



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B 204

Semester II

SUBJECT: SOCIOLOGY-II

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Lecture- 16



LECTURE 16:

Reasons behind Communalism The major factors that contributed towards the emergence and growth of communalism in modern India involves: British Imperialism and their Policy of “Divide and Rule”. ❁ Disappointment and disaffection among young and aspiring middle class youth, caused by ❁ stagnant agriculture, absence of modern industrial development and inadequate employment opportunities, which is being exploited by political opportunists. Hindu and Muslim revivalist movements ❁ A communal and distorted view of Indian history, taught in school and colleges played a ❁ major role in rise and growth of communal feelings among the masses. Separatism and isolation among Muslims. ❁ Rise of communal and fundamentalist parties. ❁ Major Incidents of Communal Violence in India Communal violence is a phenomenon where people belonging to two different religious ❁ communities mobilise and attacks each other with feelings of hatred and enmity. The partition of India witnessed mass bloodshed and violence that continued up to 1949. ❁ No major communal disturbances took place until 1961 when the Jabalpur riots shook the ❁ country due to economic competition between a Hindu and a Muslim bidi manufacturer than any electoral competition. In 1960s – A series of riots broke out particularly in the eastern part of India - Rourkela, ❁ Jamshedpur and Ranchi - in 1964, 1965 and 1967, in places where Hindu refugees from the then East Pakistan were being settled. In September, 1969, riots in Ahmedabad shook the conscience of the nation. The apparent ❁ cause was the Jan Sangh passing a resolution on Indianisation of Muslims to show its intense opposition to Indira Gandhi's leftward thrust. In April, 1974, violence occurred in the chawl or tenement, in the Worli neighborhood of ❁ Mumbai after the police attempted to disperse a rally of the Dalit Panthers that had turned violent, angered by clashes with the Shiv Sena. In February, 1983, the violence took place in Nellie as fallout of the decision to hold the ❁ controversial state elections in 1983 in the midst of the Assam Agitation, after Indira Gandhi's decision to give 4 million immigrants from Bangladesh the right to vote. It has been described as one of the worst pogroms since World War II. In October, 1984, the anti-Sikh riots broke out after the assassination of Indira Gandhi, ❁ where more than 4000 Sikhs were killed in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of India. Meanwhile, the Bombay-Bhiwandi riots were instigated by the Shiv Sena when it jumped on ❁ the Hindutva bandwagon to revive the political fortunes of the Shiv Sena which had lost its appeal. The Shah Bano controversy in 1985 and the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi controversy ❁ became powerful tools for intensifying communalism in the Eighties. The communal violence touched its apogee in December 1992 when the Babri Masjid was ❁ demolished by right wing parties. This was followed by the worst riots of post-independence India - in Mumbai, Surat, ❁ Ahmadabad, Kanpur, Delhi and other places. In 2002, Gujarat witnessed communal riots when violence was triggered by burning of a ❁ train in Godhra. In May, 2006 riots occurred in Vadodara due to the municipal council's decision to remove ❁ the dargah (shrine) of Syed Chishti Rashiduddin, a medieval Sufi saint. In September, 2013, Uttar Pradesh witnessed the worst violence in recent history with clashes ❁ between the Hindu and Muslim communities in Muzaffarnagar district. Since 2015, mob lynching is quite prevalent in India as near 90 people have been killed. ❁ It can be termed as manufactured communal violence as through the use of social media and ❁ rumours society is polarized along religious lines.