

Indian National Movement

Part - 1

The Indian National Movement was formed by the great revolution that emerged in 1857. It became a great struggle and ultimately through this India got its Independence at 1947.

Factors leading to the rise of Indian National Movement

1. British Imperialism (Political Unity)
2. Contact with European Countries
3. Modern Methods of Transport Communication
4. The Indian Press and Literature
5. Social and Religious Movements of the Nineteenth Century
6. Economic exploitation by the British
7. Great Revolution of 1857
8. Racial discrimination
9. Lytten's Management
10. The Ilbert Bill Controversy

1. British Imperialism (Political unity)

- English imperialism is an important factor in Indian National Movement.
- The British made unity among the people by bringing the whole India under their control. The British imperialism made the people clear about the idea of India as one nation.

2. Contact with European countries:

- The English language has played a major role in the development of nationalism in the country.
- Indians came into the contact with ideas and cultures of western countries.
- English language became the language of educated Indians.
- Indians were motivated by the unification of Germany and Italy. And because of it Indians thought about their freedom.

3. Modern methods of Transport and communication

- Railways, telegraphs, postal services, construction of roads and canals facilitated communication among the people.
- Indians became close to each other.
- This also led to the emergence of the national movement all over India.

4. The Indian Press and Literature

- The Indian mirror magazine, Bombay Samachar, Amirt Bazaar Patrika, The Hindu, The Kesari, Maratha echoed the public opinion.
- The ban of the mother tongue in press was brought in the year 1878. This strengthened opposition to the British regime.

5. Social and Religious Movements of the Nineteenth Century

The leaders of various organizations like the Brahmo Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Arya Samaj, and Theosophical Society generated a feeling of regard for and pride of the motherland.

6. Economic exploitation of British.

A good deal of anti-British feeling was created by the economic policy which was pursued by the British government in India. The English systematically ruined the Indian trade and native industries.

Therefore, economic exploitation by the British was one of the most important causes for the rise of Indian nationalism.

7. Revolution of 1857

The Indians were completely shaken by the atrocities done by the English.

8. Racial discrimination

- The Revolt of 1857 created a kind of permanent bitterness and suspicion between the British and the Indians
- The British separatist policy was followed. Accordingly they pursued racial differences and the British considered themselves as high and Indian people as low.
- India as a nation and Indians as individuals were subjected to insults, humiliation and contemptuous treatment.

9. Lytton's Management

- Lord Lytton arranged the Delhi Durbar at a time when the large part of India was in the grip of famine.
- He passed the Vernacular Press Act which curbed the liberty of the Indian Press. His Arms Act was a means to prevent the Indians from keeping arms. All these measures created widespread discontent among the Indians.

10. The controversy of Ilbert Bill

- The Ilbert Bill was presented in the Central Legislature during the Vice royalty of Lord Ripon.
- The Bill tried to remove racial inequality between Indian and European judges

in courts.

- This Bill was opposed by the British residents in India.
- Ultimately the Bill was modified.

Early political Associations

- 1. The British Indian Association - 1851 (Bengal)**
- 2. The Bombay Association - 1852 (Dadabhai Naoroji)**
- 3. East India Association - 1856 (London)**
- 4. Madras Native Association -1852**
- 5. Poona Sarvojanik Sabha - 1870**
- 6. The Madras Mahajana Sabha - 1884**

Indian National Congress

- The Indian people who lost their faith in the English rule formed the Indian national congress.
- The Indian national congress was founded in 1885 by the retired English officer Allan Octavian Hume.
- The 1st meeting of congress was held in Bombay (1885), **W.C. Banerjee's** was its 1st President.
- They discussed the problems of all the Indians irrespective of their religion, caste, language and regions.
- The first meeting of congress was held in Mumbai (1885)
- The second meeting of congress was held in Calcutta (1886)
- The third meeting of congress was held in Chennai (1887).

The history of the Indian National Movement can be studied in three important phases:

1. Moderate nationality (1885-1905)

The phase of moderate nationalism (1885-1905) when the Congress continued to be loyal to the British crown.

2. Duration of terrorists (Extremist period) -(1906-1916)

The years 1906-1916 witnessed- Swadeshi Movement, rise of militant nationalism and the Home Rule Movement.

