

I: SWADESHI MOVEMENT (1905-19011)

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1. This was a comprehensive movement that lasted 6 years.
2. Although this was regarded as a cultural movement celebrating the rich harvest of history- the rich traditions like folk music, paintings, the culture of Bengal was highlighted. But very soon, it got integrated with the political upheavals that followed after the partition of Bengal. Krishna Kumar Mitra, in his newspaper, 'Sanjivani' highlighted the prospects of national education and 'Economic Swadeshi'.
3. Very soon, this movement started gaining momentum with the help of the entire Bengali middle-class intelligentsia.
4. After the partition of Bengal, the Swadeshi movement got a big boost, because of the integration of the boycott movement with the Swadeshi movement.
5. Tilak called this movement "Bahishkar *Yoga*" and most of the Bengali intelligentsia that was initially not in favour of the boycott movement got integrated with the Swadeshi movement.
6. This was primary learning for the national movement. According to Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Lala Lajpat Rai, it was training in 'self-determination', 'self-help', and 'self-reliance'.
7. In fact, the Swadeshi movement can be called as a nursery of the further course that the Indian National Movement was to take. The programmes and ideas that were practised during the Swadeshi movement became the hallmark of the Gandhian movement as well.
8. Surendranath Bannerjee said that it is a 'protectionist movement'. And that it 'generates the material prosperity of the masses'.
9. Very soon, the Swadeshi movement spread to different parts of India, like Bihar, U.P., C.P., Bombay and Madras.
10. Radicalism also became a part of the Swadeshi movement after the partition of Bengal. After the partition of Bengal, industrial strikes became the hallmark of the Swadeshi movement.
11. There were strikes carried out in various cotton and jute factories of Bengal. Railway workers also went on strike. The Burnpur mill also went on strike.
12. But, the context of the anti-partition movement made it a very aggressive movement.

Problems with the Swadeshi Movement

1. But the problem with the Swadeshi movement was that it was not properly directed and it failed to unite the Hindus and Muslims because of the work of Nawab Salimullah of Dhaka and the establishment of the Muslim league.

2. The demand of separate electorates became an issue to seek political mileage for the Muslims. Thus, the Swadeshi movement lacked having a large mass-base. The grievances of the peasants were not at all taken into consideration- such as lack of uniformity of the land revenue system, rights of the tenants, prevention of land grabbing, were not taken up by the Swadeshi movement, and thus the peasants did not become a part of the Swadeshi movement.

3. But, overall, the period of 1903-1908, the partition of Bengal served as a catalyst for the Swadeshi Movement.

Context of various Scholars:

1. Surendranath Bannerjee said that it is a 'protectionist movement'. And that it 'generates the material prosperity of the masses'.

2. R.C. Majumdar opined that the Swadeshi Movement brought the realm of the national movement from 'theory to absolute practicality'.

3. Sumit Sarkar, a modern historian, said that one of the remarkable features of the Swadeshi movement was to 'shape the life of the people' which directed till 1947.

Note:

1. The Swadeshi Movement anticipated the movements which were later started by Gandhi.

2. The Non-cooperation movement, the Civil Disobedience movement which was labelled as a 'constructive boycott', had its genesis in the Swadeshi movement itself.

3. Even G.K. Gokhale who had firm opposition to the ideas of boycott accepted the programmes of Swadeshi in the Swadeshi Movement. Thus the Swadeshi movement brought many streams of nationalism together under one political platform. This, later on, found expression in the mass-politics of Gandhi. Therefore, the Swadeshi movement was very short-lived, it had a great impact on Indian Nationalism.

II: MUSLIM LEAGUE

On 30 December 1906, the All-India Muslim League (AIML), popularly known as the Muslim League was founded in Dhaka, British India (now in Bangladesh).

