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Second Phase of the Indian National Movement (1905–1916)

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The Rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalism

Exercises

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (i) (b), (ii) (a), (iii) (c), (iv) (d) 2. (c) 3. (d)
4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (d)
9. (b) 10. (d) 11. (i) (a), (ii) (b), (iii) (a)
12. (b)

Short-Answer Questions

1. Name the leaders who constituted the Assertive/Radical Nationalist trio in the early years of the 20th century.

Ans. Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal.

2. Name any two causes of the rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalism in the 20th century.

Ans. (i) **Failure of the Early Nationalists** : The Early Nationalists adopted constitutional means to achieve

their aims. They raised their voice through public meetings and submitted petitions and resolutions to the English. But their methods failed miserably.

- (ii) **True Nature of the British Rule :** The constant economic drain on the resources of the country due to foreign rule added to the discontentment in the country. The Assertive Nationalists exposed the true nature of the British Rule which had been eating into the very structure of the Indian economy.

3. Name any two papers started by Tilak to propagate his faith.

Ans. Kesari and Mahratta.

4. Name any two reactionary acts of Lord Curzon.

Ans. (i) Indian Universities Act.

(ii) Partition of Bengal.

5. Name any two international events that shattered the myth of European superiority.

Ans. Japan defeated Russia in 1904-05. Italy was also defeated by Ethiopia. Both these events exploded the myth of European superiority.

6. Give one reason why the educated Indians turned against the British.

Ans. Only the English were appointed to high posts and were given handsome salaries. The educated Indians were excluded from high posts. Their life became miserable and they opposed the British Government.

7. When and by whom was the Partition of Bengal promulgated?

Ans. Partition of Bengal was initiated in 1905 by Lord Curzon.

8. Name the national leaders who were called Bal-Lal-Pal.

Ans. Bal Gangadhar Tilak-Lala Lajpat Rai-Bipin Chandra Pal.

9. Mention any two principles of Assertive/Radical Nationalists.

Ans. (i) Freedom is the birth right of every Indian.

(ii) They supported the use Swadeshi goods and boycott of imported goods.

10. Give one difference in the principles of the Assertive/Radical Nationalists and the Early Nationalists.

Ans. Early Nationalists considered their association with English as a boon and not a curse because they had done much good for Indians by removing various defects from the Indian society and culture while the Assertive Nationalists held the English responsible for the downfall of the Indian culture.

11. Give one difference in the methods of the Assertive/Radical Nationalists and the Early Nationalists.

Ans. Early Nationalists held meetings, delivered speeches, passed resolutions and submitted appeals and petitions to the government to project their demands while the Assertive Nationalists believed in launching political agitations, making people self-reliant by national awakening.

12. Give any one achievement of the Assertive/Radical Nationalists.

Ans. The Assertive Nationalists preached the method of self-respect and self-effort and asked the nationalists to rely on the character and strength of the Indian people and they became successful in doing so.

13. Who was known as Father of Assertive/Radical Nationalism in India?

Ans. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

14. Name the leader who was deported to Mandalay for six years.

Ans. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

15. Who started the Home Rule Movement in 1916?

Ans. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

16. Of the three Assertive/Radical Nationalist leaders, who was linked with the Arya Samaj Movement?

Ans. Lala Lajpat Rai

17. In which two ways can Tilak be called the forerunner of Gandhi?

Ans. Tilak was the forerunner of Mahatma Gandhi. According

to Ram Gopal “He (Tilak) has forestalled Gandhi in all the movements that the Mahatma launched after Tilak’s death. No rent campaign, boycott of Government service, prohibition and Swadeshi were all preached and practised by him. He talked of complete independence as back as 1897”.

- 18.** Which of the Assertive/Radical Nationalist leaders had uttered these words, “Lathi blows inflicted on me would prove as nails in coffin of the British Empire”?

Ans. Lala Lajpat Rai.

- 19.** Name the two papers started by Tilak in order to spread the ideals of Nationalism.

Ans. Kesari and Mahratta.

- 20.** Who was known as the Punjab Kesari?

Ans. Lala Lajpat Rai.

- 21.** State two factors which led to the rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalist Movement in India.

Ans. (i) Rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalist took place since the Early nationalists did not have a mass following.
(ii) The Early Nationalists adopted moderate, constitutional methods to achieve their goal.

- 22.** Name any two leaders of Assertive/Radical Nationalist Movement.

Ans. Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai.

- 23.** In what two ways did Assertive/Radical Movement leave an impact on the National Movement?

Ans. (i) The Assertive Nationalists sacrificed their homes, families and careers for their country’s freedom. They spread fear in the minds of the cruel and naughty British officers.
(ii) They boosted the morale of the people, forced the British Government to effect reforms and aided in accelerating the pace of National Movement.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

- 1.** How did the following causes lead to the rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalism in the early 20th century?

