

## **I: RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY (1772 – 1833)**

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### **EARLY LIFE**

- Born in Radhanagar, Hooghly District, Bengal Presidency in May 1772 into a Bengali Hindu family.
- He is known as the 'Father of Modern India' or 'Father of the Bengal Renaissance'.
- He was a religious and social reformer.
- Widely known for his role in the abolition of the practice of Sati.
- He was a scholar and knew Sanskrit, Persian, Hindi, Bengali, English and Arabic.
- He fought against the perceived ills of Hindu society at that time.
- Propagated Western education among Indians.
- Formed the Brahma Samaj in 1828.
- Worked for the East India Company as a clerk.
- He died in September 1833 in Bristol, England.

### **CONTRIBUTION**

- He was opposed to Sati, polygamy, child marriage, idolatry, the caste system, and propagated widow remarriage.
- He stressed on rationalism and modern scientific approach.
- He believed in social equality of all human beings.
- He started many schools to educate Indians in Western scientific education in English.
- He was against the perceived polytheism of Hinduism. He advocated monotheism as given in the scriptures.
- He studied Christianity and Islam as well.
- He translated the Vedas and five of the Upanishads into Bengali.
- He started the Sambad Kaumudi, a Bengali weekly newspaper which regularly denounced Sati as barbaric and against the tenets of Hinduism.
- In 1828, he founded the Brahma Sabha which was later renamed Brahma Samaj. He had also founded the Atmiya Sabha.
- Brahma Samaj's chief aim was the worship of the eternal god. It was against priesthood, rituals and sacrifices. It focused on prayers, meditation and reading of the scriptures.
- It was the first intellectual reform movement in modern India where social evils then practised were condemned and efforts made to remove them from society.
- It led to the emergence of rationalism and enlightenment in India which indirectly contributed to the nationalist movement.
- The Brahma Samaj believed in the unity of all religions.
- He worked for the improvement in the position of women. He advocated widow remarriage and education of women.
- His efforts led to the abolition of Sati in 1829 by Lord William Bentinck, the then Governor-General of India.
- He was a true humanist and democrat.
- He also spoke against the unjust policies of the British government especially the restrictions on press freedom.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy and his Brahma Samaj played a vital role in awakening Indian society to the pressing issues plaguing society at that time and also was the forerunner of all social, religious and political movements that happened in the country since.

- He visited England as an ambassador of the Mughal king Akbar Shah II (father of Bahadur Shah) where he died of a disease. He was awarded the title ‘Raja’ by Akbar II.

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## II: RANJIT SINGH.

- **Lion of the Punjab**, (born November 13, 1780, Budrukhan, or Gujranwala [now in Pakistan]—died June 27, 1839, Lahore [now in Pakistan]), founder and maharaja (1801–39) of the Sikh kingdom of the Punjab.
- Ranjit Singh was the first Indian in a millennium to turn the tide of invasion back into the homelands of the traditional conquerors of India, the Pashtuns (Afghans), and he thus became known as the Lion of the Punjab. At their height, his domains extended from the Khyber Pass in the northwest to the Sutlej River in the east and from the Kashmir region at the northern limit of the Indian subcontinent southward to the Thar (Great Indian) Desert. Although he was uneducated, he was a shrewd judge of people and events, free from religious bigotry, and was mild in the treatment of his adversaries.

### **Consolidation of territory and later career**

- Ranjit Singh then turned his ambitions in other directions. In December 1809 he went to the aid of Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra in the Lesser Himalayas (in what is now western Himachal Pradesh state) and, after defeating an advancing Gurkha force, acquired Kangra for himself. In 1813 he joined a Bārakzay Afghan expedition into Kashmir. Although the Bārakzays betrayed him by keeping Kashmir for themselves, he more than settled scores with them by rescuing Shah Shojā‘—brother of Zamān Shah, who had been deposed as Afghan king in 1803 and had fled from the Bārakzays—and by occupying the fort at Attock on the Indus River, southeast of Peshawar, the Pashtun citadel. Shah Shojā‘ was taken to Lahore and pressured into parting with the famous Koh-i-noor diamond. In the summer of 1818 Ranjit Singh’s troops captured the city of Multan, and six months later they entered Peshawar. In July 1819 he finally expelled the Pashtuns from the Vale of Kashmir, and by 1820 he had consolidated his rule over the whole Punjab between the Sutlej and Indus rivers.
- All Ranjit Singh’s conquests were achieved by Punjabi armies composed of Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus. His commanders were also drawn from different religious communities, as were his cabinet ministers. In 1820 Ranjit Singh began to modernize his army, using European officers—many of whom had served in the army of Napoleon I—to train the infantry and the artillery. The modernized Punjabi army fought well in campaigns in the North-West Frontier (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan, on the Afghanistan border), including quelling an uprising by tribesmen there in 1831 and repulsing an Afghan counterattack on Peshawar in 1837.
- In October 1831 Ranjit Singh met with British officials regarding the disposition of Sindh province (now in southeastern Pakistan). The British, who had already begun to navigate the Indus River and were eager to keep Sindh for themselves, prevailed on Ranjit Singh to accept their plan. Ranjit Singh, however, was chagrined by the British design to put a cordon around him. He opened negotiations with the Afghans and sanctioned an expedition

