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**MAST ER DEGREE IN**

**◆ British Civilization ◆**

**India under the British Colonial Rule and  
the Impact of the Indian Political Parties after  
Independence from 1900 to 2014**

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## **Abstract**

This work examines the British rule in India or India during and after the British colonial rule, and it is divided into three chapters. The first chapter deals with the Indian historical background and how the British colonization could establish its settlement in the subcontinent via trade. Also, it shows the first steps and strategies of the British about how they succeeded to colonize India. The second chapter explains the Indian nationalism which had a great impact not only on the Indian society, but also all over the world. The history of the Indian freedom from the British was dominated by the famous figure Gandhian political strategies which were particularly relevant to this movement which was broadly functioned and they were characterized by democratic policies and basically civil liberation. Also, in this sense this chapter sheds light on how Gandhi led the struggle for the Indian's freedom from the British through non-violent and passive resistance, and how these strategies witnessed many positive changes in the Indian society. India got its independence in the 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. However; it was only the first break of the colonial political control. The third one examines the most important Indian political parties and their struggles of building a new nation after India got its independence and the rise of different factors in many different aspects such as politic, economic, and social aspect by the famous Indian scientist Nehru who gave the best to the Indian people to remain a free and an independent country.

## *Dedications*

*I dedicate this dissertation at the first place to my beloved parents for  
whom I'm forever in debt.*

*To my brothers and sisters,*

*To my dear teachers,*

*To my family and relatives,*

*To my friends and classmates,*

*To all people whom I know.*

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## General Introduction

India was a big country and wealthy to be colonized. It had many different influences throughout its history due to the migration invention or continuous civilization of 5000 years. The Indus valley civilization (3000, BC to 1500 BC) was followed by the Sanskrit-speaking vedic (1500 BC to 500 BC). The post-Asoka empires were followed by the Gupta, Prather Pala, Chaluky, Chola, Pandia Dynasties. Subsequently, around the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Muslims period was established followed by the arrival of the Europeans, mostly British in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Indus valley civilization flourished during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennia BC. It extended into northwest India and Aryan tribes from the northwest infiltrated onto the Indian subcontinent about 1500 BC.

Indians did not appreciate the British rule in India. They lacked equal job opportunities. They were not allowed to advance to high positions in expansion of other nations. Some of those nations or people who influenced India included the Moguls (under the direction of Genghis Khan), the Greeks (Alexander the Great), and the British. India was a wealthy country, economically and culturally up until the British colonization, The European traded with India for spices or cotton textiles, but when the British had colonized the country, the economy declined. That was due in part to exploitation and destruction of India's industries and wealth. Historically, India was an ancient land with a government service. In 1885, a digit of Indian lawyers and professionals formed the Indian National Congress. Members of the organization belonged to various religions and came from all parts of India. The Congress members debated economic and political reforms, the future of India, and ways of Indians to attain equal status with the British.

Some Muslims believed that the Indian National Congress was a Hindu organization aiming for Hindu rule. In 1609, several Muslims leaders were encouraged by the British to form the all-India Muslim league. The members of the organization wanted to give the Muslims a voice in political affair. However, most Muslims continued to support the Indian National Congress.

In 1905, the British divided the state of Bengal into separate Hindu and Muslim sections. Indus protested this action with a boycott of the British goods and series of bombings and shootings. In an effort to stop the violence, the British introduced the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909. Those reforms enlarged the viceroy's executive council to include an



Indian. They also followed Indians to elect representatives to the provincial legislative councils and in 1911 the British reunited Bengal.

In 1914, Britain declared that India was also at war with Germany. Indian troops fought in many parts of the world. In return for support, the British promised more reforms and agreed to have a greater role in political affairs. Nevertheless, protests against the British continued. In March 1919, the British passed the row acts to control protest in India. The acts attempted to restrict the political liberties and rights of Indians, including the right to trial by jury. But, demonstrations against the government increased in response to the acts. On April 13, 1919, thousands of Indians assembled in an enclosed area in Amritsar. Troops entered the meeting place and blocked the entrance. The British commander then ordered the soldiers to open fire on unarmed crowd. They killed about 400 people and injured about 1200. That event called the Amritsar Massacre, proved to be a turning point. From then on, Indians demanded a complete independence from the British. They promised more reforms, but at the same time they tried to crush the independence movement.

By 1920, Mohandas K. Gandhi had become a leader in the Indian Independence Movement and in the Indian National Congress which became the most important Indian political organization. Gandhi convinced the congress to adopt his program of nonviolent disobedience, also known as nonviolent nanco-operation. Gandhi's program asked Indians to boycott the British goods, to refuse paying taxes, to stop using the British schools, courts and government services. As a result, some Indians gave up well-paying jobs that required them to cooperate with the British. Gandhi changed the Indians National Congress from a small party of an educated man to a mass party with millions of followers.

The independence came legally as an act of parliament, but it was the result of a long course of suffering and struggle by the Indian international forces. The condition of the United Kingdom was that the leadership of Gandhi would prepare the nation for an unlimited sacrifice and help the attainment of independence. The constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950, and supplied a legal frame work for the implementation of the socio-economic program of the Indian National Congress and thus gave a meaning and substance freedom of India.

The British political parties had a great impact on the Indian society. English language and western ideas also had some positive impacts on the society. Many reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dishware Chandra Vidyasagar and many others absorbed western ideas of

liberalism, democracy and used them to reform some of the non-humanitarian social and religious practices of the time. Though education did not reach the masses, but some ideas of anti-imperialism, nationalism, social and economic equality took a root through political parties, discussions and debates on public platform and press. The spread of the English language and the western ideas helped the Indians to adopt modern, rational, liberal and patriotic outlook. Therefore, political development and radical social change were a great advantage, those values and goals had been mapped over more than seventy years by the National Movement.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **Indian Historical Background**

## 1- Introduction

India, a country which had been called the golden bird for centuries, was practically robbed by such many rules or invaders, the Indus valley civilization saw its genesis in the holy land now known as India around 2500 BC. The people inhabiting the Indus river valley were thought to be Dravidians, whose descendants later migrated to the south of India. The deterioration of that civilization developed a culture based on commerce and sustained by agriculture trade which could be attributed to the migration of the bucolic Aryan tribes from the northwest frontier into the subcontinent. Those tribes gradually merged with their antecedent cultures to give birth to a new milieu.

The Aryan tribes soon started penetrating the east, flourishing along the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. By 500 BC, the whole of northern India was a civilized land where people had knowledge of iron implements and worked as labours or volunteers. The early political map of India comprised independent states with fluid boundaries, with increasing population and abundance of wealth fueling disputes over these boundaries.

India was transformed by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century into a classical colony; it was a major market for the British manufactures, a big source of raw material and an important field for the investment of the British capital. Its agriculture also was highly taxed for the benefit of imperial interest. Moreover, Transport system, modern mines and industries, foreign trade, banks and insurance companies were all under foreign control, besides Indian economy and social development were completely subordinated to the British economy and social development.

Indian economy was integrated into the world capitalist economy in a subordinate position. The years after 1760, when Britain was developing into the leading developed capitalist country of the world, India was being under developed into becoming the leading back ward.

The colonial era in India began in 1502, when the Portuguese Empire established a sea communication with Asia. One such a sea route to India was discovered by a Portuguese called Vasco Da Gama in 1498 who opened a sea route to India via the southern tip of Africa. The Portuguese traders were the first people who seized ports on the Coast of India. They made many settlements on the west Coast of India. As a result, the English, French,

Portuguese and the Dutch came to India for trade. They also used to spread missionary activities in India.

