

# British Rule and Its Impact on India



- Editor in Chief -

# British Rule and Its Impact on India

| Editor-in-Chief |

**Dr. Dnyaneshwar Suryawanshi**  
Principal, VWS College, Dhule. (M.S.)

| Editors |

**Prof. Rajvirendrasing Gavit**

**Dr. Sunil Amrutkar**

**Prof. Satish Nikam**

Postgraduate Department of History,  
VWS College, Dhule. (M.S.)



Atharva Publications

# Acknowledgement



Atharva Publications

## British Rule and Its Impact on India

© Reserved

ISBN : 978-93-87129-43-6

Book No. : 552

Publisher & Printer: Mr. Yuvraj Mali

Dhule	: 17, Devidas Colony, Varkhedi Road, Dhule - 424001. Contact: 9405206230
Jalgaon	: Basement, Om Hospital, Near Anglo Urdu Highschool, Dhake Colony, Jalgaon - 425001. Contact: 0257-2239666, 9764694797
Email	: atharvapublications@gmail.com
Website	: www.atharvapublications.com
First Edition	: 2018
Type Setting	: Atharva Publications
Price	: ₹ 350/-

*Disclaimer: The authors are solely responsible for the contents of the papers compiled in this volume. The Editors or Publishers do not take responsibility for the same in any manner. Errors if any are purely unintentional and readers are requested to communicate such error to the Editors or Publishers to avoid discrepancies in future.*

The present edited book is the result of sincere and studied efforts of its authors who have given their valuable study and research material. It is immense praiseworthy for us for their contribution which they made available in spite of having their busy schedule. The Book coming into existence would have totally impossible without the financial assistance from Indian Council for Historical Research, New Delhi. So we cordially and sincerely thank to all contributors for this golden opportunity.

We are very thankful to Dr. Dilip Patil, Chairman, Shri. Yuvraj Karankal, Secretary, Shri Akshay Chhajed Vice-Chairman, of Governing Council of V.W.S. and all the Hon. Members of G.C. V.W.S. and Hon. Principal Dr. Dnyaneshwar Suryawanshi. They have given their precious support and encouragement for such a noble thing. We are also very thankful to our all Vice Principals Mr. V.K. Pawar, Dr. Shubhada Thakare and Mr. M.B.Patil and our all faculty members. We are also very grateful to Atharv Publications for publishing this book in time.

**Asst. Prof. Satish Nikam**  
Member, Editorial Board

13. **British Rule and Indian Press** ..... 89  
 - Dr. Raghunath D. Shelake
14. **British Rule and Indian Nationalism** ..... 97  
 - Dr. Nalini Avinash Waghmare
15. **Impact of British Rule on Indian Archeology** ..... 104  
**and Heritage Conservation**  
 - Miss Khandelwal Ishwari Prakash
16. **British Rule and Development of** ..... 120  
**Entrepreneurship**  
 - Mr. Sharad K. Shirule
17. **Impact of British Rule on English Language** ..... 127  
**Teaching in India**  
 - Prof. Sidhartha B. Sawant
18. **The British Rule and Its Impact on Indian Skill**..... 133  
 - Sonali Nimba Wagh
19. **Court System During British Rule in India** ..... 136  
 - Dr Sandesh D. Shegaonkar
20. **Advent of Educational Institutions in** ..... 141  
**19<sup>th</sup> Century Bombay : Impact of British Rule**  
 - Dr Ravinder Kaur Cheema
21. **British Rule and Indian Society** ..... 153  
 - Mr. Mahendra Satyavijay Wagh

# British Rule and Indian Nationalism

- Dr. Nalini Avinash Waghmare

## Introduction

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 the people. There was also a clash between the British interest in India and those of the Indian people. The British had conquered India to promote their own interest and they ruled over her primarily with that object in view. With the passage of time there was a realization in India and that realization brought bitterness against foreign rule and that 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 or the other the nationalist movement. The intelligence in India, the peasants the artisans and the workers all played their part in the freedom struggle. The British came to India as traders and founded an empire in 1757 which ended in 1947..

The remarkable growth of nationalism in India under British rule would not have been possible if her people had not long been united by ties of culture and religion which endured in spite of the numerous political turmoil's with which the country was afflicted.

The Indian national movement was undoubtedly one of the biggest mass movements modern society has 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 mighty colonial empire.

