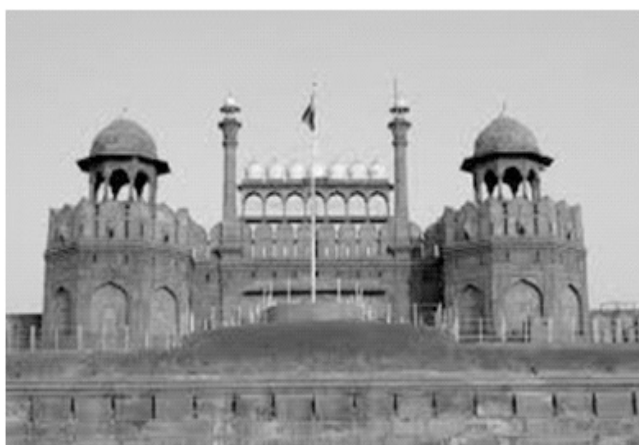


Unit - 09

Chapter - 19

Causes of the downfall of British Rule in India



Breaking the slavery chains of many Indians, India's sun of freedom rose on August 15, 1947. Many freedom fighters, revolutionary thinkers and organizations sacrificed their lives to get rid of this long slavery. The following reasons contributed to the liberation of the ascendancy

1. The rise of various social and political organizations

Due to religious revival and the reverence for India's historical glory, these organizations of 19th century worked to develop a sense of nationality among the countrymen.

(A) Brahmo Samaj (28 August 1828): The father of Indian cultural Renaissance and pioneer of social consciousness and nationalism, Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1774-1833) was rich in multi-faceted personality. He was a supporter of monism.

In 1828 AD he founded Brahmo Samaj. At that time it was not possible to fight against the British

Empire, so he continued the work of political and social awakening. Having ample knowledge of many languages like English, Latin, Hebrew, Persian, Mr. Roy, for the spread of his ideas, in 1821, in "Dialogue of the Communes" (in Bangla language), in 1822, 'Mirat-ul-Akbar' (in Persian) in 1822; 'Newspaper' (in Hindi) started publication by which the general public can know their thoughts. Ram Mohan Roy was a supporter of freedom and opposed autocracy in administration. His demand for reform in the judiciary, the need to reduce the land, the Indianization of the army, etc. created a sense of nationalism in the Indian public.

(B) Arya Samaj (10 April 1875): Swami Dayanand Saraswati (1825-1883), a strong supporter of Swarajya, Swadharma and Swadeshi ideology, accepted the importance of the Vedas while playing a bugle against the pomp and rituals spread in India. Believing himself the son of only one God, by describing everyone as a brother, eliminating caste discrimination he stress on adopting equality. (This was done by the common Indian, especially the people of northern India by adopting the Arya Samaj started by him, to create a sense of nationalism in the country.)

(C) Ramakrishna Mission (1 May 1897): Swami Ramkrishna Paramahansa considered Indian culture as spiritual as the best Sanatan culture. After his death, his disciple Swami Vivekananda established this institution which did special work for the poor, the deprived and the dalit class.

At that time when people were being communicated with their religion and inferiority complex towards the people, he they made the Hindu culture and famines in the word awakened religious and political consciousness among the people.

(D) Theosophical Society (1857): Its foundation was laid in 1857 by the Russian woman Madame Blvetteski and the American Colonel Alecot. Its debut in India was in 1887. At the invitation of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, they came to India and told the people of this country the best of Hindu religion and culture and did the work for reforming religion. In 1893 Mrs. Annie Besant of Ireland spearheaded this work and became the founder of ideological revolution in India.

(E) Islamic Religious Reform Movement: After the fall of the Mughal Empire, the condition of the Muslims declined. Due to opposition to English education, they were shunned from Western culture and literature. Malpractices was also dominated by the then Muslim community thereby reducing their social and political involvement. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan gave a message to the Muslims to become loyal to the Britishers. Improvements like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Bahavi Movement, removed the rudiments and spread education. Later, Aligarh Muslim University was established. This led to the rise of social and political ideas and became aware of independence.