Background

- The communal idea that the Muslims are a separate nation was sown into the Indian political ethos first by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a philosopher and Muslim reformist.
- Although he wanted Muslims to get educated and think in a scientific temper, he suggested aligning with the British rather than rebel against them, as most beneficial for the

community. He had founded the Muhammadan Educational Conference in 1886 but this organisation stayed away from politics and desisted from even discussing it as per its own code.

- On 30 December 1906, around 3000 delegates attended a conference of the Muhammadan Educational Conference at Dhaka in which the ban on politics was removed and a motion was moved to form the AIML. The name was proposed by Nawab Khawaja Sir Salimullah Bahadur and seconded by Hakim Ajmal Khan.
- The AIML was the first Muslim political party of India.
- The idea was that the Congress Party was only catering to the needs of the Hindus. This was an erroneous idea since Congress always meant to include every community of the country and had many Muslim leaders as members.
- The founders of the Muslim League were: Khwaja Salimullah, Vikar-ul-Mulk, Syed Amir Ali, Syed Nabiullah, Khan Bahadur Ghulam and Mustafa Chowdhury.
- The first Honorary President of the League was Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah (Aga Khan III).
- The AIML was essentially a party of educated elite Muslims, at least in the beginning.
- The party's chief aim was to promote and secure civil rights for Muslims. It espoused loyalty to the British government as a means to achieve more political and civil rights.
- The objectives of the league were:
 - To create among Muslims the feelings of loyalty towards the British Government.
 - To safeguard the political rights of the Muslims and to convey the same to the government.
 - To prevent the rise of prejudice against other communities of India among the Muslims.
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah joined the league in 1913.
- When the Congress party was opposed to the government and fighting for the gradual establishment of an independent India, the league propounded loyalty to the government. They, in fact, provided the government with a tool to fight the growing nationalism in the country.
- Even though partition of the country was not on the minds of Indian Muslims in the early years of the league, it came into the picture after 1930. Leaders of the league began the propaganda that Hindus and Muslims are not one nation and have separate cultures and identities although they have been cohabitating for centuries.
- In 1940, Jinnah gave a speech in Lahore in which he talked of the impossibility of living as one nation. In response to this, some members of the league who were opposed to the Two-Nation Theory broke away from the party and formed the All-India Jamhur Muslim League (AIJML). The AIJML later merged with the Congress party.
- In 1937, the Muslim League was not able to form the government in any province in the provincial elections held that year as per the Government of India Act. Even in the 125 non-general constituencies out of which 59 were reserved for Muslims, the Congress managed to win 25 seats with 15 seats coming from the Muslim dominated North-West Frontier Province.
- In 1939, the Congress ministries resigned following the viceroy's declaration that made India a party to the Second World War. The league urged Muslims to celebrate December 22 as Deliverance Day.

- The party, under Jinnah, spearheaded the campaign for Pakistan throughout the 1940s and was successful in its mission of dividing the country. The country was partitioned along communal lines along with independence in 1947.
- The league was dissolved on 14 August 1947. It continues to exist in various forms as political parties in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. In India, the Indian Union Muslim League functions as a political party with its base in Kerala and ironically, aligns itself with the Congress Party.

III: HOME RULE LEAGUE

The Home Rule League movement is an important event in Modern Indian History, and has been an area which has frequently featured in the Civil Services (Mains) and Civil Services (Prelims) Examination over many years now. In this article, we attempt at outlining the important headings under which this topic can be asked in the Civil Services Examination.

Background:

1. From 1907-1915/1916, the Indian National Congress (INC) was dominated by the moderates. It was in a formative stage and was dominated by the politics of Annie Besant, and some moderate leaders like G.K. Gokhale and Pheroze Shah Mehta.
2. Tilak was released from jail in 1914. But the release of Tilak was in no way an automatic reentry of Tilak into the INC, because of the firm opposition from Pheroze Shah Mehta and Gopal Krishna Gokhale. But, the death of **G.K. Gokhale**, and **Pheroze Shah Mehta** in 1915, gave a possibility of the entry of Tilak into the INC. With Annie Besant's help, Tilak was able to reenter the INC.