- (a) True nature of the British rule.
- (b) Famine, plague and continued apathy of the Government.
- (c) Reactionary policy of Lord Curzon.

Ans. (a) The constant economic drain on the resources of the country due to foreign rule added to the discontentment in the country. The Assertive Nationalists exposed the true nature of the British rule which had been eating into the very structure of the Indian economy. Tilak criticised the British rule through his writings in his newspapers like *Kesari* and *Mahratta*.

(b) Between 1851-1900 the people of various parts of India suffered from several droughts and famines. The people suffered many hardships while the Government did not take adequate measures to help the people. On the other hand, it wasted a huge amount of money on the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Queen Victoria's accession. Similarly, when plague raged in Poona the Government's indifference and apathy added to the anger and disgust of the common people. Tilak attacked the policy of the Government in the *Kesari* and *Mahratta*.

(c) By the Indian Universities Act of 1904 Lord Curzon imposed strict official control over the Indian Universities because he considered them as the centres of nationalism. The situation became highly explosive when he announced the partition of Bengal in 1905. It added fuel to the fire. All these measures contributed to rise of Assertive Nationalism.

2. Using the following points, briefly describe the factors responsible for the rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalism in the Congress :

- (a) Failure of the Early Nationalists.
- (b) Ill-treatment of the Indians in Africa.
- (c) Repressive or reactionary policy of the Government.

Ans. (a) The Early Nationalists adopted constitutional means to achieve their aims. They raised their voice through

public meetings and submitted petitions and resolutions to the English. But their methods failed miserably. The British turned a deaf ear to their resolutions and petitions which led to the rise of Assertive Nationalists who resolved to give a cutting edge to their movement. They believed that freedom had to be fought for.

- (b) The Indians had rendered useful services to the British in the development of their colonies in Africa. But they were humiliated, ill-treated, abused and insulted by the British. Various restrictions had been imposed on them. They could not walk on the footpaths. They were forbidden to travel in a first class coach. They were not allowed to travel without permits and go out of their home after 9 p.m. They had no right to vote and buy property.
- (c) In their bid to suppress the nationalistic sentiments and to scare away the people, the English rulers followed a policy of repression. Many of the Indian leaders were sent to jails. Tilak criticised the repressive policy of the Government in his newspapers, the *Kesari* and *Mahratta* and was sentenced to six years imprisonment. Policies of Lord Lytton and Lord Curzon added fuel to the fire. The English had thought that the sufferings of their leaders would make the people shudder and shiver with fear but it happened quite contrary to their expectations.

3. Many causes were responsible for the rise of Assertive/ Radical Nationalism in the Congress. Describe briefly :

- (a) Effect of revolutionary principles of the West.
- (b) Partition of Bengal.
- (c) International events.

Ans. (a) The spread of western education inspired the educated Indians with the western ideas of democracy, nationalism, liberty, equality and fraternity. They felt the foreign domination very strongly and realised that freedom can be achieved through revolutionary means and not through constitutional methods.

- (b) The situation became highly explosive when Lord Curzon announced the partition of Bengal in 1905. It added fuel to the fire. He wanted to sow the seeds of communalism and drive a wedge between the Hindus and the Muslims by adopting a policy of 'Divide and Rule'. The partition led to the widespread agitation not only in Bengal but also in other parts of India.
- (c) Japan made great progress in industrial and military fields and defeated Russia in 1904-05. Italy was also defeated by Ethiopia. Both these events exploded the myth of European superiority and encouraged the Indians. They felt that if European nations could be defeated, it was possible for the Indians to drive away the English from India.

4. Briefly describe the contribution of each of the following to the National Movement :

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai

- Ans.** (a) (i) Bal Gangadhar Tilak celebrated Ganapati and Shivaji festivals to spread the spirit of patriotism and nationalism among the people.
- (ii) He started two well-known papers, the *Kesari* and the *Mahratta*. Through them he preached nationalism and taught people to become courageous, self-reliant and selfless fighters for the freedom of the country.
- (iii) After the Surat session of the Congress in 1907 there was a split in the Congress. Tilak assumed the leadership of the Radical Nationalists.
- (iv) He was tried for sedition and deported to Mandalay for six years. He wrote two well known books there – *The Gita Rahasya* and *The Arctic Home of the Vedas*.
- (v) He started the Home Rule Movement in 1916.
- (b) (i) Bipin Chandra Pal joined the Brahmo Samaj as a

young man but his orthodox father turned him out of his house. After working as editor of New India, Pal joined the Congress in 1897.