By the mid 1600, the company had established trading posts or factories in the major Indian cities, such as Bombay and Madras. The British first established a territorial foothold in the Indian subcontinent when the company funded soldiers commanded by Robert Clive defeated Nawab at the battle of Plassey in 1757.<sup>1</sup>

The East India Company founded itself transformed from an association of trades to rulers exercising political sovereignty over a large and unknown land. In 1765, the company gained the right to gather revenues for the sake of the Mongol Empire, in Bengal and Bihar. The beginning of a modern period in the Indian history began with the coming of these European powers to India.<sup>2</sup>

India provided such a platform to Britain to fulfill all their needs. The British officials were provided with the perfect opportunity to establish their hold over the Indian Territories with the strong political control; the British were able to monopolize the trade with India. All these measures helped the British to establish, consolidate and continue their rule over India. Historian Jeff Hay said: “In 1858, The British government took direct control of India and after it dissolved the East India Company”.<sup>3</sup>

## **2- Indian Historical Background**

India had been influenced throughout its history due to the migration or expansion of other nations, Indian's topography shaped a number of vital features of its civilization. The vast Indian subcontinent partially spread from the rest of Asia, and the divisions within the subcontinent made different unities, especially the political unity. Also, the most important agriculture regions are those along the two great rivers, the Indus and Ganges. The Indian civilization was also formed by its formative period, during that period called the Vedic and Epics ages. The Aryan conquerors hunting and gathering people, gradually they came to the term with agriculture, but impressed their own stamp on the culture and the social structure of their new home. The caste system was one of the most unique and complex feature in the

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<sup>1</sup> Thatcher, Oliver. J. “The Age of Revolution.” the Library of Original Sources, Milwaukee University Research Extension co, Vol II, 1907, pp: 59-64.

<sup>2</sup> Hay, Jeff. “The Partition of India.” United State of America: Chelsea House Publisher, 2006, p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> Bayly, C, A. “The New Cambridge History of India.” Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1988, p. 3.

Indian culture. The formative Vedic and Aryan ages included the introduction of the caste system, Sanskrit and many different religions to the Indian civilization.<sup>4</sup>

### **2-1- Religion and Culture in the Indian Society**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, certain social practices like female infanticide, child marriage, sati, polygamy, and a rigid caste system became more prevalent. Those practices were against the human dignities and values. Women were discriminated against at all stages of life and they were the disadvantaged section of the society. They did not have access to any development opportunities to improve their status. Education was limited to a handful of men belonging to the upper castes. The English language in the Indian system of education made the Indian inhabitants write and read. Brahmins had access to the Vedas which were written in Sanskrit. Expensive rituals, sacrifices and practices after birth or death were outlined by the priestly class.<sup>5</sup>

India had different languages, customs and religions. So, religion started having a great role because it was a sensitive subject in India. Religion was an opportunity to create problems between Muslims and Hindus under the theory of division and rule, unfortunately, it was not good. Therefore, the British policy of division and rule led to the division of the country on the basis of religion. The relationship between the Hindus and the Muslims suffered with the British pitching to continue their rule. Hinduism and Buddhism had a great impact on the formation of other civilizations. So, the Hinduism was the religion of India's majority and it developed gradually over a period whereas the Buddhism was founded on teaching an Indian prince Gautama, around 563 BC, later called Buddha.<sup>6</sup>

### **2-2- Trade and Economy in India**

The British entered India as traders because their obvious purpose was trade. Then, it became a control over the subcontinent. Earlier, Indian handloom had a big market in Europe. Indian textiles such as cotton, linen, silk and woolen goods already had marked in Asia and Africa. With the coming of industrialization in England, the textile industry there made an important headway.<sup>7</sup> There was no reverse of the direction of textile trade between Britain and

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<sup>4</sup> Mines, Diane P. "Religion and Education in Karela, India." 2010, p. 14-15.

<sup>5</sup> A. L. Basham, Op. Cit, p. 366

<sup>6</sup> Amita, Gupta. "Early Childhood; Postcolonial Theory, and Teaching Practices and Politics in India." 2013, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

India. The European and the British came to India for trading purposes. The British new administrative and economic policies helped them consolidate their control over the country. India had a strategic location; it was located in south Asia between the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. Besides its strategic location, the spice trade was the impulse behind the invasions that India went through. Many countries used to trade with India. Indians products were consumed in many regions in the world. Britain, also took its part from India.<sup>8</sup>

The British experience with Indian trade began in 1600 as enterprises missions. The East India Company was chartered by the English crown to trade in India. That company had a decisive history in the region. During the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the East India Company was only the representative of Britain. The Indian trade participated in large areas in the world especially with Guinea. Clothes were exported from India to the west of Africa and they were used to barter with slaves who served the Indian plantations.

### **2-3- The Culture of the Indian Civilization**

The two important cultural streams contributed to the Progress of what later came to be called Hinduism, the first was a sophisticated ancient culture known to do as the Indus valley civilization. The second was nomadic called the Indo Aryans. So, the first one named because of many of its settlements which were situated along in the Indus River, turned out to become too light since the first excavations propose that the Indus valley civilization was as impressive as the ancient Egypt and Sumaria.

During the pre-classical periods (Vedic and Epic Ages), the Aryan \_Indo-European conquerors\_ influenced the way of the Indian development, they developed the regions. First, literature, and only later written down in Sanskrit. Also, Aryan brought to India a religion of many gods and goddesses. The Vedic period was the history of the north-western Indian subcontinent intervening between the ends of the urban Indus Valley Civilization, and the second urbanization Plain began in c. 600BCE. It got its name from the Vedas which were liturgical texts containing details of life during that period which had been interpreted to be historical.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Singh, Minder. "A History of Ancient and Early medieval India." New Delhi, 2008, p. 137.

<sup>9</sup> Clish Mc and Olivelle, Patrick. "Introduction, in M, Mc Clish, The Arthasastra." Selections from the Classic Indian work on Stalecraft, Hackett Publishing, 2012, p. XXIV.

The Medieval Period was characterized by the presence of a large number of regional and local powers, in the absence of an essential power in the country. That period witnessed the presence of formidable political entities, but in the late medieval period especially in the sultanate and the Mongol reigns high level of centralization of power was indentified in the major parts of Indian subcontinent. The best jobs and education were given to the British. Indians were also highly taxed by them on good that were found in their own country.

### **3- The Nature of the Colonial Rule**

The British devised several strategies to make their rule effective. The early British administrators in India like Warren Hastings, William Jones, Jonathan Duncan and others glorified India's ancient past. Those scholars and administrators were called Orientalists. They thought that a better understanding of the Indian languages, literature and culture would make it easier for them to rule India. The British had used their control over India to promote their own interests; it went over through several stages in its long history of nearly 200 years, the nature of Britain rule and imperialism. So, its policies and impacts changed with changing pattern of Britain own social economic and political development.