2. Faulty British rule system - The British Raj system was completely different from the Indian system. The native kings had given religious and educational institutions, poets, artists and to the Mahatmas tax free lands. At the same time the British Raj stopped it Farmers, from the new tax system also got into trouble. The British judicial system was not only expensive, long-termed and impartial from the Indian judicial system, but was also defective in the administrative sense. Difficulties of people became common due to the common language of English. Indians were considered inferior in terms of comparison with the Britishers

3 Influence of Western Education - At the request of Macaulay at the time of Lord William Batting, the British government gave Indians the facility of English education. With this, on one side, when one section got rid of its culture with upper radiance, on the other hand, by reading foreign literature, faith began to increase in their freedom and democratic values and they communicated with the British government in the same language and struggled to achieve their rights.

4 Social changes- Due to the education of English, the disillusionment of Indians by social and religious prejudices, thunders started becoming infructuous. Due to English education, a new class of doctors, lawyers, teachers and job seekers in India. These people also played an important role in spreading national awareness in India.

5 Economic exploitation - The British's independent trade policy quashed the Indian economy. The industrialization of England destroyed the cottage industry businesses here. From here the raw material was supplied to England and the factories manufactured the things and supplied to the Indian markets. This led to unemployment among the people here. This triggered resentment against the British government in the public. Dadabhai Naoroji exposed this conspiracy of the Britisher with articles published for Indians.

6. Exaggerated importance to the Indian Civilization and culture by the European scholars - Maxmullar, Sasun Burnak, Monier Williams etc, through the intense study of Vedas, Indian literature and Sanskrit language, proved its perfection and superiority not only to the western world but also to Indians A feeling of self-centered culture was born and a sense of independence was born in them. (Why were we so slave?)

7. Contribution of Literature and Newspapers – Earlier most of the newspapers publised in the English language. The Britishers had the right on them but later the newspapers in indigenious

languages. In these newspapers, the oppressive policies of the British government were criticized. With this, the government implemented the Vernacular Press Act in 1879 thereby the freedom of Indian newspapers was banned. This sparked outrage among people and nationalism flourished. The famous national newspapers of that time were 'Hindu Patriot', 'Hindi Mirror', 'Amrit Bazar Patrika', 'Kesari' etc.

The writings of Indian writers like Dadabhai Naoroji, Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak and 'Anandthath' and vande matram of Bankim Chand Chatterjee and 'Vande Mataram', Tagore's Jana-Gan-Mana, Maithilisharan Gupta's 'Bharat Bharati' and the works of literary Bharatendu Harishchandra created a revolution in the Indian public and communicated new hope.

8. The oppressive policy of Lord Lytton -

Famine spread in south India in 1876-1878. A great ceremony was organized in honor of Queen Victoria in helping the public in which millions of rupees were wasted. On invading Afghanistan, the Indian treasury's money was spent in vain.

Indians could not afford ammunition without license, but the British were exempted from it. Indians understood this their insults.

9. Dispute on Ilbert Bill - In 1883, a bill was brought by Ilbert, the law member of the Lord Ripon Council, in which Indian magistrates were authorized to hear and punish British lawsuits. All the Britishers protested it and for the government withdrew the bill. This made the Indians aware that the organized movement could bow the government. And this created the national consciousness.

10. Freedom Struggle of 1857 - Some events took place from the beginning of the 18th century to liberate India from the slavery of Britishers. but it proved milestone in the freedom struggle freedom. Different rulers, soldiers and leaders came in contact

with each other. Although the lack of resources lack of coordination between the revolutionaries and lack of proper planning they were unable to achieve the original goal The British resorted to brutality in crushing this movement. This also created the feeling of hatred in the hearts of Indian people. This sowed seeds of struggle against freedom in the mind of the general public and nationalism and renaissance in India was germinated.