3. Gandhian Era (1917-1947)

The period from 1917 to 1947 is known as the Gandhian era

1. Moderate nationality (1885-1905)

- The leading figures during the first phase of the National Movement was A.O. Hume, W.C. Banerjee, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Dadabhai Naoroji, Feroze Shah Mehta, Gopalakrishna Gokhale, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Badruddin Tyabji, Justice Ranade and G.Subramanya Aiyar
- They are educated and mediated, so they were called as moderates.
- The moderators were confident in the honest approach of the British.
- They wanted to fulfill their demands and arguments through peaceful appeals.
- Initially, the English government appreciated the congress and the congress cancelled due to many reforms.

1. Surendranath Banerjee

- Surendranath Banerjee was known as “Indian Burke”
- Surendranath Banerjee -Indian Corporation -1876

- Surendranath Banerjee was strongly opposed to the division of Bengal.
- Surendranath Banerjee created an Indian corporation to fight for political reforms in 1876. The Indian national congress founded by Surendranath Banerjee (1883) and later incorporated into the Indian national congress in 1886.
- G. Subramanya Aiyar spread the nation through the Chennai Mahajana Sabha.
 1. The *Hindu*
 2. He also established magazine such as *Swedesamitran*.
- Dadabhai naoroji was known as **Grand Old Man of India**. He was considered an unofficial Ambassador in England. He is the first Indian to be a member of the general assembly of the British parliament.
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was regarded as the political guru of Gandhi. In 1905, he founded the Servants of India Society to train Indians to dedicate their lives to the cause of the country.

Moderation Methods:

- The Moderates had total faith in the British sense of justice and fair play. They looked forward to England and were enthusiastic.
- The Moderates used petitions, resolutions, meetings, leaflets and pamphlets, memorandum and delegations to present their demands. They confined their political activities to the educated classes only.
- Their aim was to attain political rights and self-government stage by stage. In 1886, Governor General Lord Dufferin gave a tea garden party for the Congress members in Calcutta.
- The government turned against congress to increase the demands of Gangster. Encouraged Muslims to stay away from congress.

- The only demand of the Congress granted by the British was the expansion of the legislative councils by the Indian Councils Act of 1892.

1. The Achievements of Moderates

1. The Moderates were able to create a wide national awakening among the people.
2. They popularized the ideas of democracy, civil liberties and representative institutions.
3. They explained how the British were exploiting Indians. Particularly, Dadabhai Naoroji in his famous book on Poverty In British Rule in India wrote about his 100 Drain Theory. He showed how India's wealth was going away to England in the form of:
 - (a) Salaries,
 - (b) Savings,
 - (c) Pensions,
 - (d) Payments to British troops in India and
 - (e) Profits of the British companies.

In fact, the British Government was forced to appoint the Welby Commission, with Dadabhai as the first Indian as its member, to enquire into the matter.

4. Some Moderates like Ranade and Gokhale favoured social reforms. They protested against child marriage and widowhood.
5. The Moderates had succeeded in getting the expansion of the legislative Councils by the Indian Councils Act of 1892

Indian National Movement-(1905-1916)

- The period from 1905 was known as the era of extremism in the Indian National Movement.

- The extremists or the aggressive nationalists believed that success could be achieved through bold means.
- The important extremist leaders were
 1. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 2. Lala Lajpat Rai
 3. Aurobindo Ghosh
 4. Bipin chandrapal

Causes for the Rise of Extremism

1. The failure of the Moderates to win any notable success other than the expansion of the legislative councils by the Indian Councils Act (1892).
2. The famine and plague of 1896-97 which affected the whole country and the suffering of the masses.
3. The economic conditions of the people became worse.
4. The ill-treatment of Indians in South Africa on the basis of colour of skin.
5. The Russo-Japanese war of 1904-5 in which Japan defeated the European power Russia. This encouraged Indians to fight against the European nation, Britain.
6. The immediate cause for the rise of extremism was the reactionary rule of Lord Curzon:
 - He passed the Calcutta Corporation Act, (1899) reducing the Indian control of this local body.
 - The Universities Act (1904) reduced the elected members in the University bodies. It also reduced the autonomy of the universities and made them government departments.
 - The Sedition Act and the Official Secrets Act reduced the freedoms of all people.

