

This chapter will discuss the political legacies of colonialism in India. After studying this you will be able to:

meaning of legacy of Colonialism

understand the legacy of Colonialism.

assess the political legacy of Colonialism.

identify the important legacies in the form of political legacy of British Colonialism in India.

Each nation has its own political system and each political system essentially carries the legacy of its past. Historical legacy always influences its structures, functions and behaviour. It also bears the influence of the values, traditions and institutions of the past. Continuity of tradition, modernisation of. tradition, traditionalisation of modernity, and continuity and change are simultaneously present in every political system. The political system of independent India is no exception to this generalization. It stands positively as well as negatively influenced by its past. As we know that the modern India is the product of centuries of evolution and the experiences of many racial groups that have either got amalgamated or coexisted in the subcontinent. Its contemporary form clearly reflects the influence of its historical legacies. In its social, political, cultural, economic and administrative set up and governmental structure, it still maintains several features

of the British age. In its political aspect, Modern India is a product of two important factors.:

(1) the British impact of rational legal authority wielded by a central power that managed to consolidate the whole sub-continent under it. Although operating mainly in the legal and administrative spheres, the British Raj also affected fundamental life of the Indians, Indian political beliefs and relationships.

(2) the reconstructive nationalism of the pre-independence generated in response to the impact of a new world order as transmitted through the colonial power and developed as a means to political independence and social reforms in the context a slowly expanding framework of democratic institutions. As such, legacies can be discussed in two parts (1) Legacy of the Colonialism, (2) Legacy of the Indian National Movement. This will highlight the political legacies of colonialism in India.

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