

Chapter : 2

Growth of Indian Nationalism

HISTORY

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIOS :

Q.1: Who was the writer of 'Anandamath'?

Ans: Bankim Chandra Chetterjee.

Q.2: Who composed the song 'Sare Jahan Se Achha'?

Ans: Urdu poet Muhammad Iqbal.

Q.3: Who and where was the first railway line in India constructed ?

Ans: The first railway line connecting Bombay and Thana was inaugurated in 1853. The construction was started in Madras in 1854.

Q.4: When and where was the first telegraph line in India constructed ?

Ans: 1839 between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour.

Q.5: When and where was the first printing press established in India ?

Ans: 1797 at Sreerampore Mission.

Q.6: When was the Calcutta Presidency College established ? By what name was it known earlier ?

Ans: The Calcutta presidency College was originally established in 1817 by the name of the Hindu College .

Q.7: Mention two important social reforms of Lord William Bentinck.

Ans: (i) Abolition of sati system.

(ii) Promotion of women's education.

Q.8: Name the first newspaper published in India .

Ans: The Bengal Gazette.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

Q.1: Write briefly how the Revolt of 1857 led to the growth of Indian nationalism.

Ans: Through opinions vary on the character of the Revolt of 1857, yet most historians agree that it was the first step towards the national struggle for freedom. The underlying thought of the rebellion was to drive away the British from Indian soil. Thus though the uprising

failed, the seed of nationalism was sown in the minds of the people.

The British administration woke up to the need of curbing such uprisings in future. With an aim to create a permanent class of humble, subservient Indians who would serve British interests, they conceived a new system of education. However with western education came a flood of great political thinkers of the world. With their morale boosted by heroic stories of independence across the world, they became ready to work for India's liberation from British rule.

Thus introduction of western education, which was an outcome of the 1857 uprising, helped the growth of Indian nationalism by awakening in the Indians their capability to judge the exploitative nature of foreign rule, and also by developing in them a sense of responsibility towards their race and country.

Q.2: Write about six important reasons for the growth of Indian nationalism.

Ans: The rise of nationalism and national consciousness began in India in the latter half of the nineteenth century. It was largely the outcome of the action and interaction of numerous forces and factors which developed in India under the impact of British political dominion and economic slavery. The main factors responsible for the rise and growth of Indian nationalism were:

(i) Influence of western education: With the introduction of English and spread of western education, a new generation of Indian intelligentsia was created who

could fully understand the exploitative nature of British colonialism. These educated Indians were kindled by the ideas of political thinkers around the world and were encouraged by the various heroic stories of wars of independence and revolutions from across the world. They now strived to achieve the same for their motherland. They began to convey their ideas of liberty and equality, and also opened up the minds of Indians across the country.

(ii) Development of means of transport and communication: The development of modern means of transport and communication, like roads, railways and telegraph in the middle of the 19th century, played a vital role in linking and uniting the people of India living in different parts of the country. Better means of transport and communication meant better exchange and sharing of ideas, views, etc.

(iii) Socio-religious reform movements: With the introduction of western education, the weakness and decay of Indian society became evident to educated Indians. They began to create awareness against social evils and religious superstitions. Many socio-religious reform movements sprung up in the nineteenth century contributed towards the growth of nationalism in the country. They included the Brahmo Samaj, Arya

Samaj,Prathana Samaj,Ramkrishna Mission,
Theosophical Society,etc.

(iv) Role of press: The years following the revolt of 1857 saw an unprecedented growth of vernacular press. It was through vernacular press that the great nationalist leaders popularised the concepts of liberty,freedom,self-rule, popular rights,Swadeshi,home rule,etc.among the common people . The Indian vernacular press aroused national fervour for freedom in an effective manner.

(v) Political associations: Again as a consequence of introduction of western education and thought, many political associations were formed in the latter half of the 19th century. Through these associations such as the Indian Asssocation,the level of political consciousness of the general people of India was aroused and they were prepared for a common political programme. The Indian civil service agitation and the movement in support of the Ilbert Bill,both were instrumental in creating political awareness among general Indians. Such activities led to the holding of the Indian National Conference,which was attended by people from across the country.