This also encouraged courage, self-pride, dutifulness and vitality in the common Indians. Between 1860 and 1880, there were several revolutionary movements. This also raised consciousness towards freedom in India. According to Veer Savarkar "It was the first war to achieve independence. It was not only a military rebellion but a social volcano in which the suppressed powers gained expression. "

11. The Emergence of the Indian National Congress - On 18 December 1885, retired British officer Alan Octavian Hume, along with 72 political activists, laid the foundation of Congress in Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay. His first session was presided over by Vyomash Chand Banerjee.

The purpose of this organization formed under the guidance of the immediate Viceroy Lord Dufferin was to calm the situation of the explosion that could be due to the gross dissent that flourished against the British in India. His view was that in India the national sentiments of devotion should be reduced to legal flow and to improve the social and economic status of Indians.

In the beginning, for about 20 years (1885 to 1905) the liberals led it. And it was a group of famous lawyers, industrialists and rich people.

In 1906, Dadabhai Noroji said for the first time in the Calcutta convention that the purpose of Congress is to get self-rule as was in the United States and other colonies.

Phase of Congress

(A) Era of moderate Nationality (1885 to 1905): In this period, demands were raised by demand letter, memorandum, delegation, etc. The leaders of this era included Dadabhai Naoroji, Mahadev Govind Ranade, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Firoz Shah Mehta, K.T. Tailang, Gopal Krishna Gokhale etc.

(B) Era of Extremistic Nationality (1906-19): The demand for complete independence and the adoption of the path of mass movement were headed by leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpatrao, Vipin Chandra Pal, Arvind Ghosh etc. With the movements run by them, the feeling of nationalism in the general public intensified, the fear of the British government was shattered.

Considering the indigenous movement as a means of liberation of the country, self respect and self reliance in the public arose.

The Era of Gandhian Movement (1920-1947)

In 1913, Mahatma Gandhi ji emerged in Indian politics that linked the common people of the country to freedom movement with his non-violent movements. The Non-cooperation Movement (1919) under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Civil Disobedience Movement (1929), Quit India movement (1942) worked as a coffin for the British Raj. The speech of Gandhiji's Quit India on 8th August, 1942 was very effective and poignant, which got the support of the whole country.

Under the leadership of Congress, freedom movements in the country got a new direction.

However, after attaining freedom, Mahatma Gandhi said that the Congress should not have political misuse in the future, hence it should be erased.

12. Other revolutionary movements - It is useless to think of independence without the support of revolutionaries. The secret organization of revolutionaries trained Indian soldiers to make ammunition and to use weapons, among which were Abhinav Bharat in major Maharashtra, Anushilan Samiti in Bengal, and Jugantar etc. Prakul Chaki, Khudiram Bose, Arvind Ghose and his brother Virendra Kumar were prominent. Among those who carried out the revolutionary activities abroad were Shyamjirishna Verma, Madam Bhikaji Kama, M Barkatullah, Ajit Singh, V. M. Aiyar, Lala Hardayal, Rasbihari Bose, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Udayiyudullah Sindhi and Manvendra Nath Roy etc.

13. The Global reasons (World Events) – Due to World War I (1914-18) and World War II (1939-45) the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as a global superpower and it made the UK's position weak. These two superpowers also had pressure against colonialism. Meanwhile, in many other countries of the world, there had been a revolution against monarchy and colonialism. Even the Russian Revolution of 1917 gave India's moral strength and the other Indian people also got enthusiasm from other newly independent countries and they made the struggle intensified. Other countries of the world like Japan, France, and German etc. provided space for freedom movements from there and youths studying overseas also gave new direction to freedom movements from there. The emergence of the United Nations also caused harm to colonialism.

Although the proposal of the Atlantic Charter in 1941 that after World War II, each colonial nation will have the right to self-decision. But Churchill refused to implement it in India. Then US President Roosevelt exercised pressure on Churchill to negotiate with India

and told that the Atlantic Charter would be applicable in the whole world. This also led to moral pressures on Britain. At the same time the Parliament of Australia tried to fulfill the full autonomy of India. In World War II, when Japan conquered Singapore, Malaya, Indonesia and Andaman Nicobar islands even after the fall of Burma, the Japanese army reached Rangoon this not only put UK in to panic, but in India, with a plan to remove the political deadlock, Cripps was sent to India. Countries like Germany, Russia, Japan, America, China etc. also supported Indian independence movements.

