

INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT UNIT V

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MAHATMA GANDHI

SWARAJ

- ✓ Swaraj of self rule, for Gandhi, is a 'mode of conduct which points out to men the path of their duty', path of control over desires and the path of 'mastery over their minds and passions'
- ✓ It implied an elevation of a personal moral being to limit indulgences and sees happiness as largely a mental condition
- ✓ To achieve this state of Swaraj one has to live a life of simplicity and should not have greed for wealth and power
- ✓ For Gandhi high thinking is not possible unless one stops running after material life.
- ✓ Basically, He wanted create a world where individual followed agricultural labour and lived independently
- ✓ It's role in a highly divided society like India, Swaraj was defined in the following ways
- ✓ National independence
- ✓ Political freedom of the individual
- ✓ Economic freedom of the individual and

Spiritual freedom of the individual or self-rule.

- ✓ In his own words, 'mere withdrawal of the English is not independence. It means the consciousness in the average villages that he is the maker of his own destiny, that he is his own legislator through his own representatives.'
- ✓ The real swaraj, he left, will come not by the acquisition of authority by a few but by the acquisition of
- ✓ the capacity by all to resist authority when abused.
- ✓ Swaraj is to be attained by educating the masses to a sense of their capacity to regulate and control authority.
- ✓ Economic freedom of the individual is the third dimension of Swaraj. Economic swaraj stands for social
- ✓ Justice, it promotes the good of all equally including the weakest, and is indispensable for decent life.

- ✓ For Gandhiji, India's economic future lay in charkha and khadhi
- ✓ If India's villages are to live and prosper, the charkha must become universal
- ✓ Rural civilization, argued Gandhiji, 'is impossible without the charkha and all it implies, i.e., revival of village crafts'.

IDEAL STATE – RAMARAJYA

Group of villages

- ✓ It would be such a civilization where there would be no coercive power and functioned through moral persuasion
- ✓ Gandhi's objective was to make people capable in such a way that they themselves resist evil of world and follow godly qualities
- ✓ It would be society where people were to be guided by the condition of nature, customary rights and duties and belief in god
- ✓ It would be a traditional peasant society using elementary technology, based on subsistence economy and a minimalist state.
- ✓ The life in such ideal village would be completely different from the contemporary villages of his times.
- ✓ The ideal villages will be managed by temporary national representative
- ✓ Temporary because people themselves would become capable and after some period of time they would become so perfect that it would be self-regulated and there would be no need of representative
- ✓ After that it would be a state of anarchy where everyone would be his own ruler
- ✓ Individual will rule himself in such a way that he would never become a problem to his neighbor.
- ✓ So, in this ideal village there would be no political power because there would be no state
- ✓ Every village would be a republic or panchayat, self-sustaining and managing its affairs so that it could be able to defend itself against whole world
- ✓ However, till the time such a state became a reality, the villages could be ruled by the classical concept of Thoreau, which says 'that government is the best which governs the least'
- ✓ Political power could be used for the sake of reforms to enable people to better their condition in every sphere of life.
- ✓ Acquisition and application of political power in the absence of the ability to govern would leave that power futile, as legislation in advance of public opinion is ineffective

RELIGION

- ✓ The religion would transcend Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, etc., and would create an ordered moral government of the universe.
- ✓ Religion and state, however, were to be kept separate.
- ✓ Religion was to be a personal concern of the citizen, with the state having no role to play in it.

- ✓ There was to be no religious teachings in educational institutions aided or recognized by the state.
- ✓ Cities would not be completely vanished
- ✓ Gandhi said 'justice between the town and the village' has to be maintained and balanced
- ✓ Because it was the village which eventually faced burnt of uneven development
- ✓ Only a few key industries which were necessary and could employ large number of people were to be owned by the state.
- ✓ However, industries were not to be forcibly nationalized and the state was not to be involved in running private or business establishments as this was not to be the function of the state.
- ✓ The state's role would be limited to providing necessary infrastructural/technical support required by the people for progress.

GANDHI'S PANCHAYAT

- ✓ This system was developed by Gandhi to decentralized power
- ✓ He used bottom-top system where individual would be the unit of development
- ✓ So Gandhi asked for whole reconstruction of polity where power would be given to a general body
- ✓ This general body would consist of gramsabha to parliament, at different tiers of legislature
- ✓ Every panchayat would have five men or women from the village or persons committed to the development of the village.
- ✓ Two such immediate panchayats were to form a working party under a leader elected from among them.
- ✓ From a group of one hundred such panchayats, fifty leaders were to be elected.
- ✓ In a similar pattern, second grade leaders were to be elected who would supervise the work of the first grade leaders.
- ✓ All second grade leaders were to elect whenever they deemed necessary, from among themselves, a chief who was to, during pleasure, regulate and command all the groups.
- ✓ The contemporary parliament and the existing structure of polity was just to facilitate the transition towards the reconstruction of polity.
- ✓ It was to gradually abdicate its contemporary centralized powers to the gramsabha and remain confined to only the functions of defence, currency, international relations and communications.