Before 1857, the English East India Company was interested only in making money, it wanted to monopoly the trade in India and the east would not be deal with other English or European merchants to complete them. In other words, the Company wanted to sell its products as a high price and buy the Indian products, cheaply. This would not be possible if there were an ordinary trade in which various companies and persons competed. It was easy enough to keep out its English competition by using bribers and various other economic and political means. Moreover, it derived from the fact that perhaps it was the most effectively more than any other commercial organizations that were taking a place in the structure of the England's overseas trade.<sup>10</sup>

#### **3-1- The Effects of the British Colonial Rule on the Indian Society**

With the strong sea power and the industrialized economy, The British succeeded in constructing an empire in which the sun never sets or as some said in which the blood never dried. The British had a deep impact on the economic, social life of the Indians in general and the cultural side in particular. The British took a full control of Indian political and economic

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<sup>10</sup> Chaudhuri, K. N. "The Emergence of International business." London: Routledge, Thoemmes Press, 1999, p. 3.



domains, acting as rulers rather than traders.<sup>11</sup> The British aspiration for an empire building was driven by the need to provide raw materials for the industrial capacity and the need of new markets for the industrialized goods.

Via the East India Company, the British poured into India and kept control on its valuable raw materials for industry and trade in time India was the second most powerful economic country in the world and dominated the world of trade. The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the advent of the colonial rule in India to establish the race and kept later the suppressed. The British used all their strength and efforts to force policy up in India; it took control of the administration and tried to break up the society of the colony into groups and classes. So, what the British did in India since the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century till the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century?

The British colonial rule also effected on the Indian agriculture and their goods, they gave importance to commercial crops which were important and essential to the English industry and military, the British criticized Indian goods which were dominated in England. On the other hand, the British colonial rule in India made indirect advantage for the Indians regarding a research on an ancient Indian history. Thus, this historical research was taken up by the British; it also played a big role in making the spirit of nationalism among the Indians and also education. India was introduced for common people and transport system helped India to form one place to another one such as education, technology and industrial development. So, India under the colonial rule had experienced negatively and positively both.

Indian education witnessed an expansion and more regulations compared to the administrative judicial fields which were static. This was why Historian A. L. Basham argued: “the administrative and judicial remains the same. The educational and industrial field had been expansion, but not suppression”.<sup>12</sup>

#### **4- Conclusion**

Historically, India was an ancient land with a continuous civilization of 5000years. The Indus valley civilization (300BC to 1500 BC) was followed by the Sanskrit-speaking Vedic period (1500BC to 500 BC), the first of the Indian Empire. The post-Asoka empires were followed by the empires of the Gupta, Prather, Pala and many others. Then, around the

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<sup>11</sup> Tinthanker, Roy. “ Traditional Industry in the Economy of Colonial India.” Cambridge: Cambridge Press, 1999, p. 2

<sup>12</sup> Basham, A. L. “A Cultural History of India.” 1975, p. 348.

19<sup>th</sup> century the Muslims period was established followed by the arrival the Europeans, mostly British in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the British existed at certain points along the coast. From the 1750s, they started to wage war on land in eastern and south-eastern India. The British tried with all the ways to control India, remarkably rich province of Bengal. By the end of the century, the British rule became the first conquests and it was extended up the Ganges Valley to Delhi and over most of the peninsula of southern India. The British had been built a military force that would enable them in the next fifty years to bring all the remaining India states of any consequence, either conquering them or forced their rules to become subordinate allies.

The Indians could not unite against the British due to the leadership and the serious splits between the Hindus and the Muslims. Hindus did not want the Muslims Mongol Empire restored. Indeed, many Hindus preferred the British to rule most of the princes whom had made alliances with the East India. In 1858, the British government took a direct command of India. The part of India that was under the direct British rule was called the Raj. The term Raj referred to The British rule over India from 1757 until 1947.<sup>13</sup>

The basic character of the British colonial rule and its destructive means on the Indian's lives led to the rise and the development of a powerful anti-imperialist movement in India. That movement was national because it embraced all the different classes and groups of the Indian society. Those classes had their own contradictions with imperialism which brought them together in a common national movement.

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<sup>13</sup> Christine, Fair. C. "Fighting to end the Pakistan's Army." Oxford University, Press, 2014, p. 61.

# **Chapter Two**

## **Nationalism In India**

## 1- Introduction

Nationalism was a concept started in 1919 after the first world war in Europe and extended all over the world. The concept of nationalism had a great impact not only on the Indian society, but all over the world. Nationalism was a belief that people should be loyal to those with whom they shared common history; nation and customs. Also nationalism was a feeling of belonging.

The Indian Nationalism Movement was one of the biggest movements; it was also a popular and multi-class movement. It was the result of an important contradiction between the interests of the Indian people and the British colonialism. People were able to see that India was suffering economically and in all the fields of development. And because of millions of Indians joined the British Army; the British Parliament promised that when the war ended, Indians would be able to have more control of their government.

The Indian National Congress which emerged in 1885 derived its entire strength, especially after 1919 from the militancy and self sacrificing. Spirit of the mass and struggle were based on the active participation of people, no sympathy and support of the non-participating millions. The non-cooperation movements and the civil disobedience movement were the reflection of success. The Muslim league which was formed in 1906 gradually widened its base. Its movement towards Pakistan became inevitable when Jinnah and the Muslim league based themselves on the theory that Hindu and Muslim were two nations which had to separate the homeland. The Indian National Congress founded in 1885, it was the first modern nationalist movement to emerge in the British Empire in Asia and Africa.<sup>1</sup>

So, on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, a hard-earned and prized freedom were won after a long glorious years of struggles, and a bloody tragic partition. So, the Indian National Movement was undoubtedly one of the important mass movement modern society had ever seen. It was a movement which galvanized millions of people of all classes and ideologies into political action and brought to its knees a competent colonial empire.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Marshall, P. J. "The Cambridge Illustrated History of the British Empire." Cambridge University Press, 2001, p. 179.

<sup>2</sup> Auther, M. C. "Penguin Book of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Speeches." London: Penguin Viking, 1992, pp. 234-37.

## 2- The Development of Nationalism in India

Indian nationalism had a very narrow social basis. It was the producer of the modern education impact in the new educational institutions established by the British in India in the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It had studied the western cultural and greatly assimilated its democratic ideas. It formed the first term of the Indian society to develop a national consciousness and aspiration. Raj Ram Mohan Roy and his group of the English Indians were pioneers of The Indian Nationalism. They were the exponents of the Indian nation which they propagated among people, they initiated socio-reformed and religion reform movements which represented the Indian society and religion in the spirit of the new principle of democracy and nationalism. In fact, those movements were the expression of the rising of the national democratic consciousness among a section of the Indian people.<sup>3</sup>

The press was a powerful factor in building and developing the Indian nationalism, the nationalist movement, social, cultural, political and economy. Raj Ram Roy was the founder of the nationalist press in India through few papers had been done by others before him; those papers were mainly the organs of a social reform and a critical discussion of religion and philosophical problems.

Education was the major fact; it played a progressive role of the instruction of modern education in India. The result was the fact that the leaders of the progressive movements belonged to the English educated intelligent those were the English educated Indians.<sup>4</sup>

Gandhi asked his followers to practice non violent actions against the British, he developed what was called the civil disobedience, and he believed that it would recognize justice in India. He believed that goodness produced positive reactions. However, violence produced only negative actions.