In the general elections held in England in 1945 with the defeat of the ruling party the Labor Party's Clement Attlee was replaced by British Prime Minister of who also had compassion towards India. Even in his election manifesto, there was a mention of India's independence. This also led to a path of freedom.

Important Points

1. The father of Indian cultural renaissance and fore runner of social consciousness and nationalism was Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
2. Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded Arya Samaj .
3. Swami Dayanand said, Return to Vedas.
4. Ramakrishna Mission was established by Swami Vivekananda.
5. Swami Vivekananda made the Indian culture famous in the world.
6. Theosophical Society was founded by Russian women Madam Blanketsky and US Colonel Alcot.
7. In 1893, Mrs. Annie Besant of Ireland spearheaded the Theosophical Society.
8. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan gave the message of Muslims to be faithful to the Britishers.
9. Dada Bhai Nauroji unveiled the British economic Conspiracy in the book titled Poverty and Unbritish Rule in India .

10. The British Government implemented the Vernacular Press Act in 1879.

11. A famine in South India was observed from 1876 to 78. At that time, Lord Lytton organized a grand ceremony in the honor of Queen Victoria and shed millions of rupees in water.

12. Savarkar called the freedom struggle of 1857 as the first freedom struggle of India.

13. Retired English AO Hume (18 December 1885) along with 72 political activists,formed the Congress.

14. Initially, the purpose of the Indian National Congress was to calm down the gross dissent that flourished against the Britishers in India. It was a type of safety valve.

15. Gandhiji made his entry into Indian politics in 1913

Important Questions

Objective questions

1. Who is called the Father of Indian Cultural Renaissance?
 - (A) Rajaram Mohan Rai
 - (B) Swami Vivekananda
 - (C) Swami Dayanand
 - (D) Madam Blattashki
2. When was the Ramkrishna Mission founded-
 - (A) 1893
 - (B) 1895
 - (C) 1875
 - (D) 1896
3. When was Arya Samaj founded -
 - (A) 10 April 1875
 - (B) 6 April 1883
 - (C) August 22, 1857
 - (D) 2 April 1902
4. Who founded the Congress?

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
- (B) A.O. Hume
- (C) Pattabhisita Maiya
- (D) Dada Bhai Naoroji

5. Who initiated the Aligarh movement?

- (A) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (B) Vivekananda
- (C) Sarsaied Ahmed
- (D) Moh Alijna

6. Which organization was Annie Vecent associated-

- (A) Brahmo Samaj
- (B) Theosophical Society
- (C) Arya Samaj
- (D) Ramakrishna Mission

Very Short questions

1. When was the Congress formed?
2. When did the Quit India Movement start?
3. Where was the Congress formed ?

Short questions

1. Describe the works of the Brahma Samaj.
2. What do you understand by the Atlantic Charter?
3. Write the names of leaders of the moderate and extremist ideology.

4. Provide information about Lord Linton's oppressive policies.

5. Mention any of the three major movements started by Mahatma Gandhi.

6. Explain the emergence of the Indian National Congress.

7. How did Mrs. Annie Basent influence the Indian mass.

8. What do you understand by the Vernacular Press Act?

9. What were the views of Veer Savarkar about the Revolt of 1857?

10. What major global factors contributed to the end of British rule?

Essay type question

1. Write a note on the causes of the downfall of the British rule in India.
2. Explain the Ilbert Bill dispute.
3. What was the effect of the freedom struggle of 1857?
4. How did the British exploit India economically?
5. What contribution did the literature and news-papers make in the downfall of the British rule?

Answers (Objective Questions) :

1. (A) 2. (D) 3. (A) 4. (B)
5. (C) 6. (B)