SATHAGRAHA

- ✓ The word satyagraha is a combination of two words sathya (truth) and agraha (holding)
- ✓ Thus it means 'holding on to truth', and therefore, Truth force.
- ✓ Satyagraha means the exercise of the purest soul-force against all injustice, oppression and exploitation
- ✓ Suffering and trust are attributes of soul-force. Truth is soul or spirit, it is therefore known as soul force.

- ✓ It excludes the use of violence because man is not capable of knowing the absolute truth.
- ✓ It is not the imposition of one's will over others, but it is appealing to the reasoning of the opponent, it is not coercion but it persuasion it means urge for satya or Truth.
- ✓ It is a moral weapon and does not entertain ill-feeling towards the adversary, it is a non violent device and calls upon its user to love his enemy, it does not weaken the opponent but strengthens him morally
- ✓ It is a weapon of the brave and is constructive in its approach.
- ✓ Gandhi recommends several techniques of Satyagraha. The techniques of Satyagraha may take the form of non-co operation, civil disobedience, Hijrat, fasting and strike.

TRUSTEESHIP

- ✓ The main thrust is on treating resources as a public trust with man being the trustee, so that the riches of nature and society are equitably used.
- ✓ The theory was intended to combine the advantages of both capitalism and communism, and to socialize property without nationalizing it.
- ✓ According to Gandhi, all material property was a social trust. The owner was not required to take more than what was needed for a moderately comfortable life.
- ✓ The other members of society who were associated with the property were jointly responsible with the owner for its management and were to provide welfare schemes for all.
- ✓ A person's all earnings belong to society and he/she should know this. He/she is allowed to use his/her earnings for a honourable livelihood. Rest belongs to society/community.

SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

- ✓ Born on Jan23, 1897 and is said to have died on Aug 18, 1945
- ✓ Educated at Ravenshar Collegiate School in Cuttack, Presidency College in Calcutta & University of Cambridge, England
- ✓ He was associated with Indian National Congress, Indian National Army & Forward Bloc.
- ✓ His father's name was Janakinath Bose and mother's name Prabhavati Devi.
- ✓ Bose is also known for beating up his professor as he later made a racist remark on Subhash.
- ✓ Bose qualified the Indian Civil Services Exam but his intense passion for the nationalist cause made him resign and then started his journey to become one of the fiercest enemy of the British Rule in India.
- ✓ Bose met his Austrian wife in Germany Berlin and had a daughter named Anita.

CONTRIBUTION

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION

- ✓ Bose joined the Indian National Congress in 1921
- ✓ He represented a militant, left-wing faction within the Congress party.
- ✓ He was elected twice as the President of the Indian National Congress, (1938 – Haripur and 1939 – Tripuri)
- ✓ Bose who was elected the party's president in 1939, was forced to resign due to differences with Gandhi's supporters.
- ✓ Founded the Forward Bloc in 1939.
- ✓ He was highly influenced by Vivekananda's teachings and considered him as his spiritual Guru.
- ✓ His political mentor was Chittaranjan Das 1943.
- ✓ .

NATIONAL MOVEMENT

- ✓ Civil Disobedience and was put under house arrest.
- ✓ He vehemently opposed the suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement and signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931.
- ✓ Indian National Army; Bose managed to escape to Berlin by way of Peshawar and Afghanistan.
- ✓ He reached Japan and from there to Burma and organized the Indian National Army to fight the British and liberate India with the help of Japan.
- ✓ He had differences with Gandhi and wasn't keen on non-violence as a tool for independence.
- ✓ Bose called the Suspension of Non-Cooperation Movement in the wake of the Chauri-Chaura incident a National Calamity.
- ✓ He advocated complete Swaraj and was in the use of force to gain it.
- ✓ Bose stood for militant nationalism for achieving India's freedom. He reached Japanese-controlled Singapore from Germany in July 1943, issued from there his famous call, 'Delhi Chalo'.
- ✓ Formed the Azad Hind Government and the Indian National Army on 21st October 1943.

AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT

- ✓ The Azad Hind government was established in occupied Singapore on Oct 21, 1943
- ✓ Also known as Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind.
- ✓ It was supported by the Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies.
- ✓ Under his provisional government, the Indians living abroad had been united.
- ✓ Bose was the head of the state, the prime minister and the minister for war and foreign affairs.
- ✓ Captain Lakshmi headed the women's organization.
- ✓ Bose's death was seen as the end to the Azad Hind movement.

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

- ✓ Formed by Indian nationalists and Imperial Japan in 1942 in Southeast Asia during World War II
- ✓ It fought alongside Japanese soldiers in the latter's campaign in the Southeast Asian.
- ✓ Its aim was to secure Indian independence from British rule
- ✓ The INA was first formed in 1942 under Mohan Singh, by Indian power of the British-India Army.
- ✓ Later it was revived under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose after his arrival in Southeast Asia in 1943.
- ✓ The troops of the INA were under the aegis of the Azad Hind Government, which came to produce its own currency, postage stamps, court and civil code
- ✓ The INA had three fighting brigades named after – Gandhi – Azad – Nehru.
- ✓ Later other brigades were raised, namely the Subhash brigade and the Rani Jhansi brigade

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

- ✓ He was born on 14 Nov, 1889 in Allahabad
- ✓ His father Motilal Nehru was a wealthy barrister, Kashmiri Pandit and served twice as President of INC
- ✓ Nehru was the eldest of three children, two of whom were girls
- ✓ The elder sister, Vijay Lakshmi, later became the first female president of UN General Assembly

EDUCATION

- ✓ He described his childhood as a 'sheltered and uneventful one';
- ✓ He grew up in wealthy homes including Anand Bhavan
- ✓ He was educated by private tutors at home.
- ✓ In 1907 he went to Trinity College, Cambridge and graduated in natural science
- ✓ In 1910, he moved to London and studied law at Inner Temple Inn
- ✓ During this period he was influenced from Fabianism thinkers like B. Shaw and Webb
- ✓
- ✓ AS A ADVOCATE
- ✓ In Aug, 1912, he started practicing advocacy in Allahabad High Court
- ✓ However, he was not successful like his father in legal practice due to lack of interest

INDIAN POLITICAL AND NEHRU

- ✓ By the time was in Britain, he had developed the interest in Indian Politics
- ✓ Within month of his return to India in 1912, He attended the annual session of INC in Patna
- ✓ Congress in 1912 was the party of moderates and elites
- ✓ He was influenced by Gandhi's activities in South Africa

- ✓ He did not like GK Gokhale's moderate politics who said that it 'was madness to think of independence'
- ✓ He was influenced by Home Rule League movement (1916-17) initiated by Tilak and Annie Besant
- ✓ In 1920, he participated in Non-Cooperation movement and led the movement in UP
- ✓ Chauri Chaura incident led to closure of movement by Gandhi
- ✓ Few congress leders got dissatisfy with Gandhi's move
- ✓ Motilal Nehru and CR Das formed their new own party i.e. Swaraj Party in 1923
- ✓ Bur JL Nehru did not join his father and remain loyal to Gandhi

BACKGROUND OF PURNA SWARAJ

- ✓ In Nov 1927, British government appointed the Simon Commission to review the working of GOI Act 1919 AND PURPOSE CONST REFORMS
- ✓ Because the commission did not have a single Indian member were nationwide protest
- ✓ In Dec 1927 Madras session of Congress, two decisions were taken;
- ✓ Boycotting the Simon Commission, Set up of All parties conference to draft a constitution of India
- ✓ The Conference, on 19 May 1928, constituted a committee to draft the Constitution.
- ✓ Motilal Nehru was the Chairman of the committee
- ✓ The committee submitted its report to the All Parties Conference in August 1928.
- ✓ This report came to be known as Nehru Report
- ✓ In this report congress demanded dominion status for India within British empire
- ✓ In Irwin Declaration of 31 Oct 1929, Lord Irwin declared dominion status of India without mentioning the date

Neither the Simon commission nor the Irwin declaration could satisfy congress

- ✓ However the Nehru report was passed by Congress in its Calcutta session of Dec 1928
- ✓ Meanwhile in April 1928, the 'Independence of India League' was formed with Jawahar Lal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose as Secretaries and S.Srinivasa Iyengar as President.
- ✓ The Congrewss session at Calcutta marked an almost split among the leaders who wanted dominion and leaders who wanted complete Independence.