(vi) Indian National Congress: In the late 19th century most of the education Indians were looking for an opportunity to form an all India organisation to voice India's concerns and demands before the British

authorities. The Indian National Congress was formed at this time under the initiative of A.O. Hume, its main aim being to work in service of the country. Indian National

Congress gave the Indian national movement a firm platform.

Q.3: Write at least four effects of the introduction of western education in India.

Ans: Four effects of the introduction of western education in India were:

(i) Establishment of new schools and colleges: Western education encouraged many nationalist leaders to take up the cause of education and they established many educational institutions in different parts of the country. This newly educated class of people was enlightened with new ideas and thoughts, so they worked hard to spread education in different parts of the country.

(ii) Boost of morale: Western education acquainted Indians with the heroic stories of the French Revolution, the American war of independence, unification of Germany and unification of Italy. This strengthened the Indian minds to face challenges of the British administration and boosted their morale.

(iii) Political unification of India: Western education brought the newly educated Indians in contact with the great thoughts of political thinkers like

Rousseau, Mill, Burke, Macaulay, Spencer, Locke, Bentham, etc. Their liberal and radical thoughts inspired them greatly to work for the liberty and equality of the people of India.

(iv) Growth of Nationalism: The newly educated Indians were influenced by the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity. They began to express their new ideas through writings and slogans. For instance, patriotic poems of Ishwar Chandra Gupta, slogan of Bande Mataram in Bankim Chandra's Anandamath, Sare Jahan Se Achha by Iqbal, etc. all worked to build a strong sense of nationalism among the general Indians.

Q.4: Discuss the impact of western education towards the growth of Indian Nationalism.

Ans: The introduction and the spread of western education had far-reaching consequences, particularly in bringing about national awakening. It helped the growth of Indian Nationalism in the following ways.

(i) Instilled political ideas: The introduction of western education in India proved to be a blessing in disguise. Soon Indians came under the influence of western philosophy and revolutionary ideas. The stories of the American war of independence, Unification of Germany, unification of Italy, French Revolution, etc. kindled the spirit of freedom in the minds of Indians.

(ii) Brought political unity: Introduction of English education levelled all language barriers which kept Indians aloof and separate. The regional political

leaders could now gather on a common platform and discuss their issues and communicate their ideas.

(iii) Aroused nationalism: The educated men realised the harm that was being done to India by the British political colonialism and imperialism, and became aware of India's exploitation. They began to raise voice against the British supremacy and economic drain.

(iv) Helped removal of social evils: Spread of western education in India removed narrow-mindedness and primitive outlook of Indians. It instilled public awareness against social evils and helped in their eradication resulting in social unity in the country.

(v) Set India on the road to modernisation: The introduction of English language and spread of western education brought modern economic concepts like capitalism, market-control, industrialisation, urbanisation, etc. as acceptable ideas which could change the face of India as well.

(vi) Created employment opportunities: With the spread of education, hundreds of Indians became qualified for various governmental and non-governmental jobs.

(vii) Removal of casteism: The spread of education profoundly affected the caste system. Education made them aware of the futility of the man-made caste-distinctions and social bars.

(viii) Improvement of the condition of women: With the removal of social evils like sati, child marriage, introduction of widow-remarriage, etc. which were brought about by spread of western education, the condition of women improved greatly. Moreover, education also helped women to come forward and take active part in the freedom struggle movement.

Q.5: How did the development of transport and communication lead to the growth of nationalism in India ?

Ans: Before the development of transport and communication Indians lived in isolated pockets. However with this new development they were able to reach out to each other, exchange their thoughts and finally come under a common platform from which to fight against the British. The various ways in which the development of transport system and communication boosted the emerging national awakening are outlined below:

(i) Brought unity among the people: Better transport system and communication methods helped people of different regions to move to different parts of the country and learn about the culture and views of other regions. As a result, communication between the people of

different areas greatly improved, leading to quicker sharing of common thoughts, especially those on nationalism.

(ii) Change of outlook: With the spread of western education, when the educated Indians realized the social evils of casteism, religious bigotry, superstitions, that marked Indian outlook, the new effective means of communication helped them to raise their voice against these evils and reach every Indian. This in turn helped in widening of outlook and the growth of nationalism.

