Historical background
Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
Amritsar, Punjab, April 13, 1919
Brig. Gen. Reginald Dyer

Rowlatt Bills: “no charge, no trial, no appeal”
Death toll: (official) 379
(unofficial) 1000 +, 2000 wounded
Kakori Train Robbery, 1925
Chandrashekhar (Tiwari) “Azad”

1906 - 1931
Mentor of Bhagat Singh, co-founder of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)
Bhagat Singh

1907-1931
• Joins Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920 (age 13)
• Co-founds Hindustan Socialist Republican Association
• Simon Commission visits Lahore, October 1928; clubbing death of Lala Lajpat Rai (age 63)
• Revenge killing of Deputy Supt. Of Police J. P. Saunders by Bhagat, Rajguru, and Sukhdev
April, 1929, bombs, leaflets in Legislative Assembly;
“Inquilab Zindabad!” (“Long live the revolution!”)
Hunger strike for 63 days in prison
• Hanged on March 23, 1931, with Rajguru and Sukhdev
“Let us declare that the state of war does exist and shall exist so long as the Indian toiling masses and the natural resources are being exploited by a handful of parasites. They may be purely British Capitalist or mixed British and Indian or even purely Indian. They may be carrying on their insidious exploitation through mixed or even on purely Indian bureaucratic apparatus. All these things make no difference. ......"

“It is easy to kill individuals, but you cannot kill ideas.”

Bhagat Singh
मर्जीत उग्रासिंह (1907-1931)
Films:

*Shaheed* (“Martyr,” 1965, Manoj Kumar)

Three feature films, one television film in 2002
Political Background:

“the party” / Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ?
Sangh Parivar, “saffronization” of politics
BJP / Bharatiya Janata Party

Characters and actors:

Daljeet Singh, “DJ” [Sikh] (Aamir Khan/Muslim)
Sukhwinder Singh, “Sukhi” [Sikh?] (Sharman Joshi/Hindu)
Aslam Khan [Muslim] (Kunal Kapoor/Hindu)
Karan Singhania [Hindu] (Siddarth/Hindu?)
Laxman Pandey [Hindu] (Atul Kulkarni/Hindu)
Ajay Rathod [Hindu] (Madhavan/Hindu)

Sue McKinley (Alice Patten/Christian?)
Sonia [Hindu?] (Soha Ali Khan/Muslim)
Mrs. Rathod [Hindu] (Waheeda Rehman/Muslim)

Music: A. R. Rahman (Tamil Hindu convert to Islam)
Daljeet Singh, “DJ” / Chandrashekhar Azad
Sukhwinder Singh, “Sukhi” / Sukhdev
Aslam Khan / Ashfaqullah Khan
Karan Singhania / Bhagat Singh
Laxman Pandey / Ramprasad “Bismil”

Sue McKinley / James McKinley
Sonia / Durga Bahin
Themes:

• Hindu-Muslim brotherhood
• nationalism / patriotism
• the Mother(lan(d)

*Vande Mataram!*  
“Hail to the Mother!”

(Waheeda Rehman)
• political corruption and popular protest
• VIOLENCE

by the state and its agents
• against the state and its agents
sacrifice, martyrdom, and transfiguration
Martyrdom and transfiguration
• dosti
• the power of poetry
Sarfarosh ki tamanna ab hamare dil men hai....

“Now the desire for sacrifice is in our hearts....”

(also: Mera rang de basanti chola, “My saffron-colored cloak” both by Ramprasad Bismil)
• the power of mass media
• the power of storytelling,
the power of cinema
• seeing oneself through the other’s eyes

The McKinleys as narrators