led by the Dogra commander Zorawar Singh that extended Ranjit Singh's northern territories into Ladakh (a region of eastern Kashmir now in Jammu and Kashmir state, India) in 1834.

- In 1838 he agreed to a treaty with the British viceroy Lord Auckland to restore Shah Shojā' to the Afghan throne at Kabul. In pursuance of that agreement, the British Army of the Indus entered Afghanistan from the south, while Ranjit Singh's troops went through the Khyber Pass and took part in the victory parade in Kabul. Shortly afterward, Ranjit Singh was taken ill, and he died at Lahore in June 1839—almost exactly 40 years after he entered the city as a conqueror. In little more than six years after his death, the Sikh state he had created collapsed because of the internecine strife of rival chiefs.

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### **III: INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AND ERA OF MODERATES**

#### **Foundation & Pre-political organization**

- Indian National Congress was formed on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1885 by A.O.Hume.
- The first Congress session was held at Gokuldas Tejpal College, Bombay and W.C. Banerjee was elected as its President, A.O. Hume was General Secretary.
- 72, members were attended the first session.
- 9 resolutions were passed.

#### **Pre-Political Organization.**

- Land Holder's Society- Bombay, 1837
- The British Indian Association- Calcutta, 1843
- The Madras Native Association- Madras, 1852
- The Deccan Association, 1852, Poona
- Poona Sarvajanik Sabha-1870
- Indian Association- Calcutta, 1876
- Madras Mahajana Sabha, 1884

#### **Objectives of Indian National Congress during Moderate's period.**

- The promotion of personal intimacy and friendship amongst the countrymen
- To relish the opinions of educated classes on day to day problems.
- To remove the prejudices relating to race, creed or provinces.
- National unity
- Future course of action in the public interest.
- To fulfill Indian demands through the following method.
- PPP- petition, prayer and protest.

#### **Demands of Moderates (1885 to 1907)**

- Enlargement of Governor General's Council with more Indian representation.
- Reduction in Salt Tax.
- Reduction in Defence budget.
- Revival of Indian textile industry.
- Replacement of English officers by Indian officials.

- Freedom for press
- Reduction of Burden of tax and rent on land.
- Protections of peasants from the oppression of land lords.
- Competitive exams to be held in India.
- To safeguard the interests on Indian living in abroad.
- Separation of Judiciary from Executive.
- Setting up of rural bank.
- Inclusion of Indians in high post.
- Setting up of more military colleges in India.

### **Early Nationalist Leaders**

- Dadabhai Naoroji
- Pheroz Shah Mehta
- Badruddin Tyabji
- Ramesh Chandra Dutta
- Surendra Nath Banerjee
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- Mahadev Govind Ranade
- Anand Mohan Bose.
- Moti Lal Ghosh.
- Anand Mohan Bose.
- Madan Mohan Malaviya
- G. Subramanya Iyer.

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## **IV: ERA OF EXTRIMISM**

### **Causes of the Rise of Extremism**

- Policies of Lord Curzon who treated Congress as a seditious organization.
- Partition of Bengal (1905)
- Russo-Japanese war 1905
- Russian Revolution- 1907.
- Anti-peoples policy of the British Government
- Method of Moderate leaders agitation.
- Economic exploitation of British.
- Rise of leaders like Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Aurabindo Ghosh and Lala Lajpat Rai.

### **Difference between Moderates and Extremists**

<b>Believed in loyalty of the English.</b>	<b>British rule in India was a curse and they did not believe in the loyalty of the English.</b>
Adopted constitutional methods	Extremists were convinced that constitutional agitation will lead them nowhere.
Believed in reasoned and emotional appeals, irresistible statements of facts.	Believed in the policy of passive resistance

Believed in a policy of conciliation and compromise.	Did not bother about the petty concessions. Swaraj was the final remedy.
Depended for their success on the goodwill and sympathy of the Englishmen	They believed that the people of India were the masters of their own destiny and not any foreign power.
They would get what they asked for without any sufferings.	The solvation of India was not possible without sufferings and self sacrifices.