- His worst measure was the Partition of Bengal (1905)

The Main Objective of the Terrorists

1. Not cooperating with the British Government by boycotting government courts, schools and colleges.
2. Promotion of Swadeshi and boycott of foreign goods.
3. Introduction and promotion of national education.

Leaders of the Extremists:

1. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Lokamanya)
2. Lala Lajpat Rai
3. Aurobindo Ghosh
4. Bipin chandrapal

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak created a complete movement against the British in India. So, he was called as Lokmanya Tilak.
- He started a newspaper Kesari in Marathi through which he contributed a lot in arousing nationalism and anti-British sentiments.
- He was jailed twice by the British for his nationalist activities and in 1908 deported to Mandalay for six years.
- He set up the Home Rule League in 1916 at Poona and declared “Swaraj is my birth-right and I will have it.”
- He also insisted, Ganapathy and shivaji stirred national sentiment through festival.

2. Lala Lajpat Rai

- Lala Lajpat Rai is popularly known as the 'Lion of Punjab'.
- He played an important role in the Swadeshi Movement. He founded the Indian Home Rule League in the US in 1916
- He was deported to Mandalay on the ground of sedition.
- In the fight against the Simon group, the police were injured on November 17th, 1928 and he died.

3. Bipin Chandra pal

- Bipin chandra pal started his career as a moderate and turned out as an extremist. Swadeshi participated in the movement.
- Bipin chandra pal spreads the nations nostalgia in his agonizing speeches and writings.

4. AUROBINDA GHOSH

Aurobinda ghosh actively participated in the swadeshi movement. After being released and imprisoned, he stayed in Pondicherry, the French are and concentrated on spiritual activities.

Partition of Bengal and the Rise of Extremism

The partition of Bengal in 1905 provided a spark for the rise of extremism in the Indian National Movement.

Curzon's real motives were:

- To break the growing strength of Bengali nationalism since Bengal was the base of Indian nationalism.
- To divide the Hindus and Muslims in Bengal.
- To show the enormous power of the British Government in doing whatever it liked.

On the same day when the partition came into effect, 16 October 1905, the people of Bengal organised protest meetings and observed a day of mourning.

The whole political life of Bengal underwent a change. Gandhi wrote that the real awakening in India took place only after the Partition of Bengal. The anti-partition movement culminated into the Swadeshi Movement and spread to other parts of India.

The aggressive nationalists forced Dadabhai Naoroji to speak of Swaraj (which was not a Moderate demand) in the Calcutta Session of Congress in 1906. They adopted the resolutions of Boycott and Swadeshi movements. The Moderate Congressmen were unhappy. They wanted Swaraj to be achieved through constitutional methods. The differences led to a split in the Congress at the Surat session in 1907. This is popularly known as the famous Surat Split. The extremists came out of the Congress led by Tilak and others.

1. East bengal and assam

2. West bengal and Bihar

Bangladesh was reunited again in 1911 with serious opposition.

The division of Bengal was the cause of the indigenous movement of economic neglect.

Swadeshi Movement:

- Swadeshi is the native form like country.
- The swadeshi movement encourages the development of the country and abandons the use of foreign goods.
- Congressman raised the full extent of "Vande Mataram", passed by Bakim Chandra Chatterjee.

The indigenous movement has various plans

- Ignoring public service, courts and schools.
- Refuse to buy foreign goods and buy indigenous goods.

- Establish national schools and colleges and promote national education.
- Swadeshi is a political economic movement.
- The swadeshi movement was a great success.
- The great landmarks of Bengal also participated in this. Women and students were involved in the picket, Students denied the papers.
- Vande Mataram was banned by the swadeshi movement.

Extremism Leaders:

1. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
2. Lala Lajpat Rai
3. Bipin Chandra Pal
4. Aurobinda Ghosh . They were imprisoned.

The Achievements of Extremists:

The achievements of extremists can be summed up as follows:

1. They were the first to demand Swaraj as a matter of birth right.
2. They involved the masses in the freedom struggle and broadened the social base of the National Movement.
3. They were the first to organize an all-India political movement, viz. the Swadeshi Movement.