

History Class Notes

Indian National Congress

Moderate Phase Of The Indian National Congress (1885 – 1905)

Objectives and Demands

1. Expansion of the Legislative Council
2. Inclusion of Indians in the Executive Council
3. Reduction of taxes
4. Checking Drain of Wealth (First mentioned by Dadabhai Naroji in “Poverty and UnBritish Rule in India”)
5. Reduction on expenditure on Army and utilizing the same amount for the Public
6. Indianisation of Civil Services Exam
 - To conduct the exam in India also
 - Increase in the maximum age limit
 - Exam syllabus common to all

Reasons for not demanding Swaraj (Independence) or Purna Swaraj (Complete Independence)

- Leaders of INC during this phase had faith in the British system
- The movement was in its early stages and was a restricted in nature
- It was not a mass movement

Methodology or Style of Functioning

1. Peaceful assembly in the last 3 days of the year
2. Election of President by consensus and voting
3. Discussion of Important National and local issues
4. Passing and adoption of resolution through consensus and voting
5. Resolution presented to the government in form of petitions or request
6. The style of writing these petitions was humble and soft
7. This was an approved and Legal method as prescribed by the government

Achievements

1. These 20 years resulted in creation of an all India Political Base
2. Support for the Party increased from 72 in 1885 to few lakh in 1905
3. Politicization of Local issues as National Issues gave a feeling of Nationalism
4. Various issues were discussed and the government was put under pressure resulting in reforms like 1892 Indian Council Act which allowed Indians to enter Legislative Assembly

Criticism

1. Confined to urban centers – Bombay, Madras and Calcutta which left the rural part untouched
2. Class and Caste Composition of the party focused only on certain sections of society
 - Most leaders were from the Upper Caste (Brahmins or Kshatriya)
 - Class wise it was dominated by people from upper class like Zamindars, Traders, Lawyers, Doctors, Capitalist etc
 - Peasant class or working class people were not present in the party
3. Communist Party called INC a Bourgeoisie Party or the Middle Class Party
4. From 1893, Nationalism was linked to symbols of Hinduism which alienated the Muslims and people from other religion
5. INC failed to address the grievances of the minority
6. Number of women members in the party was very low

Partition of Bengal

Reasons for Partition (16 Oct 1905)

Lord Curzon was the brain behind this partition but by the time actual partition took place, Lord Minto II had replaced Lord Curzon as the Viceroy.

British Government Explanation

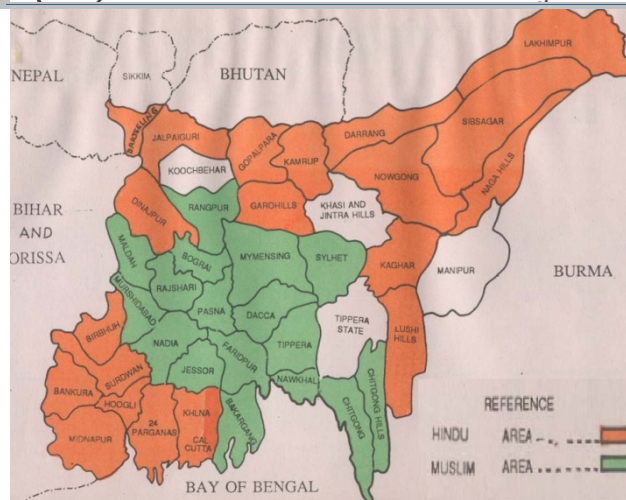
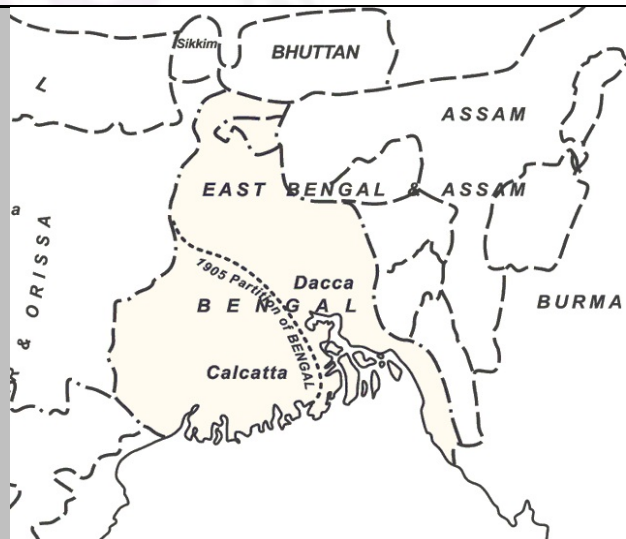
1. Bengal was a very big state
2. Very difficult to manage the administrative work

Nationalist View

1. Divide and Rule Policy as Calcutta was the hub of Nationalistic activities
2. Division of people in terms of religious and linguistic demarcations
3. If ease of administration was the only reason why wasn't Punjab, Bombay or Madras partitioned

Effect of this demarcation

1. Created divide amongst residents in terms of Hindu and Muslim religion
2. Created a divide in within Hindi, Oriya & Bengali speaking population
3. Changed the Fusion to Fission Culture i.e. from collective thinking to individualism or community ideology



Swadeshi Movement (After-effects of Partition of Bengal)

- People came out on street to protest against decision of partition.
- They assembled at Town Hall and formed **Swadeshi Banhav Samiti** which propagated swadeshi goods and services
- Local industries like textile, paper, glass flourished during this period
- Teachers and students boycotted English schools
- Lawyers resigned from the bar councils and Panchayats started hearing the grievances of people
- Services of barber, milkman, vegetable vendors etc were stopped to the English colonies. This depicted Social boycott.