### 2-1- The Progress of Nationalism in India

The concept of a national identity and national consciousness emerged the rise of Indian Nationalism which was the outcome of the action and interaction of social, economic and political forces which also evolved during the British period. Medieval Indian society was transformed into a modern national society, during that period of transformation; the

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<sup>3</sup> "Social Background of Indian Nationalism." Popular Prakarshan, Bombay, 1966, p. 432.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. pp. 163-4.

change was brought by the setting up of a new economic institution and a modern transport for the sake of political and administrative unifications of India.<sup>5</sup>

Indian Nationalism crystallized as a national movement in the late half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, by that time, the educated classes grew in the country and with the progress of the Indian industries, the industrial bourgeois came into existence. Those classes were the organizers of the national movement which inscribed on its banner, such as demanded of services. The movement arose out of the conflict of the British and India interests in the economic and other fields. That conflict of interests was the genetic cause of the Indian national movement.<sup>6</sup>

Nationalism in India arose to meet the challenge of foreign domination. The very existence of a foreign rule helped the growth of a national sentiment among people, and there was a clash between the British interest in India and the interest of the Indian people, because the British came to India to promote their own interests. There was a realization in India and that realization brought bitterness against a foreign rule and that also was responsible for the growth of the Nationalist Movement to drive out the foreigners from the country. All classes of people in India joined at one stage and the intelligentsia, the peasants, the artisans and the workers all played their part in the struggle.<sup>7</sup>

Around that time many organizations were being formed. The Indian subcontinent contained two different states. The first one was known as the “British India” which referred to the areas of the Indian subcontinent which was also under the direct control of the British colonial powers. The second one was “Princely state” or “native state” which was under the rule of the Indian Kings. Also, it raised its voice against the British rule and it was regional in nature. However, if the regional organization could work jointly, it would have helped the Indian masses to raise their voices, which led to the formation of the Indian National Congress in the year 1885.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Pandey, G. “Indo Revivalism and Indian Nationalism.” India, 1965, p. 159.

<sup>6</sup> Desai, A. R. “Social Background of India.” Nationalism Popular of Prakarshan, Bombay, 1966, p. 158.

<sup>7</sup> “The Nationalist Movement in India.” Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 1981, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Hiddleston, Jane. op.cit., p. 2.

## 2-2- The Indian Revolution against the British Colonial Rule

The main causes of the revolt could be described as political, economic, social and military in nature. The resistance failed primary due to the lack of leadership and unity, also due to the advanced of technology and organization of the British colonial army.

Indians organized secrete groups to launch revolutionary activities against the British rule. They chose violence to gain independence for India, they were called revolutionaries. The centers of their activities were Punjab, Maharashta, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. These revolutionaries organized many secrete societies, murdered many British officers and they organized attacks on The British wealth in order to defeat them. India was exceptional for the British; it was always treated in a different way from the other colonies. Its importance presented in the political and military supremacy those were shown to the British colonial.

Te first British merchants in Asia needed the authorization of the local rules such as the Mogul. Many popular rebellions were organized by the Indian population to remove the British from India. The Indian revolt of 1857 was one of the most significant events in the India's history as well as the British Empire. The revolt brought the Indians self-consciousness to fight for their independence. The revolt was termed by the British as the sepoy revolutionaries.<sup>9</sup>

By the mid of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the British Empire was the largest and the richest Empire in the world. That naturally made the British being chosen to be the race to bring the benefits to the western civilization, and that latter to the less developed and civilized area in the world. That white supremacy was enforced in Britain's colonies, especially in India.<sup>10</sup>

There were many reasons those led to the revolt, such as to eliminate the stranger rule in India and to establish an independent nation. Even though the rebels failed to attain their objective, they succeeded in sowing the seeds of nationalism among the Indians. Indian people became more aware of the heroes who sacrificed themselves in the revolt to release national liberation from a foreign rule. The revolt had also a profound impact on the imperial policy and brought fears to any further revolt in the future. The revolt made the British change its whole policy in ruling India. The main factor that pushed the Indians for independence was

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<sup>9</sup> William, Chris. "A Campaign to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain." 2006, p. 63.

<sup>10</sup>Streets, Heather. "The rebellion of 1857-Origins, Consequence and Themes."Teaching South Asia, an Internet Journal Pedagogy, vol.1, no.1, issue, winner 2001, pp. 85-104.

that Britain had to rely heavily on the Indian armies during the First World War (1914-1918).<sup>11</sup>

### 3- The Indian Social Change

Indian society had moved toward social change, the state should strive to promote the welfare of people by securing and protecting them. The impact of the British rule had also brought changes in the Indian society. One of the most important changes was the emergence of the middle class. In addition, several important measures of social reforms which some had described as the beginning of a welfare state were taking during the Nehru years. Moreover, far-reaching labor legislation was undertaken, including the right to form a trade union and to go on a strict security of the employment, provision of health, accident insurance, expansion of education, health and other social services were also sought.

Nehru and other leaders were leading to the social liberation of the hit hero socially backward and suppressed section of society. The government also tried to implement the clauses of the constitution regarding reservation in educational institutions and scheduled tribes and other weakens of the society. Another necessary measure was taken to raise their social status, such as the provision of special facilities in the form of a scholarship, grants, housing, health care, and legal aid services.

Participating actively in the national movement for years, women's group and organizations were demanding a revision of laws regarding women's rights in the family. So, Nehru decided to postpone enactment of the Bill in order to mobilize a greater support for it. After that, the government passed the Bill in the form of four separate acts which introduced monogamy and the right of divorce to both men and women. They gave women the right to maintenance and to inherit family property. The revolution was taken for women's liberation. Through its practice it would take decades to take full effects especially in religions that would have changed in Muslim personal law regarding monogamy and inheritance.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Williams, Jane. "Understanding Colonialism." Stocksfield :Acumen, 2009, p. 5.

<sup>12</sup> Chandra, Bipan. "India since Independence." Mridual Mukherjee, and Aditya Mujherjee, 2008, p. 141.



### 3-1- The Attainment of Independence

On March 18, 1937, the Indian Congress Committee adopted a resolution on the congress policies in the legislatures. It claimed that the congress had contested the election with its objective of independence, and its total rejection of the new constitution. The congress policy was to fight the new act and end it. The immediate effect of the coming of the congress Ministries was a feeling of relief. The congress attitude had sympathy, it refused unconditional cooperation, and it demanded that India had to declare an independent union. The British did not agree. As a result, all ministries resigned in protest in 1939, a demand for provisional national government at the center was made at the instance of C. Raja in 1940.<sup>13</sup> In March, 1942 Sir Stafford Grips came to India with the draft declaration, it stated the British government desire to grant India's "Dominion Status" at the end of the war, but a complete independence was not promised.

Many Indians followed Gandhi's act, and forced the British to recognize their desire because after the Second World War Britain no longer had enough money or people to keep India under its rule. In March 1944, the Indian flag was hoisted, unfortunately, after that the movement collapsed. After that, Quit India became the most powerful movement in the freedom struggle, thousands of freedom fighters were killed, and police fired hundreds of thousands were arrested and injured. Gandhi developed and improved his technique gradually to assure that his efforts made a significant impact. So, despite of the strong opposition by Gandhi, all the parties agreed to the partition and the Indian independence act which created two independent states in the Indian sub-continent I.e. the Indian union and Pakistan. There was a problem which the Hindus and the Muslims met and they could not find a solution to rule the independence-subcontinent. The country was split into Indian for Hindus and East and West Pakistan for Muslims. India got its independence on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947, at the strike of mid-night (14-15 August, 1947).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Kahin, G. M. "The Asian-African Conference." Cornell University Press, 1956, pp. 64-72.

<sup>14</sup> Kolcher, Hans. "Department of State Bulletin." January 14, 1957, pp: 49-50.

#### 4- Conclusion

To sum up, the various aspects of the Indian nationalism movement, especially the Gandhian political strategies were particularly relevant to that movement that broadly succeeded, and they were characterized by a democratic and basically civil liberation. An important struggle was based on the active participation of people, and the support of the non-participating million, the non-cooperation movement and the civil disobedience movement.