- (ii) He was an early nationalist but became an active resistor after the partition of Bengal. He led the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal (1905-07).
- (iii) He preached the use of Swadeshi and the boycott of foreign goods to eradicate poverty and unemployment and to improve economic conditions of the people.
- (iv) He was a strong supporter of democracy, self-government and decentralisation of powers. He was a patriot but believed in internationalism.
- (c) (i) Lala Lajpat Rai was a great nationalist leader who worked for forging resistance to the British rule. He joined the Congress in 1888 and the Tilak group in 1907. He infused a new spirit and confidence in the people of Punjab.
- (ii) He joined the Ghadar Party in America in 1914 and began a newspaper *Young India*. He was an active member of the Arya Samaj movement.
- (iii) While protesting against the Simon Commission at Lahore in 1928 he was severely injured in the lathi charge by British forces. He died due to his injuries on November 17, 1928.

5. Write briefly about the following :

- (a) Principles of the Assertive/Radical Nationalists.
- (b) Methods of the Assertive/Radical Nationalists.
- (c) Achievements of the Assertive Nationalists.

Ans. (a) The central principle of the Assertive/Nationalists was that "Freedom is the birth-right of every Indian". They wanted to drive the English out of India and establish a government by the Indians because they believed that Swaraj was the solution of all the problems of the Indians. They supported the Swadeshi goods against the use of imported goods. They had faith in constructive work and moral progress of the Indians.

- (b) The Assertive Nationalists tried to popularize the idea of Swadeshi by occasional bonfire of foreign goods. Swadeshi meant boycott of foreign goods. The Assertive Nationalists believed in active resistance i.e. in policy of non-violent yet vigorous political action to refuse to co-operate with the government and boycott government schools, colleges, courts and services. They advocated courage and a spirit of self sacrifice to achieve Swaraj.
 - (c) The achievements of Assertive Nationalists were as marvellous as their sacrifices were noble. They preached the method of self-respect and self-effort and asked the nationalists to rely on the character and strength of the Indian people. They tried to cripple the administration by the weapons of non-cooperation and boycott. They propagated the use of Swadeshi and boycott of the foreign goods which helped in the survival of Indian handicrafts and industries.
6. How did the Early Nationalists and the Assertive/Radical Nationalists differ in the following fields?
- (a) Their political goals.
 - (b) Attitude towards the British rule.
 - (c) Their method of work.

- Ans.**
- (a) The Early Nationalists wanted Self-Government and strove for autonomy within the Empire while the Assertive Nationalists aimed at Swaraj or total freedom which they thought was remedy for all ills.
 - (b) The Early Nationalists were loyal to the British rule and English Crown. They considered British rule a boon for India while the Assertive Nationalists were not loyal to the British Rule. They wanted to uproot it from India.
 - (c) The Early Nationalists held meetings, delivered speeches, passed resolutions and submitted appeals and petitions to the government to project their demands while the Assertive Nationalists believed in launching political agitations, making people self- reliant by

national awakening. They opposed policy of political beggary and favoured policy of active resistance.

7. Bal Gangadhar Tilak is known as the 'Father of Assertive/Radical Nationalism' in India. Briefly describe:

- (a) His efforts to instil the spirit of patriotism and nationalism in the Indians.
- (b) The political beliefs and methods he advocated for their achievements.

Ans. (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak celebrated Ganapati and Shivaji festivals to spread the spirit of patriotism and nationalism among the people. He also started two well-known papers, the *Kesari* and the *Mahratta*. Through them he preached nationalism and taught people to become courageous, self-reliant and selfless fighters for the freedom of the country.

- (b) He believed that the English had conquered India by force and with the help of force alone they would be expelled from India. He transformed the freedom struggle into an agitation of the millions and the common masses. He started and led the Home Rule Movement.

8. Explain the differences between the Early Nationalists and the Assertive/Radical Nationalist leaders in the Indian National Congress with reference to the following :

- (a) Their basic beliefs.
- (b) Their ultimate objectives.
- (c) Their method of struggle.

Ans. (a) The Early Nationalists were loyal to the British rule and English Crown. They considered British rule a boon for India while the Assertive Nationalists were not loyal to the British Rule. They wanted to uproot it from India.

- (b) The Early Nationalists wanted Self-Government and strove for autonomy within the Empire while the Assertive Nationalists aimed at Swaraj which they thought was remedy for all ills.

(c) The Early Nationalists held meetings, delivered speeches, passed resolutions and submitted appeals and petitions to the government to project their demands while the Assertive Nationalists believed in launching political agitations, making people self reliant by national awakening. They opposed policy of political beggary and favoured policy of active resistance.