions of INA soldiers, including women and expatriates. Use social media, podcasts, YouTube channels, and digital storytelling platforms to highlight ignored or forgotten narratives of the INA.

#### 4. Establish Dedicated Research Centers and Museums

A national-level INA Research Institute should be established to archive and analyze documents, photographs, and oral histories. Existing INA memorials and Netaji museums should be modernized and digitized for broader accessibility, including for students and tourists.

#### 5. Recognize INA Veterans and Families

Surviving family members of INA veterans should be officially honored and included in national commemorative events. Special awards, pensions, or memorial scholarships could be initiated in memory of unsung heroes of the INA.

#### 6. Encourage Biographical and Fictional Works

Writers, filmmakers, and artists should be encouraged to create biographies, documentaries, historical novels, and films that tell the untold stories of INA members. This will help make these narratives more relatable and accessible to the younger generation.

#### 7. Foster International Collaboration

Since the INA operated extensively in Southeast Asia, India should collaborate with countries like Singapore, Myanmar, Japan, and Malaysia to share historical resources and co-host exhibitions or seminars. Joint research projects with foreign universities could help uncover additional archival evidence and provide global recognition to Netaji's international efforts.

#### 8. Digitize and Translate Key Documents

Important speeches, letters, and military orders from Netaji and the INA should be digitized and translated into regional languages to reach a broader audience across India. This would make historical resources more inclusive and accessible beyond academic circles.

Implementing these suggestions can bridge the gap between mainstream historical discourse and the forgotten sacrifices of the INA and Netaji Subhaschandra Bose. It will ensure that their legacy is not only preserved but also celebrated and integrated into the national consciousness in a more meaningful and inclusive way.

### Hypothesis

1. The contributions of the Indian National Army (INA) and Netaji Subhaschandra Bose have been historically underrepresented in mainstream Indian independence narratives.
2. Netaji Subhaschandra Bose's leadership and the INA's militant approach played a significant and direct role in accelerating the end of British colonial rule in India.
3. The untold stories of INA rank-and-file soldiers, women combatants, and expatriate supporters hold valuable insights that can reshape the understanding of India's freedom struggle.
4. Increased academic focus and public awareness about the INA and Netaji's revolutionary efforts will contribute to a more balanced and comprehensive history of India's independence movement.

### Results

Based on the comprehensive review of literature, archival analysis, and thematic evaluation of historical sources, the following key results have been identified in relation to the untold counterpart of the Indian National Army (INA) and the contributions of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:

1. The INA's Contribution Has Been Marginalized in Mainstream History It was found that INA's role in India's freedom struggle is often briefly mentioned or overlooked in most school and university history textbooks. The dominant historical narrative still heavily focuses on the non-violent movement, leaving limited space for revolutionary and military contributions.
2. Netaji Subhaschandra Bose Offered a Distinct Alternative Vision for Freedom Netaji's leadership reflected a strategic, militant, and internationally-oriented approach to Indian independence. His formation of the Azad Hind Government, alliance with Axis powers, and establishment of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment highlighted his inclusive and progressive leadership style.
3. The INA Inspired a Psychological Shift Among Indians The Red Fort Trials (1945-46) became a turning point in Indian public sentiment and contributed to nationwide unity across political and communal lines. The trials of INA officers generated massive protests and are believed to have influenced mutinies and unrest in the British Indian armed forces, indirectly pressuring the British to decolonize.
4. The Role of Women and Lesser-Known Soldiers Remains Underrepresented While Netaji is a celebrated figure, many rank-and-file INA soldiers, as well as women combatants (e.g., Rani of Jhansi Regiment), remain largely forgotten or unrecognized. Their stories, often preserved in oral histories or family

archives, have not been widely published or studied in depth.

5. Political and Post-Independence Factors Led to Historical Neglect After independence, political divisions—especially between the Indian National Congress and supporters of Netaji—contributed to the sidelining of the INA’s role in official narratives. This has led to a lack of public awareness, research funding, and institutional support for INA-related historical studies.
6. There Is a Growing Interest and Demand for Re-examining INA’s Role Recent scholarly works, documentaries, and public debates show a resurgence of interest in exploring the untold aspects of Netaji and the INA. There is increasing recognition that a more inclusive and multidimensional history of India’s freedom movement is both necessary and long overdue.

**Summary of Key Findings:**

This study explored the lesser-known and underrepresented aspects of the Indian National Army (INA) with a special focus on the leadership and vision of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. While mainstream narratives of India’s independence largely emphasize non-violent resistance, this research highlighted the significant contributions of the INA’s armed struggle as an important counterpart in the freedom movement. The analysis revealed that Netaji Bose’s leadership was marked by a distinctive approach—combining militant nationalism, international diplomacy, and inclusive policies such as the formation of the all-women Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

The INA inspired a psychological and political shift among Indians, particularly during the Red Fort trials, which galvanized nationwide support and influenced the British decision to expedite India’s independence.

| Summary of Key Findings:      |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Focus Area                    | Key Result   |
| Representation in History     | INA and Netaji’s roles are underrepresented in mainstream narratives.      |
| Leadership and Vision         | Netaji provided a unique, militant alternative to non-violent resistance.  |
| Impact on British Rule        | INA’s actions and trials helped accelerate British withdrawal.             |
| Role of Women and Soldiers    | Contributions of many INA members remain unknown or undocumented.          |
| Post-independence Politics    | Political shifts led to INA being excluded from official recognition.      |
| Public and Scholarly Interest | Renewed efforts are emerging to explore and acknowledge INA’s true legacy. |

Despite this, the study found that the INA and many of its members, including women and rank-and-file soldiers, have remained largely marginalized in historical accounts and public memory. Political and ideological dynamics in post-independence India contributed to this sidelining, resulting in a significant gap in the comprehensive understanding of the freedom struggle. The research emphasizes the urgent need to reintegrate the INA’s story into mainstream historiography, preserve its archives, and promote awareness through education, public discourse, and scholarly research. Doing so will ensure that the legacy of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose and the Indian National Army is given its rightful place in India’s rich tapestry of freedom history.

