

Lecture-22



Factors contributing to the rise of Indian Nationalism

Several factors contributed to the emergence of Indian nationalism which can be analyzed as follows:

1. Political and Administrative Unity:

One of the significant results of the British conquest of India was the establishment of a centralized state. It brought about a political and administrative unification of the country.

The pre- British India was divided into numerous feudal states frequently struggling among themselves to extend their boundaries. The British authority established a centralized state structure in India with a uniform reign of law. They enacted and codified laws which were applicable to every citizen of the state. These laws were enforced by a hierarchically graded system of tribunals.

The public services brought about the administrative unification of the country. The establishment of uniform currency system, common administration, common laws and judicial structure contributed to India's unification which ultimately helped the rise of national consciousness.

2. English Language and Western Education:

Introduction of western education was another important factor which paved the way for the growth of nationalism. Three main agencies were responsible for the spread of modern education in India. They were the foreign Christian missionaries, the British Government and the progressive Indians. With the intension of spreading Christianity among the Indians, the Christian missionaries did extensive work in the spread of modern education. They were among the pioneers of modern education in India. The British Government was the principal agent of disseminating modern liberal and technical education in India.

3. Development of Transport and Means of Communication:

Modern means of transport helps in the consolidation of people into modern nations. In India too, the establishment of railways, construction of roads, canals and organisation of postal,

telegraph and wireless services all over India contributed in forging the people into a nation. Of course, all these facilities were developed in the interest of the British industries and for political, administrative and military reasons.

4. Emergence of Modern Press:

As a powerful social institution, the press facilitates the exchange of thought on a mass scale within a short time. The introduction of the printing press in India was an event of revolutionary significance. **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** was the founder of nationalist press in India. His 'SambadKaumudi' in Bengali published in 1821 and 'Mirat-UL-Akbar' in Persian published in 1822, were the first publications with a distinct nationalist and democratic progressive orientation.

5. Economic Exploitation:

The worst feature of the British rule in India was the economic exploitation of all classes. Britishers came to India as traders and their primary motive was how to gain financial benefit. The industrial revolution in Britain necessitated the import of raw materials from different foreign countries and to search extensive market for its goods outside. India provided both to them.

6. Revival of Glorious Indian Heritage:

When Indians were developing a sense of inferiority complex being exploited under **the colonial rule**, the glorious heritage of India was revived by some western scholars like Max Muller, William Jones, Charles Wilkins etc. They translated some Sanskrit texts into English and attempted to prove the supremacy of ancient Indian culture, its heritage and philosophy. Some Indian scholars like R.G. Bhandarkar, H.P. Shastri etc. also helped in reviving the past glory of India. All these helped in regenerating a sense of self confidence and patriotism among the people.

7. Impact of International Events:

Several movements and events in foreign countries also helped in awakening national consciousness. The Declaration of Independence by U.S.A. in 1776, the French Revolution of 1789, the unification of Italy and Germany in 1870, defeat of Russia by Japan in 1904 etc. inspired the Indians. They became confident that it would be possible to fight against the mighty

British authority for their right of self-determination. World events thus, motivated Indians and promoted **the rise of nationalism.**

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. Who of the following presided the historic Lahore session of 1929 in which demand of Poorna Swaraj was raised on the bank of river Ravi?

A. Motilal Nehru

B. Subhash Chandra Bose

C. Jawaharlal Nehru

D. Madan Mohan Malviya

Ans. C

2. The resolution of Quit India Movement was passed in which of the following city?

A. Bombay

B. Calcutta

C. Madras

D. Lucknow

Ans. A

3. British Government appointed an Indian Statutory Commission to review the Government of India Act 1919, this commission is also known as?

A. Simon Commission

B. Hunter Commission

C. Elbert Commission

D. Cripps Mission

Ans. A

4. Which of the following organization was not established by B.R. Ambedkar?

A. Zero Club

B. Depressed Classes Institute

C. Samaj Samata Sangh

D. People's Education Society

Ans. A

5. During the Quit India Movement in which of the following place a parallel government was not formed?

A. Satara

B. Baliya

C. Talchar

D. Jaipur

Ans. D