

# NATIONALIST HISTORIOGRAPHY AND TARACHAND(PART-1)

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# INTRODUCTION

- The study of history as a scientifically developed discipline began only in the 19th century. It was only then that the historians tried to absorb the lessons of early historical writings and could develop new methods and techniques. It was during this venture to know the art of historical writing of the earlier period that historiography emerged as a part of history. Historiography simply means the history of the art of historical writing. In other words, it is the history of history or the history of historical thought. As we know the colonial modernity and knowledge which brought a historical sense to Indians. Systematic historical writing began in India during the early period of British



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Colonialism. The earliest and one of the positive results of British conquest was the recovery of ancient Indian history on modern lines of historiography. It was essential to them to know about the past, society and culture, and establish their authority over India. It was an outcome of the administrative necessity of the Britisher's also. The rulers encouraged those who shown interest in the past, resulted the investigation of the past and bringing up of new Modern Indian historiography began with the writings of the scholar- administrators of the English east India Company and they found history as an instrument to



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legitimize the colonial rule by put making some interpretations. Thus emerged different school of thoughts or historiographical trends in Indian history. **They are colonial or imperialist, nationalist, Marxist, Cambridge, and subaltern.**



# NATIONALIST HISTORIOGRAPHY

Nationalist historiography means that the historical writings produced or reproduced by the Indian historians highlight the Indian history from a national point of view. The national point of view represents the national culture and tradition. Every nation had its own culture and traditions and every nation wants to spread it. It can only be possible through literature. History is a part and parcel of literature, therefore, what history is written by a nation represents its culture and traditions that is called the nationalist historiography. Nationalist approach played a vital role in Indian historiography since the second half of the 19th century. Indian nationalist historians tried to



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prove their falsity of colonial historical narrative on the basis of analysis of existing historical narrative, on the basis of analysis of existing historical source and also they were raised as political weapon to eliminate foreign rule in India. Ideological studies were regarded as a binding factor of Indian people and their sentiments .National pride played a big role in providing inspiration to common. 19th century British historians played a crucial role in providing a nationalist reaction. This reaction came in the form of a nationalist approach in historiography. An important element in this approach was an effort to restore national self esteem and the glorification of India's past. Another



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element was the propagation of economic nationalism through the depiction of the ruinous economic consequences of British rule in India.

Most important of all, nationalist historiography tried to re-discover India for the modern Indian mind and promote political integration and anti imperialist sentiments to identities. It glorified Indian past and culture and events instead of making critical analysis.

further the cause of nation building in India. The nationalist contend with not only the earlier imperialist bias in historiography but also a communal interpretation



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of history that began to gain influence from the early decades of the century.

Nationalist historiography played an important role in providing an ideological basis of the freedom struggle and in analysing the economic consequences of imperialism. The focus of nationalist attention was an external that is imperialistic exploitation of India, not so much the internal ie, class exploitation and consequent class conflict within Indian Society. Greater concentration on the later aspect was the consequence of the influence of the Marxist approach, an influence increasingly evident from the 1940s.





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- The phrases nationalist school and nationalist history can only be understood in the background of the colonial domination and colonial historiography. The nationalist historiography has certain defects too, that is some methodological defects, some chauvinist approaches on caste, cultural, and social bias.
- Emotion and sentiment usurped the place of reason, balance, perspective, and objectivity-all became a causality. They also failed and ignored certain aspects and issues like tribes, women, downtrodden people,



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marginalised societies etc. some sensational account brought a sort of communal identities. It glorified Indian past and culture and events instead of making critical analysis.

R,G.Bhandarkar ,H.C,Raychoudhary ,J.N,Sarkar ,G.S ,Sardesai ,S,Krishna Swami Ayyangar, Lalalajpath Roy, C.F.Andrews, Pattabhi Sittaramayya,, Girija Mukharjee etc were important nationalist writers. The trained or academic historians also followed this style of writing in the post independent era ,they were B.R.Nanda, Tarachand, Amales Tripathi, Bishweshar Prasad etc. Most of this historians connected history as explanations and propagandist. They



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inspired the people of India and awakened the self confidence and national pride among the mass which strengthened the national movement. The nationalist historiography has certain defects too, that is some methodological defects ,some chauvinist approaches on caste, cultural and social bias. Emotion and sentiment usurped the place of reason; and detachment, balance, perspective, and objectivity-all became a causality. They also failed and ignored certain aspects and issues like tribes, women, down trodden people, marginalized societies etc .some sensational accounts brought a sort of communal identities. It glorified Indian past and culture and the events instead of making critical analysis.

(To be continued)