

NATIONAL MOVEMENT

The growth of Nationalism in India is reflected in the spirit of Renaissance in Europe when freedom from religious restrictions led to the enhancement of national identity. Many revolutions like the French Revolution, the American Revolution, the Russian Revolution, etc. strengthened the idea of Nationalism in India. The 19th Century witnessed the concept of a national identity and thus, the national consciousness emerged. The social, economic and political factors had inspired the people to define and achieve their national identity. People began discovering their unity in the process of their struggle against colonialism. The sense of being oppressed under colonial rule provided a shared bond that tied different groups together. Each class and group felt the effects of colonialism differently. One type of laws and administration of British Government across several regions led to political and administrative unity. The economic exploitation by the British agitated other people to unite and react against British Government's control over their lives and resources. The social and religious reform movements of the 19th century also contributed to the feeling of Nationalism. The glory of ancient India, created faith among the people in their religion and culture and thus gave the message of love for their motherland. The intellectual and spiritual side of Nationalism was voiced by persons like Bankim Chandra Chatterji, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Aurobindo Ghosh, Mahatma Gandhi etc. Bankim Chandra's hymn to the Motherland, 'Vande Matram' became the rallying cry of patriotic nationalists. Similarly, the message of Swami Vivekananda, "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached", appealed to the Indians and acted as a potent force in creating the sense of Indian Nationalism in India.

National movements: Its significance, Value and Legacy

In this chapter we shall discuss the national movements, its significance, value and legacy of national movements in India, etc.

Significance of National Movements

The significance of the Indian national movement lies with the fact that it created a sense of awareness among the people of India to fight against the British Government and to get independence. The Political System of Independent India owes a great debt of gratitude to the national freedom struggle for several legacies inherited from it. Since the National Liberation Movement was a really national, voluntary, disciplined and

determined struggle of the Indians for securing independence from the yoke of British imperialism, it naturally provided a rich legacy to the Indian Political System. It was largely due to this legacy that the country got the

required leadership and organisation to take up the reins of power in independent India and initiate the process of nation-building through socio-economic development plans. In fact, the Constitution of India, in respect of its aims and objectives as well as several other features, depends heavily on the legacy of the National Liberation Movement.

Value of Indian National Movement

The Indian National Movement was governed by the objectives of securing different values such as justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Secularism as a way of life, a Welfare State, Socialism, Peace through peaceful means, self-rule and democracy in India, etc. The Constitution of India also accepts all these values. As such, we can, at the outset, state that the Indian National Movement left a rich legacy in respect of the values that the Indian political system has inherited and is trying to secure through planned and determined efforts of the Indians.

National movements

The Indian national movements were found in different forms of events, incidences, institutions, rebellions, peaceful protests etc. against the British Government to get independence from their clutch. The beginning was in the form of the Great Revolt of 1857, although an unsuccessful one. But it took a definite form with the establishment of Indian National Congress in 1885.