Factors that Contributed to the establishment of Home Rule League:

1. This was the high-time of the First World War.
2. Unification of extremists and moderates
3. Unification of INC and Muslim League These factors created great enthusiasm in the Indian National Movement. Thus, Annie Besant and Tilak were very positive towards political reforms in India. The Home Rule league was 'self-government' based on the Irish model. Annie Besant and Tilak started this movement.

Comparison between Tilak's Home Rule League and Annie Besant's Home Rule League:

1. Annie Besant started the Home Rule League in September, 1916, and Tilak started it in April 1916.
2. Tilak's movement was confined to Maharashtra and Karnataka. And Annie Besant movement spread to other parts of India.
3. But as far as organization skill is concerned, Tilak's Home Rule League movement was more organized, and there were many volunteers who worked for Tilak.
4. Thus, the number of people who took part in Tilak's movement was much more compared to Annie Besant. Mohammed Ali Jinnah also had the first experience of participating in politics in India by taking part in the Home Rule League of Annie Besant.
5. Annie Besant tried to mobilize participation through the publication of her two newspapers: a) **New India** b) **Commonweal** However, Tilak continued writing in '**Kesari**', '**Mahratta**', and **Young India** to spread the message of the Home Rule League.

Thus the activity of Tilak and Annie Besant were very important to Indian Nationalism. **This period marks the transition from the moderate, or deliberate phase of Indian National politics to the agitational phase started by M.K. Gandhi.** Thus, it had a great impact. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak got the title of 'Loknayak' during the Home Rule League itself.**

The decline of Home Rule League:

1. In 1918, the Home Rule League declined due to many factors.
2. In 1917: **Montford reforms** was presented before the British Parliament. The Montford reforms promised responsible Government in India.
3. It was the Montford reforms that turned Annie Besant 'pro-British'.
4. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** went to England to file a legal suit against **Valentine Chirol**. Valentine Chirol had published, a book, "**Father of Indian Unrest**", in which the Tilak featured as the hero of the title. He blamed Tilak for being responsible for the agitational politics that came to India. Thus Tilak became busy with filing the legal suit against Valentine Chirol.
5. **The advent of Gandhi** who actively took part in Indian politics, gave an opportunity to the Indian youth to get integrated into Gandhian politics, contributed to the decline of the Home Rule League. Nonetheless, it was the Home Rule League that marked the transitional phase between the deliberative and dormant phase of the INC to the mass-based politics of the Gandhian agitation.

IV: ROWLETT ACT OF 1919

The basic facts about the act

- Officially known as the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919.
 - Passed in March 1919 by the Imperial Legislative Council.
 - This act authorised the British government to arrest anybody suspected of terrorist activities.
 - It also authorised the government to detain such people arrested for up to 2 years without trial.
 - It empowered the police to search for a place without a warrant.
 - It also placed severe restrictions on the freedom of the press.
 - The act was passed as per recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee chaired by a judge, Sir Sidney Rowlatt, after whom the act is named.
 - The act was widely condemned by Indian leaders and the public. The bills came to be known as 'black bills'.
 - The act was passed despite unanimous opposition from the Indian members of the council, all of whom resigned in protest. These included Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Madan Mohan Malviya and Mazhar Ul Haq.
 - In response to this act, a nationwide hartal was called by Gandhiji on 6th April. This was called the Rowlatt Satyagraha.
 - The movement was cancelled by Gandhiji when it was marred by rioting in some provinces, particularly in Punjab where the situation was grim.
 - The British government's primary intention was to repress the growing nationalist movement in the country.
 - The British were also afraid of a Ghadarite revolution in Punjab and the rest of the country.
 - Two popular Congress leaders Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew were arrested.
 - The protest was very intense when the act came into effect and the army was called in Punjab to tackle the situation.
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