(iii) Easier spread of ideas: Inspired by ideas of other world leaders, educated Indians began to work for the liberation of the country. Development of means of communication helped them in the spread of ideas by their writings, and resultantly a strong sense of nationalism grew among the people.

(iv) More exploitation by the British: As a result of better transport and communication, the British government officials were able to reach the interiors of the country and torment the poor even more. Moreover they took raw materials from India at cheap rates and flooded the market with British made clothes, etc. thus exploiting the people. Indians thus became conscious of being fleeced and united against the economic oppression.

Q.6: Discuss the contribution of Raja Ram Mohun Roy in the growth of Indian nationalism.

Ans: Raja Ram Mohun Roy(1772-1833)was a fore-runner in the growth of Indian nationalism. He was popularly known as the father of modern India. He contributed in bringing about cultural synthesis between

the east and the west. He laid the foundation of all principal movements in India,viz religious,social and political which brought about national awakening in the country.

(i) Religious reforms: Raja Ram Mohun Roy played a vital role in breaking the age-old Orthodox views and superstitious beliefs of the Indians, particularly associated with Hinduism.

(a) Raja Ram Mohun Roy was a firm believer in the philosophy of Vedas and Upanishads. His translations of the Upanishads into lucid Bengali language simplified the understanding of ancient Hindu scriptures for the common masses.

(b) He vigorously defended the Hindu religion and Hindu philosophy from the attacks of the missionaries by publishing two handwritten pamphlets,viz Brahman Sabadhi and Brahman Missionary Sangbad. These pamphlets highlighted the ancient Hindu religion and philosophy and focused on the similarities between the religious doctrines of the world.

(c)To maintain the integrity of Hinduism,he founded a new religious society in Calcutta in 1815 known as

Atmiya Sabha. In 1828, he founded the Brahmo Sabha which later came to be known as Brahmo Samaj. This religious society was based on the philosophy of the Vedas.

(d) He criticised idol worship and polytheism and advocated the concept of one God. He defined God as shapeless, invisible, omnipotent and omnipresent.

(ii) Social reforms: Raja Ram Mohun's efforts in transforming India into a revolutionary society is immense. He fought relentlessly against the social evils of the society and worked hard for the uplift of women's status in society.

(a) He condemned casteism, child marriage, purdah system and polygamy.

(b) He not only promoted women's education but also fought for the right of women to inherit property.

(c) With the active support of Lord William Bentinck, he abolished the age-old sati system.

(d) Widow remarriage and inter-caste marriages got social recognition due to his efforts.

(e) He founded the Hindu college in Calcutta in 1817 with the collaboration of David Hare (which later came to be known as presidency college in 1855).

(f) He stopped his weekly journal Mirat-ul-Akbar and pleaded before the Calcutta High Court and the Governor General of Bengal to remove the restrictions imposed on the Indian press by John Adam in 1823.

(iii) Political reforms: Raja Ram Mohun Roy played a great role in bringing about political reforms in the country. His efforts inspired the common man to raise voice of nationalism.

(a) He worked hard to bring about liberal reforms in the administration. He requested the British government to bring about liberal reforms in the administration by:

(i) Separating the judiciary from the executive.

(ii) Codification of civil and criminal laws.

(b) To improve the condition of poor peasants in the country, he appealed the British government to decrease the amount of land revenue and introduce some welfare measures.

(c) In 1833, he visited the House of Commons to put forward the demands of the Indians to the British government.

Q.7: Discuss the contribution of Dayanand Saraswati in the growth of Indian nationalism.

Ans: Swami Dayanand Saraswati(1824-1883) was one of the greatest Sanskrit scholars who aimed to strengthen Hinduism through reforms. In 1875,he founded the Arya Samaj in Punjab. He played an important role in carrying forward the reformist

movement that had already emerged in the Hindu society.

(i) He rebelled against the practise of idol worship and polytheism.

(ii)He attacked social evils like untouchability,child marriage,casteism,polygamy and subjugation of women.

(iii) He believed that the Vedas are the true source of Hinduism. So,he propagated the motto "Go back to the Vedas".

(iv) He began the Sudhi movement which enabled the Hindus who had accepted other religions to return back to Hinduism,and contribute to lead the nation towards progress.