The Indian National Movement mostly involved to non-violent under the leader Mahatma Gandhi, but violence also had been involved in the national movement at frequent intervals and affected favorably the course of Indian independence. The activities of the revolutionaries prepared them to sacrifice their lives in fighting against persecution. The same way the Quit India Movement was violent and disturbed the government. The contribution under the leader Subhash Chandra had shown the spirit of challenge by the Indian National Army, the Indian Navy and the Air Force in the last stage of the movement.

The Indian territories gained independence in 1947. The independence came legally as an act of parliament, but it was the consummation of a long course of suffering and struggle by the Indian people. The role of Gandhi also prepared the nation for unlimited sacrifice, and helped the attainment of independence. The stage was cleared obstacles and the ground was free for a new national government.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Mines, Diane. P. op. cit., p. 50.

## **Chapter Three**

### **The Impact of the Indian Political Parties on India**

### 1- Introduction

Since ancient times, the main source of livelihood for the people was agriculture. Hence, land tax had formed a principal source of revenue for all the emperors all over the world. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the main occupation of the Indian people was agriculture. During British rule, revenue from land kept on increasing, and the reasons for this were many. Earlier, the British had come to trade with India. Gradually they wanted to conquer the vast territory of India for which they needed a lot of money. They also needed money for trade, projects of the company as well as for the cost of running the administration. With the strong political control, the British were able to monopolize the trade with India. Also, English education was introduced to create a class of educated Indians who would assist the British in ruling the country and strengthen their political authority.

The Indian society witnessed the introduction of new law courts, government officials, and commercial agencies. The adverse impact of the British rule on the political, economic and social spheres resulted in sharp reaction of the Indian people against the foreigners. That led to series of anti-British movements throughout the country.

India's progress as a nation and democratic policy were because of the achievement of the national objectives set by the freedom struggle depended on the development of a long term socio-economic and political forces. But, the quality, skills and ways of the political leaders would have been obliged to play a significant role. Among the members of that congress used to be Mohandas Gandhi who emerged in the 1920s as the leader and the voice of the Indian Congress. He called for the unity between Muslims and Hindus through using very effective politics and nonviolent resistance. Most political leaders increasingly appealed to a region or regional parties, while many Indians had looked for wider-all India leadership to the Nehru and India-Gandhi.<sup>1</sup>

India's independence represented for its people the start of an age that was imbued with a new vision in 1947. The country started its long march to overcome the colonial legacy of economic under the development of a big poverty, near total illiteracy, wide spread of disease and stark social inequality and injustice. The 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 was only the first break of the colonial political control. India had a large number of political parties; it used to be

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<sup>1</sup> Chatterji, Joya. "The Spoils of Partition Bengal and India, 1947-1967." Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007, p. 62.

over 2000 parties were formed after India's independence in 1947. Some features of the political parties were generally women around their leaders. The leaders' activities were playing a strong role of leadership that could be transformed to take dynastic route, as parties included both Congresses. Most political parties of India grew with an ideological basis, instead; political parties in India were formed on the basis of race, religion language factors, which increased the number of the political parties.<sup>2</sup>

### **2- Politics in India**

Indian governmental structure changed rapidly after independence, it went from being a country within the British Commonwealth to a sovereign secular country. India became fully independent and a secular state on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1950. The new country developed into a democratic republic with a President, prime minister and council of minister. All who were elected by the public India's full title was the republic of India and later was the largest full democracy in the world. In the early years, during much of the Nehru era, there was an air of optimism and a sense of achievement; that was reflected in Nehru's letter to the chief ministers written with self-confidence and satisfaction just after watching the republic day parade at Delhi in 1955

*'my heart was filled with pride and joy at this sight of our nation on the march realizing its goals one by one, there was a sense of fulfillment in the air and confidence in our future destiny 'and he respected a few months, later there was the breath of the dawn, the feeling of the beginning of a new era in the long and chequered history of India, I think I represent innumerable others in a country'.*<sup>3</sup>

So, politics in India took a place within the framework of its constitution as a federal parliamentary democratic and republic, in which the President of India was the head of the state, and the prime minister was the head of the government. India had dual government system which consisted on the central authority at the center of states. The Indian constitution looked for an independent state which was headed by the Supreme Court to settle disputes between the central government and the states.

The government union or state was formed through elections every five years by the parties in their respective (Lok Sabha in center and Vidhan Sabha in state). India had its first general election in 1951 by the National Congress, a political party that went on to dominate

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<sup>2</sup> Mushirul, Hasan. "Politics and the Partition." New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2000. p.

<sup>3</sup> Chandra, Bipan. "India since Independence." Miridual Aditya Mukherjee, 2008, pp: 18-19.

the successive elections up until 1977. The 1990s saw the end of the single party domination and the rise of coalition government, the election for the 16 Lok Sabha was held from April 2014 to May 2014.<sup>4</sup>

The executive branch and legislative branch of government were run by the representatives of the political parties who had been elected through the elections. Between 1966 and 1988, there was a period of political flux with the government being formed first by the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) followed by a left-leaning united front coalition.<sup>5</sup> The 2004 Indian election saw the INC winning the largest number of seats to form a government leading the united progressive Alliance, and supported by left-parties and those opposed to the BJP on 22 may 2004. Manmohan singh appointed the prime minister of India following the victory of the INC and left front in the 2004 Lok Sabha election, and In May 2014, Narendra Modi of BJP was elected as a prime minister of India.

### **2-1- The features of the Indian Political Parties**

India had a large number of political parties over 2000 parties which were formed after India's independence in 1947; some features of the political parties in India were generally women around their leaders. The leaders' activities played a strong role and that the role of leadership could be transformed to take a dynastic route, as parties included both congresses which followed the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty since independence beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru.

After the split in the congress party in 1969, Indira formed her own Indian National Congress. She served three consecutive terms as a prime minister between 1966 and 1977, and another term beginning in 1980. She was the only child of Jawaharlal Nehru and the first prime minister of an independent India.<sup>6</sup> She remained the leader of the party until her death in 1984, Harding power to her son Rajiv Gandhi who after his death, the widow Sonia Gandhi took command. As a result of such a dominance party, the leaders of the political parties of the country tended to take an autocratic tone. On the other major feature of the political parties was that except for the communist party, most of the political parties of India looked for an ideological basis, instead; political parties in India were formed on the basis of race, religion language factors, that is why the right number of the political parties increased.

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<sup>4</sup> Roy, Asia. "Modern Asian Studies." Issue 24, Vol 2, 1990, pp. 385-415.

<sup>5</sup> Kingshuk, Nag. "The Saffron Tide: The Rise of the BJP." Rupal Publication, India, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Gandhi, Indira. "The Biography of Indira Gandhi." Nov. 30, 2012, p. 74.

There were two kinds of political parties in India; National party and Regional state party. Any political party had to be registered with the election commission of India. Symbols were used in the Indian political system and people also voted by recognizing a symbol of the party. For a national party, it had to be the legislative presence in the lok Sabha, and for a state party it lost its recognition and its symbol immediately, but it had to give the facility to use that symbol for some times to try and retrieve its status. Recognition also should be given to a party only on the basis of its own performance in elections.