Features of Swadeshi movements

1. It was the **First Movement under the Indian National Congress**.
2. **Class composition** of the movement was everyone from the high class to low class due to which it was not only an elitist movement.
3. **Mobilization of masses** was done by the leaders using religious symbols and organizing festivals which led to alienation of religious minority.

Moderates v/s Extremists

The leaders of Indian National Congress were divided in the ideology and style of functioning which led to split between these factions of Congress

	Moderates	Extremists
1	Believed and practiced through legal means	Practiced boycott and mass movement
2	Wanted changes in the system but not Swaraj	Demanded Swaraj and mass mobilisation
3	Leaders were:- • Dadabhai Naroji • Gopal Krishna Gokhale • Feroz Shah Mehta • Surendranath Banerjee	Leaders were:- • Aurobindo Ghosh • Lal Bahadur Shastri • Bal Gangadhar Tilak • Bipin Chandra Pal
4	Focus of the movement was only in Bengal	Wanted an all India Movement

Surat Split

- ✚ Refers to the split between the two factions of Congress namely Moderates and Extremists in the Surat Session of the INC.
- ✚ The differences between the two factions became violent for the first time in History.
- ✚ Rash Behari Bose, a moderate leader, became the president of the session and Extremists were expelled from INC
- ✚ This weekend the Nationalist movement between 1907 and 1916. INC's contribution during this period was negligible

Muslim League

- Formed at Dhaka in 1906 by Aga Khan(Not a name but a spiritual post within Shia muslim community)
- Nawab Waqar ul Mulk and Nawab Mohsin ul Mulk were the other notable names in its formation.
- First Phase – 1906 to 1912
 - Led by Elite Muslims
 - Were pro British
- Second Phase – 1913 to 1937
 - Led by Muslim middle class
 - They were Anti – British
- Third Phase – 1937 to 1947
 - Other section of society also joined
 - Became a communal party

Important Leaders were:-

- Muhammad Ali Jinnah
 - Muhammad Ali Jauhar
 - Shaukat Ali
 - Hakim Ajmal Ansari
 - Raja of Mehmoodabad
- They were also members of Congress

Indian Council Act (1909) - Morley Minto Reforms

Morley was the Secretary of the State and Lord Minto was the Viceroy

Provisions of the reforms:-

- ✚ Central Legislative assembly will be expanded to 68 members
- ✚ Direct election for some seats along with nominations for the others
- ✚ Atleast one Indian in the Viceroy's Executive Council
- ✚ Two Indians will be made members of Indian Council office in London
- ✚ **Separate Electorate** for Hindu Zamindars, Chamber of Commerce-Calcutta & Bombay and for Indian Muslims

Delhi Darbar, 1911

- ✚ Was set up to welcome King George V.
- ✚ Decisions taken during this were
 - Annulment of Partition of Bengal but Separation of Bihar & Orissa from Bengal
 - Transfer of capital from Calcutta to Delhi in 1912

1912 Events

- Attempt to assassinate Lord Hardinge II
- Medical Mission sent to Turkey by Dr. M.A. Ansari

1913 events

- Ghadar Party founded in San Francisco by
 - Sohan Singh Bhakna
 - Baba Bhagwan Singh Dhosanji
 - Lala Har Dayal

1914 events

- India was dragged into the world war to fight for the British
- Some INC leaders supported the support in war as they thought British will consider the demands atleast after the war

Lucknow Pact, 1916

- ✚ Congress and Muslim League sessions were held at the same venue
- ✚ **Moderates and Extremists rejoined**
- ✚ Congress and Muslim League agreed to work for Hindu Muslim Unity
- ✚ This relationship helped in various national movements like Non Cooperation, Khilfat Movement
- ✚ Congress agreed not to oppose separate electorate

Home Rule League, 1916

- ✚ Set up by Bal Gangadhar Tilak in April, 1916 in Pune, Maharashtra
- ✚ Annie Besant set up The National Home Rule League in September, 1916 in Bombay and Rest of India
- ✚ It created an environment of patriotism and influenced the youth to join National Movement
- ✚ Leaders who emerged during this period became leaders of the future
- ✚ Swaraj became a household slogan

Practice Questions

1. The INC started on a wrong track. Critically analyze. (150 words)
2. What were the events leading to the setting up of the Home Rule Leagues in India? Did the League succeed in its objectives? (100 words)
3. Discuss the evolution of Muslim League into a party strong enough to dictate terms on the INC. (150 words)
4. Why did the INC not demand Poorna Swaraj from the very beginning? (50 words)
5. Discuss the causes and the effects of the Partition of Bengal in 1905. (150 words)
6. In terms of the freedom movement, what changed between the Surat Split and the Lucknow Pact? (250 words)