(v) He encouraged women education and widow remarriage.

(vi) He encouraged sea voyages and discouraged superstitions associated with it.

(vii) He supported unity of God and monotheism.

Q.8: Discuss the contribution of Keshav Chandra Sen in the growth of Indian nationalism.

Ans: The contribution of Keshav Chandra Sen(1838-1884) towards the growth of Indian

Nationalism was that with an aim to reform the Hindu society,he founded the Prarthana Samaj on the base model of Brahmo Samaj,in 1869 in Maharashtra. The Prarthana Samaj carried on an intensive programme of social reforms that extended to the whole of South India. Its activities that went a long way in promoting the spirit of nationalism in the minds of the people of South India,were:

(i) The Samaj's main reformer Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade worked for the welfare and upliftment of the society.

(ii) By establishing the Widow Remarriage Association,he encouraged widow remarriage and created employment opportunities for them.

(iii) By establishing the Deccan education society,he spread education especially among the orphans,and also set up night schools for the illiterate and unprivileged people.

(iv) He established orphanage for the needy and homeless.

Q.9: Discuss the contribution of Ramakrishna Paramhansa in the growth of Indian nationalism.

Ans: Ramakrishna Paramhansa(1834-1886) was a pious saint with liberal outlook.He did not confine himself only to Reformation of Hindu religion,but

contributed equally towards social Reformation and spread of education.

(i) He spread the message of love and brotherhood among the youth.

(ii)He emphasised the need for deep understanding of Hindu philosophy.

(iii) He spread the essential spirit of Hinduism.

(iv) He tried to unite the Indians through his preachings.

(v) His teaching infused self- confidence among the Indians.

Ram Krishna Paramhansa was a great teacher who could express his teachings in simple language. Swami Vivekananda was one among his disciples who worked hard to spread the true message of Ramakrishna Paramhansa to different parts of the world,for which he set up The Ramakrishna Mission. Ramakrishna Paramhansa thus instilled among the Indians,a new spirit of awakening.

Q.10: Discuss the contribution of Anne Besant in the growth of Indian nationalism.

Ans: Mrs Anne Besant(1847-1933),was an Irish women who came to india in 1893 and loved India like her motherland. Her contribution in the growth of Indian nationalism is remarkable.

(i) She revived among the Indians,a sense of self-respect and pride for India's glorious history through social service.

(ii) She propagated Indian philosophy and urged Indians to take pride in their culture.

(iii) She stood for the revival of ancient Indian philosophy, culture and heritage.

(iv) She helped the people to regain their lost faith and overcome their inferiority complex.

Mrs Anne Besant was the central figure of the Theosophical Society and helped the movement to become a great social force for Indians. She was the founder of the Central Hindu school in Banaras in 1898 which later came to be known as the Banaras Hindu university in 1916. In 1916,she started the Home Rule League and spread the message of self-rule among the Indians. She played a prominent role in Indian politics and was elected as the first lady president of the Indian National Congress in 1917.

Q.11: What is Aligarh Movement ? To what extent did it modern outlook and thinking among the Indian Muslims ?

Ans: The most important socio-religious movement among the Muslims centering around the Aligarh College came to be known as the Aligarh Movement. This movement was organised by Sir s Syed Ahmed

Khan to spread modern education and develop nationalism among the Indian Muslims.

The movement helped develop a modern outlook and thinking among Indian Muslims. Syed Ahmed Khan realised that the best means of social awakening was through education,so he advised Muslims to embrace western education. He believed that the interest of the Muslims would be best served through western education and western ideas. In 1864 established an English medium school at Gazipur,in 1865 he set up a Science Society at Aligarh that translated noted English books into Urdu; and in 1875 he established the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College which was second only to the Indian National Congress in its contribution to the growth of nationalism(in 1920 this college was raised and renamed as Aligarh Muslim University).

Thus the Aligarh movement played a great role in developing modern outlook and thinking among the Indian Muslims and brought in them the following changes:

(i) The movement raised political consciousness among

the Indian Muslims.

(ii) It inspired Indian Muslims to embrace western education.

(iii) It campaigned against social abuses within the Muslim community.

(iv) It opened the gates of new world of western literature and culture to the Indian Muslims.