### **2-2- The Conflict of the Indian Political Parties**

Of all the political parties that emerged immediately after independence, the Socialist Party held the greatest promise. In Jayaprakash Narayan, it had a leader next only to Jawaharlal Nehru in mass popularity. It had also several other brilliant leaders, for example, Acharya Narendra Dev, Achyut Patwardhan, Asoka Mehta, and S .M. Joshi. However, the first problem of the Socialists faced—and this was a problem, they continued to face till the end—was that of their relationship with Congress. The Socialist Party was born in 1934 and it was remained since then a part of Congress, though it had its own separate constitution, membership, discipline and ideology.

The socialist party had immediately after the independence given the slogan of India's development into a socialist state and society. Most Socialists wanted the Congress to make a definite programmatic and ideological commitment to socialism; also they believed that by refusing to do so, it had become a right-wing bourgeois party. In early 1948, Congress framed a rule that its members could not belong to another party which had its own constitution and discipline. Since the Socialists were not willing to dissolve their own party, they decided March 1948 to leave the Congress and also declared that their objectives were to establish a democratic socialist society.

#### **2-2-1- The Socialist Party**

The Socialist Party was a political party in the Indian state of Kerala. It was founded in May 1969. Few months later, it declared that it sought to become an all India party.<sup>7</sup> Political skills and leadership were to be the bases elements in any party. That was practically a front lay precisely in competing with other trends in it without breaking the party discipline,

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<sup>7</sup> Grover, Verinder. "The Party System and Political Parties in India." 1989, p. 625.

so as to build a broad coalition for nation-building and social change. Actually, the Socialists were a minority in Congress and they were facing resistance and organizational discrimination at the party's local level.

Political wisdom, also was the art of politics could not accept that situation, and then struggling to gradually change of power between the left and the right within the Congress by pulling inch by inch, the Centre towards the left. That was precisely what the right did throughout the period of Gandhi's and Nehru's domination of the Congress. Instead of breaking away when Nehru committed Congress to a socialistic pattern of society, it continued inside Congress representing ideological and policy directions, though constantly feeling the pressure of losing out control. Neither the Socialists nor the Communists would have been capable of replacing the Congress.

Nehru's political acumen and historical insight lay precisely in recognizing that. At the time of the Socialist split from Congress, a large number of Socialists stayed in the parent organization perceiving itself and Jawaharlal Nehru as the more effective instruments of social change. Acharya Narendra Dev, the most erudite, mature and level-headed of the Socialist leaders, was also opposed to the decision of leaving Congress but he decided to abide by it.<sup>8</sup>

### **2-2-2- The Communist Party**

The Communist Party of India (CPI) was a political party that advocated the application of the social and economic principles of communism through state policy.<sup>9</sup> It was a part of the Congress since 1936, but unwilling to accept the Congress discipline, it left the party in 1945. From 1942 to 1945 it had been a remarkable growth, even though it got isolated from the mainstream of the national movement. Consequently, it was suffering in terms of its hegemonic influence over the people. In 1947, the CPI started out with certain advantages; it had several able leaders and thousands of sincere, disciplined and hardworking cadres who were active among the peasants, workers, students and the intelligentsia. But, as in the case of the Socialist Party, the CPI was plagued by intense factionalism and it was engulfed by internal crises every few years till it's formally split in 1964. Factions in the CPI were formed largely around political and ideological differences.

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<sup>8</sup> Claude, Markoits. "A History of Modern India, 1480-1950." Anther Press. 2004, pp: 386-409.

<sup>9</sup> Harper, Douglas. "Communism." Online Etymology Dictionary.



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However, The CPI could not agree upon a stand on the question which P.C. Joshi, the party's general secretary from 1935 to 1948, raised as early as 1950: 'What is the political situation in India?'

The CPI had gone through a great deal of inner turmoil and division during 1947. Initially, it recognized that India had become free and advised all progressive forces to rally round Nehru against the reactionary communal and pro-imperialist forces. Later, under Soviet guidance, it declared in December 1947 that India's independence was fake. The 15<sup>th</sup> August, was a day of national betrayal, Congress had gone over to imperialism and feudalism, Nehru had become a stooge of imperialism, the government was ruling in a fascist manner, and the constitution that was being framed was a charter of slavery. Therefore, The Communists had to take up the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal tasks, fight for freedom, democracy and initiate an armed struggle.

Near the end of 1951, when Ajoy Ghosh became the general secretary of the party, a new programme and a new tactical line were accepted under the direct guidance of Stalin, leading to the temporary unification of the party. But, this still did not represent a new understanding of the Indian social and political reality.

India was still seen as essentially a colony, the transfer of power in 1947 as 'betrayal', the Indian government as subservient to imperialism and as representing landlords, princes and the reactionary big bourgeoisie collaborating with the British imperialism. And the Indian political system as basically undemocratic and authoritarian with the government having established a police state.

The political task was still seen to be the eventual overthrow of the Indian state through armed struggle. The new element in CPI's policy was that the overthrow of the state was to be part of the future agenda because the people were not yet ready for the task: they still suffered from 'illusions' about Congress and Nehru. Therefore, the party turned away from revolution-making, to withdraw the armed struggle in Telangana, and to participate in the approaching general elections. The party was helped to change the fact that Nehru was at that moment in full command of the government. He accepted the Communists' credentials and cleared the way for the CPI by legalizing the party all over the country.

The 1952 elections promised that the party would be considered in time as the political alternative to Congress. The promise did shine bright for a few years, as it had done for the Socialists in the early 1950s, but it remained essentially unfulfilled. Despite arriving at an agreed program in 1951, the party was not able to maintain a consensus on such major issues as the nature of the Indian state. The role of different social classes, especially the Indian bourgeoisie, the nature of the class alliance which would make the Indian revolution, the very nature and meaning of revolution in India.

Also, the determination of the principal enemy against whom the revolution would be directed. The attitude was adopted towards the Congress, the government, nation-building activities, Jawaharlal Nehru and their reformists. Regarding the class alliance, there was an agreement on one point; the national bourgeoisie was to be allied with—but there was no agreement on who constituted the national bourgeoisie and who represented it in Indian politics and the state.

The party was torn by controversies and conflicts as it tried unsuccessfully to come to grips with the actual course of social development within the confines of the 1951 program. It was thrown into confusion at every fresh turn of events. Gradually, the differences hardened into factions, even the unity on tactics broke down and the party organization tended to get paralyzed.

The CPI finally split in 1964; the split weakened the CPI considerably at the national level with one party, representing the earlier ‘right’ and ‘centrist’ trends, being known as CPI. And the other party, representing the earlier ‘left’ trend, being known after some time as the Communist Party (Marxist) or CPM. Apart from personal and factional differences, the split took mainly a doctrinal form.

The CPI too wanted to ‘complete the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution’, but it would do so by forming a national democratic front which would include progressive sections of Congress. Moreover, this front need not be led by the working class or the CPI. The party also declared that transition to national democracy and then socialism was capable of being accomplished by peaceful and parliamentary means.

Lastly, the CPI’s centralized, bureaucratic and basically secret party structure, relying on whole-time party cadres, also did not suit a democratic and open society. Such a party

could not hope to develop mass institutions and mass power. That weakness of the party was compounded in the pre-1962 years by a certain subservience to the Soviet leadership and the importation of the doctrine of ends justifying the means into inner-party disputes.

