

Chapter 2: Growth of Nationalism

'Nationalism' refers to the feeling of oneness and common consciousness that emerges when people living in a common territory share the same historical, political and cultural background, have the same language, cultural values and consider them as one nation.

➤ Factors promoting growth of nationalism:

1. Economic exploitation: of all sections of society like peasants, artisans and craftsmen, working class, educated Indians. These people felt that their economic salvation lay in freeing themselves from the British rule.
2. Repressive Colonial policies: followed by the British- like Vernacular Press Act 1878, Indian Arms Act 1879, Organising Grand Delhi Durbar 1877, reducing the maximum age limit for Indian Civil Service Exam and Ilbert Bill 1883. These repressive colonial policies acted as a stimulus to political agitation and quickened the pace of Indian nationalism.
3. Socio-Religious Reform Movements: launched by reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy, Jyotiba Phule, swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda to abolish caste system, child marriage, dowry system, purdah, sati, infanticide, religious superstitions, idolatry, polytheism and hereditary priesthood. These reform movements drew their inspiration from India's heritage and promoted a feeling of pan-Indianism and a spirit of nationalism.
4. Rediscovery of India's past: by nationalist leaders, reformers and some European scholars helped to restore peoples' confidence and to counter western propoganda that Indians were destined to be ruled by foreigners.
5. Influence of western Education: introduced by the British in India provided opportunities for assimilation of modern western ideas of democracy and nationalism. It provided a common language, unified the people of India belonging to different regions and inspired them to work for the freedom of the country.

6. Role of the Press: It created an awareness among the Indians and developed a strong national sentiment.
 7. Dev't of rapid means of transport and communication: It unified the country and enabled the Indians to come in contact with one another and discuss the problems facing the country.
 8. Administrative and economic unification of India: This brought the whole country under one government with uniform system of law and development of trade and industries on an all-India scale.
- Political Associations and their Objectives:
1. East India Association, 1866, by Dadabhai Naoroji: to voice the grievances of Indians and place the true state of affairs in India before the people of England.
 2. Indian Association, 1876, by Surendranath Banerjee: to integrate Indians on the basis of common political interests, create a strong body of public opinion and promote friendly relations between Hindus and Muslims.
 3. Indian National Conference, 1883, by Surendranath Banerjee: to work for the welfare of Indians.
 4. Indian National Congress, 1885, by A.O. Hume: to promote friendly relations between nationalist political workers, to formulate popular demands and present them before the government and train and organise public opinion in the country.
- Short Answer Questions:
1. Name any two Western scholars who researched on India's glorious past. > Ans: Sir William Jones and Max Mueller
 2. Why was the feeling of 'nationalism' lacking among the Indians before the arrival of the British? > Ans: Indians had their loyalty to their king or kingdom. But the style of British rule and the clash of interests of Indians and the British brought Indians under one umbrella.
 3. Mention the popular 'watchwords' during the French Revolution which influenced Indians due to introduction of the western Education. > Ans: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

4. Mention two reasons that led to the political unity of India under the British. > Ans: a) spread of English language b) development of rapid means of transport and communication.
5. Why were the educated Indians dissatisfied with the British?> Ans: a) the only available job opportunity was government service, but the competition was very tough. b) They expected that British capitalism would help to develop India's productive forces but found that the British were keeping India economically backward and draining India's wealth to England.
6. Mention two ways in which the socio-religious reform movements contributed to the onset of Indian Nationalism. > Ans: a) The reform movements drew their inspiration from India's cultural heritage and promoted a feeling of a pan-Indianism and a spirit of nationalism. b) The reform movement fought for individual liberty and social equality and protested against the British domination of India.
7. Why was the Vernacular Press Act resented by the Indians? >Ans: a) It forbade vernacular papers to publish any material that might incite the people against the British Government. b) The act was not applicable to English newspapers.
8. What were the provisions of the Indian Arms Act of 1897? > Ans: a) It made it a criminal offence for Indians to carry arms without license. b) The act was not applicable to the British.
9. Name any two prominent newspapers of the 19th century which aroused the spirit of nationalism among the Indians. >Ans: The Amrit Bazar Patrika b) The Hindu
10. Mention any two examples to show that the British followed the policy of economic exploitation in India. >Ans: a)The British exported raw materials from India to feed their industries in England and their finished products were dumped into Indian market)The British took away wealth from India in the form of salaries, income and savings of Englishmen.
11. How did the famines alienate the goodwill of Indians from the British? >Ans: a) Organisation of the Grand Durbar in 1877 to proclaim Queen Victoria as the Emperor of India and spent lakhs of rupees on the event ignoring the people hit by the famines. b) The

British demanded exorbitant land tax and non payment of it led to eviction from their land. c) The British did not spend the land revenue on improving agriculture.

12. What role did the Press play in the growth of national movement?

>Ans: a) It spread the message of patriotism and modern ideas of liberty, freedom, equality, home rule etc. b) It criticised the unjust policies of the British government.

13. Who repealed the Vernacular Press Act in 1881? >Ans: Repealed by Lord Ripon in 1881.

14. What was the objective of the Ilbert Bill? Why it was not passed?

>Ans: Sir C.P. Ilbert, the law Member of the Viceroy's Council, sought to allow Indian Session Judges to try Europeans accused of crimes. It aimed to do away with racial prejudice which was prevalent in the judiciary in the sense that the Indian judges could not take up cases against Europeans accused of crimes. The bill could not be passed as it was strongly opposed by the British as they saw it as an attack on the special privilege enjoyed by them.

15. Mention any two associations acted as the predecessors of the Indian National Congress. > Ans: a) Indian national Conference b) Indian Association.

16. Why did Lord Dufferin favour the formation of the Indian national congress? > Ans: Because he wanted it to act as a 'safety-valve' for the popular discontent against the British in India and thus safeguarded the British interest.

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N.B. The study material is not a substitute for text book.