Q.12: How did the printing press in India lead to the growth of Indian nationalism ? Discuss.

Ans: The printing press played a major role in bringing about national consciousness and in the growth of nationalism in the country. The Europeans introduced the printing press in India to fulfill their own intellectual needs, and their first newspaper named Bengal Gazette was published in 1780. The newly educated Indians appreciated the power of this means of communication and the latter half of the 19th century saw a boom of vernacular newspapers. These helped the growth of Indian nationalism in the following ways:

(i) The vernacular papers brought unity against the British powers by voicing the sufferings of the native Indian people.

(ii) They brought to the fore the imperialistic exploitation of the British.

(iii) The early nationalists used this medium to express their ideas of freedom and democracy to bring to the notice of the authorities, their demands and problems.

(iv) The newspapers ensured that the ideas of nationalism were not confined to the newly educated

Indians, but reached the common man all over the country.

(v) The papers greatly roused political consciousness and built up public opinion against the colonial rulers.

(vi) The reactionary policies of the British to exercise its control over the vernacular press served only to further unite the Indians against them.

(vii) Vernacular newspapers criticized British failure during the British only succeeded in the growth of nationalism.

Some of the newspapers in the second half of the 19th century that are noteworthy in building public opinion against the British were Bangadarshan, Sanjivani, Aryadarshan and Amrita Bazar Patrika from Bengal, Hindu from Madras, Kesari from Bombay, etc. It was through the medium of newspapers and periodicals that the Indian nationalist leaders popularised among the people, ideas of representative government, election, party system, democratic institutions, home rule, independence, etc.

Q.13: Discuss briefly the factors that led to the birth of Indian National Congress.

Ans: The policy of repression and racial discrimination that was followed by the British in India, was instrumental in making Indians turn against them. The vernacular

press Act of 1878, the Arms Act of 1878 and Ilbert Bill of 1883 created great discontentment among the people. Most educated Indians realised that Indians were not getting fair justice from the British. Under these circumstances, the need of an all India organisation was felt to bring to the notice of the British government authorities, the problems and demands of the Indian people.

The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 during the tenure of Lord Dufferin at the initiative of Mr Allan Octavian Hume, a retired English civil servant. He suggested the formation of an all India organisation for the mental, moral, social and political regeneration of the people of India. He invited graduates of the Calcutta University through an open letter on 1 March 1883 to participate in the progress of the nation. Under the banner of Indian National Union, a meeting was held with the active support of 50 students and Lord Dufferin. Thus, A.O. Hume succeeded in giving effect to his plan. The first congregation of the Indian National Congress was held at Gokul Das Tejpal Sanskrit College Hall, Bombay on 28 December 1885 under the presidentship of Womesh Chandra Banerjee, a leading barrister of

Calcutta. The first session of the Indian National Congress was attended by 72 representatives from different parts of the country.

Q.14: Give a brief account of the working of the Indian National Congress during the early years of its formation.

Ans: The working of the Indian National Congress during the early years of its formation are discussed as:

(i) Moderate policies of the Congress : The early leaders of the Congress had great faith in Constitutional methods to achieve their goals. They followed the moderate policy of prayer and petition and maintained friendly relations with the government. They criticised the government through peaceful means.

(ii) Indian Council Act of 1892: The Congress leaders aimed at securing Indian representation in the British administration, so they sent an Indian team under S.N. Banerjee's leadership to England in 1890. But the British government refused to give concession to the Indians and the Congress leaders for the first time were disappointed by the Indian Council Act of 1892.

(iii) Partition plan of Lord Curzon: The faith of Congress leaders in constitutional methods of the British weakened after the partition plan of Lord Curzon in 1905. It brought some enmity between the British government and the Indian National Congress. Disappointed Congress leaders lost their faith in the

policies of the party and decided to take firm steps against the British government. Moreover, the defeat of powerful Russia by a small Asiatic country like Japan encouraged the fighting spirit in Indians.

(iv) Swadeshi Movement: In the Surat Session of the Congress held in 1907, the Congress was divided into

two groups- the extremists and the moderates. The extremists spread the concept of Swaraj, Swadeshi and National education. They remained out of Congress till 1916. The moderates followed the previous policies of the Congress Party.