### **2-2-3- The Bharatiya Jan Sangh's Party**

The Bharatiya Jan Sangh's party founded in October 1951, it was basically a communal party and had to be studied such as a communal party which was structured around communal ideology. A communal party could not be defined by specific policies, for it could discard any of its programmatic and policy elements and sometimes adopt the very opposite ones. Its economic, political and social policies were generally a husk or a mask which could be changed at the appropriate moments to suit its electoral or other political needs, and implemented its communal agenda, and the first general election was in 1951-52, in which it won only three Lok Sabha seats.<sup>10</sup>

A communal party was not a conservative party, for that it was not committed to the conservation of large elements of the existing social, economic and political structure. However, a right-wing party for it could not communalize the state and society without strengthening the reactionary and exploitative elements of the economy. Secretaries were provided by the RSS Founded in 1925, the RSS was organized on authoritarian and militaristic lines which functioning below the surface and glorifying violence, developed basically as an anti-Muslim organization. It did not participate in the anti-imperialist movement or wage any anti-imperialist struggle even of its own conception on the ground that it had to conserve its strength for its main task of protecting Hindus from Muslim domination.

The Jan Sangh was launched as a political party in October 1951 with Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee as its president. Ostensibly, it was an independent party in its own right and under Mookerjee. It did enjoy a certain degree of independence, but even then its spearhead was the RSS and its carefully chosen cadres who were put in crucial positions in the new party. After Mookerjee's death in 1953, the fig leaf of being an independent party was gradually given up. Since 1954, when its second president, Mauli Chandra Sharma, resigned in protest against the RSS domination of the party, Jan Sangh and its later-day reincarnation the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had been more openly associated with and controlled by the RSS, which had provided them with the bulk of their leaders at the top as well as the lower

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<sup>10</sup> Kingshuk, Nag. "The Saffron Tide: The Rise of the BJP." Rupal Publication, 2014, p. 12.

levels. It was a right-wing party with close ideological and organizational links to the Hindu Nationalist Swayamsevak sangh.<sup>11</sup>

The Jan Sangh emphasized the propagation of Bharatiya culture and the establishment of Bharatiya nationalism. Those two terms were never defined except very vaguely as being based on non-Western and traditional values. In fact, the word 'Bharatiya' was a euphemism for the word 'Hindu' and an attempt on the part of the Jan Sangh to avoid the communal label. As communalism began to grow, Jan Sangh publications openly started using the terms Hindu culture and Hindu nationalism and continue to do so. In reality even the term Hindu nationalism was a misnomer and a substitute for the term 'Hindu communalism'.

Denying the cultural diversity of India, the Jan Sangh also raised the slogan of one country, one culture, one nation and asserted that all those who did not accept this one culture had imbibed 'anti-national traits'

Interestingly, the Jan Sangh opposed the linking of religion with politics and he did not take up any religious issue.

### **2-2-4- The Swatantra Party**

The Swatantra Party, the first authentic all-India secular conservative party, came into being in early August 1959. Foremost, it committed to social justice and equality of opportunities of all people without distinction of religion, caste, occupation or political affiliation. It had a number of distinguished leaders, most of them old Congressmen, for example, C. Rajagopalachari and Minoos Masani. Right-wing groups and parties had, of course, earlier existed at the local and regional levels, but Swatantra's formation was the first attempt to bring these highly fragmented right-wing forces together under the umbrella of a single party.

Favouring the 19<sup>th</sup> conception of the 'night watchman' or laissez-faire state, Swatantra stood for free, private enterprise and opposed the active role of the state in economic development. It wanted to radically restrict centralized planning and the role of the public sector, as also state regulation of the economy. It opposed any nationalization of private enterprise and any extension of land reforms, especially fixation of ceilings on land holdings.

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<sup>11</sup> Banerjee. 2005, p. 3118.

In fact, many conservative intellectuals, businessmen and political leaders welcomed the formation of Swatantra because it provided a non-socialist, constitutionalist and secular conservative alternative to the Congress.

Swatantra failed mainly because there was as yet no space in Indian politics for a conservative party, for radicalization of politics was still in progress. Also, the rich and middle peasants were not yet fully and irrevocably alienated from the Congress. On the other hand, they were the major beneficiaries of several government policies and measures: reduction of land revenue and extension of services including provision of rural credit, improved transport, irrigation and electrification.

When the Congress split in 1969, the reason for the existence of Swatantra as a separate right-wing party disappeared, for the former was much more potent as a right-wing party.

### **2-2-5- Communal and Regional Parties**

A large number of communal and regional parties existed between 1947 and 1964. Among the communal parties, the Hindu Mahasabha was an old party, but it soon faded from the political scene after 1952. When it had won four seats in the Lok Sabha, it gradually lost its support base to the Jan Sangh. The same was the case with the RRP. Because of its association with the demand for Pakistan, the Muslim League laid dormant with many of its demoralized leaders and activists joining Congress and other parties. Then, the CPI and CPM both gave it a responsibility by making it an alliance partner. The Akali Dal was another major communal party, though limited to Punjab. A large number of regional parties appeared on the scene during the period. Such as; Revolutionary Socialist Party (Kerala and West Bengal) emerged through a split in the revolutionary Socialist Party. Forward Bloc (West Bengal) and Peasants and Workers Party (Maharashtra).

### **2-3- The Social Impact of the Indian Political Parties**

British had come to India with the idea of making immense profits. This meant buying of raw materials at very cheap rates and selling finished goods at much higher prices. The British wanted the Indians to be educated and modern enough to consume their goods but not to extent that it proved detrimental to British interests. The Indians ideas were old and

inferior. This was not true. Indians had a rich traditional learning that was still relevant. The Indian society had moved toward social, the state shall strive to promote the welfare of people by securing and protecting as effectively as may be a social over which justice, economic and political should inform all the institutions of the national life. In addition, several important measures of social reforms had been described as the beginning of a welfare state. Provision of health and accident insurance, expansion of education, health and other social services were also sought. Hence, the British colonial rule had positive and negative impacts on many fields.<sup>12</sup>

and other leaders were leading to the social liberation of the hit hero socially backward and suppressed section of society, also the government tried to implement the clauses of the constitution regarding reservation in educational institutions and government employment in favour of sheduel castes and other weaker of the society .Other necessary measures were taken to raise their social status, such as the provision of special facilities in the form of scholarship, grants, loans, housing, health care and legal aid services.

### **3- The factors of Industry and Agriculture**

The green revolution of the late 1960s brought a new technology-new seeds fertilizers credit, and it aimed to the progressive farmer parts of the country. Punjab and Haryana saw a dramatic increase in output; India more or less eliminated its independence on food imports by the end of the 1970s. One of the important items on the agenda of independence was land reform. Zamindari was abolished, that made a difference in states like Bihar, but it was not until the late of 1970s and early 1980s. This process was taken further in states like west Bengal. In terms of industry and agriculture, there were positive casual impacts of the British rule due to the introduction of better technology and investments in different domains in order to improve transport and communication in India.<sup>13</sup>

This step was the right one in the west Bengal. It was borne by a dramatic increase in agriculture out later in the 1980s. If agriculture can grow at about 4%, it will give a fillip to growth. This was an urgent issue and there was no simple green revolution strategy, it was agriculture where the poor and underemployed were located rather than specific crops, the

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<sup>12</sup> Tinthanker, Roy. "Tradional Industry in the Economy of Colonial Rule." Cambridge: Cambridge University press, 1999, p. 2.

<sup>13</sup> Amita, Gupta. "Early Childhood Education: Postcolonial Theory and Teaching Practices in India." Palgrave: Macmillan, 2006, p. 10.

government had indeed been concerned with That question in the negotiations when the interests poor farmers had been articulated clearly, but much had to be done domestically, unless they dealt with their agriculture and their rural countryside, it would be broken on the economy.