**Discussion**

The Indian National Army (INA), under the leadership of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, represents a critical yet often overlooked dimension of India’s struggle for independence. This study’s findings underscore the INA’s role as an untold counterpart to the dominant non-violent narrative commonly portrayed in Indian historiography.

**Netaji’s Revolutionary Vision**

Netaji Subhaschandra Bose’s leadership was revolutionary not only in its militant tactics but also in its ideological breadth. His approach diverged significantly from the mainstream Congress-led independence movement by advocating for armed struggle and international alliances

to dislodge British colonial power. This approach, often criticized or sidelined post-independence, was rooted in a deep conviction that freedom required bold and immediate action, especially in the context of World War II. The INA’s formation and operations reveal Bose’s commitment to an inclusive nationalism, as evidenced by the recruitment of women in the Rani of Jhansi Regiment and the mobilization of Indian expatriates across Southeast Asia. This inclusivity challenged contemporary social norms and showcased a progressive vision for a sovereign India.<sup>[8]</sup>

**The INA’s Impact and Legacy**

Although the INA did not achieve military victory in the conventional sense, its psychological and political impact was profound. The Red Fort trials galvanized public opinion and ignited widespread protests across India. This phenomenon illustrated that the INA’s influence extended beyond the battlefield, affecting morale within the British Indian Army and the Indian populace alike. The study reinforces the argument that the INA contributed indirectly but significantly to the weakening of British authority and hastened the process of decolonization.

**Historical Marginalization and Political Dynamics**

Despite the INA’s contributions, it has remained marginalized in the national narrative due to several factors. Post-independence political dynamics, especially the dominance of the Indian National Congress, influenced the selective remembrance of history. Netaji’s alliance with Axis powers complicated his legacy, while ideological differences

led to his movement's sidelining in favor of Gandhian non-violence. Furthermore, the stories of many INA soldiers, particularly women and lower-ranked members, have been lost or remain undocumented. This erasure reflects broader tendencies in historiography to prioritize elite political narratives over grassroots and revolutionary histories. [9]

### The Need for Reappraisal

The study's findings call for a critical reappraisal of India's freedom struggle. Integrating the INA's narrative not only provides a more holistic and nuanced understanding of the independence movement but also honors the sacrifices of those who fought under Netaji's banner. Recognizing this untold counterpart can foster greater national unity and historical justice. Moreover, revisiting the INA's story has contemporary relevance. It serves as a reminder that the quest for freedom and justice can take multiple forms and that diversity of tactics and visions contributed to India's eventual independence.

In the INA's untold story, with special reference to Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, challenges the monolithic view of India's freedom struggle. This study highlights the need to bring these marginalized narratives into the mainstream through education, research, and public discourse, thereby enriching India's historical memory and inspiring future generations. [10]

### Findings

The study of the untold counterpart of the Indian National Army (INA) with special reference to Netaji Subhaschandra Bose reveals that India's freedom movement was not solely shaped by non-violent civil disobedience, but also by bold, revolutionary efforts that have remained underrepresented in mainstream history.

### Key Findings:

1. Netaji Subhaschandra Bose offered a unique and militant alternative to India's independence movement, marked by strong leadership, military discipline, and a vision of a sovereign, self-reliant India achieved through armed resistance.
2. The formation of the INA and the Azad Hind Government represented a serious challenge to British colonial rule, not just militarily but ideologically, proving that Indians were capable of self-governance and determined to achieve freedom at any cost.
3. The INA, though militarily unsuccessful in the conventional sense, succeeded in creating psychological and political pressure on the British regime—especially through the Red Fort trials, which united Indians across political and communal lines in support of the INA soldiers.
4. The role of women in the INA, especially through the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, remains one of the most progressive and under-recognized aspects of the movement. Their participation was groundbreaking and needs deeper exploration and recognition.
5. Despite these contributions, INA's history has been marginalized due to political, ideological, and post-independence institutional choices. The legacy of Netaji was often overshadowed by the dominant Congress narrative and Cold War-era international politics.
6. There is a renewed interest among scholars and the public in reclaiming the forgotten or untold stories of

the INA and Bose's leadership. However, more structured efforts are required to document, preserve, and promote this part of India's freedom history.

### Conclusion:

The story of the INA and Netaji Subhaschandra Bose represents a parallel yet integral stream of India's independence movement—one that embraced sacrifice, valor, and a radical commitment to liberation. While mainstream history has largely celebrated the path of non-violence, this study concludes that freedom was the result of multiple movements, visions, and sacrifices. Acknowledging the INA's contributions is not only a matter of historical accuracy but also a step toward honoring forgotten heroes, empowering public memory, and building a more inclusive national identity. The untold counterpart of the INA deserves to be told—not as an alternative to the accepted narrative, but as an essential part of it.

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