DEMANDING PURNA SWARAJ

- ✓ Ultimately it was resolved that if the British parliament accepts the Nehru report by 31 Dec 1929, Congress would adopt the report as it is
- ✓ Or else will demand complete independence
- ✓ On 19 Dec 1929, Congress in its Lahore session passed the historic 'Purna Swaraj' resolution.
- ✓ One year deadline passed, there was no response from British government

EMERGING NATIONAL LEADER

- ✓ On the midnight of Dec 31, 1929, Jawhar Lal Nehru unfurled the Flag of India's independence on the bank of River Ravi in Lahore.
- ✓ CWC met on Jan 2, 1930 and on that it was decided that last Sunday of Jan should be observed as Poorna Swaraj Day
- ✓ And coincidentally it was Jan 26, Nehru gradually emerged as paramount leader of Indian Independence movement
- ✓ In 1936 despite opposition he was chosen as President of Lucknow session

NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH GOVT

- ✓ During the Second World War Nehru supported the British government on certain conditions like full independence, Const Assembly to frame constitution etc.
- ✓ For the purpose of this, Cripps mission was constituted in 1942
- ✓ Sir Stafford Cripps was the friend of Nehru, But he fails to give any satisfactory promise to India leaders
- ✓ Congress under the leadership of Gandhi declined his proposal and instead launched Quit Indian movement in 1942

DAWN OF BRITISH RULE

- ✓ Nehru was arrested with along other leaders, they were released prior to the arrival of the Cabinet Mission to India in 1946
- ✓ The agreed plan led to elections of the provincial assemblies where congress won majority of seats
- ✓ Nehru headed the interim government as the PM
- ✓ He took office as the Prime Minister of India on 15 Aug and delivered his inaugural address titled 'Tryst with Destiny'
- ✓ He was awarded Bharat Ratna in 1955
- ✓ He remained unchallenged leader for 18 years, he died in 1964

BHAGAT SINGH

- ✓ Bhagat Singh, was born in 1907 in the Lyallpur district of Punjab Province.
- ✓ His birth coincided with the release of his father and two uncles, Ajit Singh and Swaran Singh, from jail.
- ✓ In 1923, Singh joined the National College in Lahore, where he also participated in extra-curricular activities like the dramatics society.
- ✓ He founded the Indian socialist youth organization Naujawan Bharat Sabha in March 1926. He also joined the Hindustan Republican Association
- ✓ 23 March 1931 we like any other day in Lahore jail. Warden charat singh was very close to Bhagat Singh and other prisoners. He was very caring and humble.
- ✓ Prisoners were devastated on hearing the sentence of Bhagat Singh and comrades. Bhagat Singh read various books and he was very much inspired by Lenin.

- ✓ We shall meet soon were the last word of Rajguru, Sukhdev and Bhagat Singh hugged each other, kissed the rope and hanged everybody was moved and cried agt that moment.
- ✓ But the jail authorities didn't treat them well and threw their bodies on the bank of Sutlej river however bodie were discovered by villagers and proper cremation of heroes was made

JOURNEY OF A HERO

- ✓ He was very from his early childhood. He became a member of HRA in 1924 devastated by non-cooperation movement
- ✓ In 1927 he was first arrested in Kakori case. There was also a vacuum period after non cooperation and then the revoliutionary grew.
- ✓ Ideology was totally against the Congress however Nehru and Gandhi did not criticize Bhagat Singh.
- ✓ Bhagat Singh also opposed dominion Independence and demanded poorna swaraj that is total independence
- ✓ In 1928 the British government set up the Simon Commission to report on the Political situation in India. Some Indian political parties boycotted the commission because there no Indians in its membership.
- ✓ When the commission visited Lahore on 30 Oct 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai led a march in protest against it. The superintendent of police, James Scott, ordered the police to lathi charge. Rai died of a heart attack on Nov 1928.
- ✓ HSRA decided to avenge the death of lala lajpt Rai and made the whole kplan but accidently they killed John P. Saunders, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, as he was leaving the District Police Headquarters in Lahore on 17 Dec 1928
- ✓ On 19 Dec 1928, Sukhdev called on Durgawati Devi for help, which she agreed to provide. They decided to catch the train departing from Lahore to Bathinda en route to Howrach early the next morning and escaped

ANYTHING FOR THE COUNTRY

- ✓ Bhagat Singh rented a house in Agra and left Calcutta. Further strategies of HSRA were planned from this house.
- ✓ Bhagat Singh was a very emotional person. He always believed that a man should not be devoid of feelings.
- ✓ He thought that there is no political party or organization at present which could spark the revolution except Ghadar party
- ✓ He also was totally against the Hindu Muslim hatred and considered them one.