Manufacturing had increased significantly since independence. Capacity was also built up in the machine tools, heavy electrical, power equipment, electronics, chemicals and fertilizers after the late 1960s. The public sector grew, but by transfer from the private sector, not all, with a change in the financial markets. The rupee has begun to appreciate that would pose challenges to the sector. The introduction of a large number of commercial crops such as tea, coffee, indigo, opium, cotton, jute and oilseed were the major impact of the British policies on the Indian economy. As a result, the economic policies implemented by the British changed the social structure of the Indian society.

### **3-1- Economic and Political Changes**

The economic impact of the British rule was most far-reaching. It destroyed the traditional economy of India and drained India's wealth to Britain. The economic policies of the British also affected the classes of peasants, artisans very adversely, and though the British benefitted economically. India had to suffer politically in the long run. The treaty of Paris 1763 was also regarded as one of the causes since it gave Britain rights in India. In fact, the British colonial rule in India began with trade and ended with around 200 years of control over the subcontinent.<sup>14</sup>

The British were interested in having more raw materials from India as well as sending their finished goods back. Economic services had increased their share in the national income, this sector was a mixed bag; it included a bewildering variety of activities and technologies- from rag picking to software consultancy. In part that increased in the sectoral share reflects the growth of information based services that their large companies provided across the world. This growth also of services had led to major concerns; India was providing world class hospital services to those who could pay while its own citizens had a title access to public health and medical services. That was true, and it was a serious matter given the current distribution of resources and power, the market would not solve that problem. The movement for economic freedom was considered as the only source of wealth. From 1947,

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<sup>14</sup> Biswamoy, Paty. "India's Princely States: People, Prices and Colonialism." London and New York: Routledge, 2007, p. 1.

India's economy was characterized by an agricultural productivity decrease especially between 1961 and 1965, and at the same time with the rise of population.<sup>15</sup>

### **4- Conclusion**

India's independence represented for its people the start of an epoch that was imbued with a new vision. The 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 was only the first break of the colonial political control; centuries of backwardness were to be overcome, the promises of freedom struggle to be fulfilled and people hoped to be met. To protect India from the imperialism of the west, Nehru and Gandhi promoted the independence autonomy and self-reliance. They were fully aware of the need for better, wider education as an instrument of social and economic progress, equalization of opportunities and the building up of the democratic society.<sup>16</sup>

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1948, a radical minded Hindu nation was shocked and stricken with a grief and communal violence retreated from the minds of men and women, expressing the nation's sorrow. Nehru spoke over all the Indian radios that the light has gone out of lives of his friends and comrades, and there was darkness everywhere. He declared also that he was wrong for the light that shone in this country which had represented something more than their immediate present. It had represented the living, the eternal truth, reminding them of the right path, drawing them from errors, taking that ancient country to the freedom.<sup>17</sup>

The task of the nation building was taken up by the Indian people and their leaders with confidence in their capacity to succeed. Jawaharlal Nehru's famous tryst with destiny starting off with abroad social consensus on the basic contours of the Indian that was to be built on the value of nationalism, secularism, democracy, the goals of rapid economic development and radical social change. The first and the most important task was to preserve, consolidate and strengthen India's unity to push forward the process of the making of the Indian nation, also to build up, protect the nation state as a mean of development and social transformation.

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<sup>15</sup> Hay, Jeff. op. cit., p. 98.

<sup>16</sup> Rothmund, Dietmar. "An Economic History of India: From Pre-Colonial Times to 1991." Second Edition London and New York: Routledge, 1993, p. 145.

<sup>17</sup> Nehru's speech in Washington, D. C, December 18, 1956. Printed in the United States. Department of State Bulletin, January 14, 1957, p. 4950.



## Chapter Three            the Impact of the Indian Political Parties on India

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The social scene also called for rapid transformation. Despite the lower-caste movement in several parts of the country, the caste system was dominated a rural society and women were still suffered immense social oppression in the family.

Economic development and democratic political order were to be accompanied by rapid social transformation. So, the existing gross economic, caste and gender inequalities were rapidly eliminated. Poverty also was removed and the level of living rose. At the same time, political stability had to be ensured for the accomplishment of all these tasks, the political system had to combine stability with growth social transformation and deepening of the political process. The Indian revolution had to be gradual and based on the political stability, but it had to be a revolution all the time.

## General Conclusion

The history of India's freedom was dominated by the figure of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, his message was a simple one; India had only rediscovered its only moral greatness, its spirit selflessness and sacrifice, its powers of endurance, its deduction to truth and God and its ancient democratic institution to find the strength to defeat the British. Gandhi extracted the inner strength that had been buried beneath generations of passivity. First, Gandhi urged self-sufficiency, boycott foreign goods, English schools and English clubs. India could support itself. Then, in 1919, Gandhi initiated his campaign, non-violent resistance. The Indians would obstruct trains or block factories, thereby forcing the British to arrest and perhaps brutalize them.

Satyagraha demonstrated the moral strength of the victim and the cruelty of the state. The campaign continued until it turned violent in 1922 and then Gandhi called it off. Suddenly wrote Jawaharlal Nehru, later India's first prime minister, 'that black pall of fear was lifted from people's shoulders, not wholly, of course but to an amazing degree'.

When the British entered the Second World War in 1940, the victory, Lord Linlithgow, announced that had joined the war. Nehru offered to cooperate in exchange for an offer of independence after the war. The English had pledged never to surrender the empire and instead decided to crush the congress. The emergency powers ordinance of 1940 banned all anti-British activities. The British soldiers' raided villages believed to contain congress sympathizers. In 1942 the government carried out mass arrest. Gandhi then announced quit India campaign. A massive program of civil disobedience got under way, cutting telephone wires, destroying government property. Gandhi was unable to prevent violence because he was in jail. For his reason, the Quit India Campaign was often regarded as Gandhi's great failure; nevertheless, it succeeded in the long run.

The British realized that their support in India had evaporated and they met with the Indian leaders to plan total transfer of power. Gandhi was not involved, he had symbolized to India what it wanted to become and he had given it the courage to reach for that ideal.

The 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 was only the first step, the first break-the end of the political control, centuries of backwardness were known to be overcome, the promises of the freedom struggle to be fulfilled and people hoped to be met. India became free on 15, 1947 with

Punjab and Bengal separated from the Indian union; the constitution assembly completed its work on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1949 and gave the new constitution which came into force from January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1950 when India became a sovereign democratic republic.

The Indian national movement was undoubtedly one of the biggest mass movement modern societies had ever seen. It was also popular and multi-class movement, it was basically the result of a fundamental contradiction between the interest of the Indian people and that the British colonialism. The Indian people were able to see that India was progressing economically and undergoing a process of underdevelopment, that anti-colonial ideology and critique of colonialism were disseminated during the mass phase of the movement.

The task of nation-building was taken up by the Indian people and their leaders with certain determination and with confidence in their capacity to succeed, Jawaharlal Nehru's famous tryst with destiny speech of the independence. India had gone in improving human development indicators, without investment in human capital, investment in every other capital failed to yield optimal result. India in the 21st century should be politically strong and stable, economically prosperous scientifically advanced, socially cohesive and just culturally rich. The unfinished agenda should make them humble to work together, there was no reason why they should not be able to fulfill their incomplete tasks of becoming a developed nation demonstrating at every level, standers of healthy, political, culture and collectively addressing the grave issues of hunger, disease and exploitation, every Indian citizen should think of India rest and work to make India in a high level.

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