The British conquest of India was different in character from all the previous conquests of the country. In the past the change of rulers implied merely a change of the dynasty that exercised political authority over the people, but it did not affect the social fabric, the productive organization, the property relations or the system of administration. Under the British rule all this was altered,

and a socio-economic revolution was started which culminated in the destruction of the old institutions and in the emergence of new social classes and forces.

### **Causes of Indian Nationalism**

The following were the significant reasons which contributed to the rise of nationalism in India.

#### **British Imperialism**

The Nationalist Movement in India was the outcome of a large number of factors and the most important among them was British Imperialism. It was during the British rule that the whole of India was conquered and brought under one Sovereign authority. This domination by one country over the whole of India to think and act as one nation. British Imperialism helped the process of the unification of the country.

#### **Political Unity**

Before the establishment of the British Empire in India, there were several small kingdoms in India which formed their policies independently. But in the British regime a Uniform Economic and Administrative System was established throughout the country. One rule, one set of laws, administrative officers who were transferred from one place to another all over India, etc., contributed to the concept of one citizenship and one national among the Indians.

#### **English Language**

The English was made the medium of instruction in 1835. It became the language of the educated people of India irrespective of the differences of religion and region. Without the common medium of the English language, it would have been out of the question for the Madrasis, Bengalees, and the Punjabis to sit at one table and discuss the common problems facing the country. The educated Indians came in contact with the Western ideas and culture through the medium of English language. The ideas of liberty, equality, democracy, socialism etc., could infiltrate among them because of the English language which was their medium. Many Indians went abroad and came in direct contact with the Western World. It was these English education Indians who led the national movement and helped to develop and organize Indian Nationalism.

### **Western Education and Literature**

Indians studied English Literature very deeply which broadened their outlook. Burke, Mill, Spencer, and Mazzini's works infused the spirit of independence into the people of India that they began to aspire after their own independence. Under the British regime people of India came in contact with foreign countries. Indians got inspiration from the American War of independence and French Revolution & Russian revolution. Thus, contact with foreign countries inspired Indian Nationalism in several ways. Western ideas of liberty, freedom, equality influenced the Indians.

#### **Press and News Papers**

The new awakening that followed the introduction of Western education was widened by the printing press and newspaper. The establishment of printing press helped in wide circulation of ideas. By 1877, there were 644 newspapers in India, most of them vernaculars. The Indian press and literature both English and vernacular, also aroused national consciousness. Great was the influence of newspapers like the Indian Mirror, the Bombay Samachar, the Hindu Patriot, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Hindu, Kesari, Sulabh Samachar, Indu Prakash, Swadeshmithan, etc. on the political life of the country. All these newspapers were mostly anti-British and gave publicity of racial arrogance, economic exploitation, personal misbehavior, etc., of the British towards Indians. Undoubtedly, the Indian Press played a meritorious role in not only creating a national awakening in the country but also guiding the people of India throughout their struggle for independence. It brought home to Indians that the main hurdle in the way of Indians' uplift was their slavery and that a political organization was absolutely essential to check the misrule.

#### **Development of the Means of Communications & Transports**

The vast network of communications and transportation, built by the British, made it possible for Indians to come together and communicate with one another and to discuss the deficiencies and evils of British Rule. Railways, Telegraph, Wireless, Postal Services, construction of roads and canals facilitated communication among the people. The frequent meetings of the leaders among themselves and their personal contact with the people in different parts of the country gave a momentum to the

national movement.

### **Social and Religious Movements of the 19th Century**

In the first decades of the 19th century, western impact had started the process of self-criticism and reform of religion. The religious and social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshab Chandra Sen, Debendra Nath Tagore, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Ramakrishna Parmahans, Vivekanand and others exercised a tremendous influence on the people of India and they were responsible in different ways in putting the people of India on the road to progress. Among these, the names of the Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj, the Ramakrishna Mission and Theosophical Society made the people aware of the reality and directed them not to follow Western Civilization blindly. They revived the glory of ancient created faith among the people in their religion and culture and thus, gave the message of love to their motherland and to the people of India. With self consciousness came the sense of self – respect, which, in its train brought dissatisfaction against the British rule. Indians began to realize the evils of their subjection. Freedom began to be considered necessary even for the achievement of social and religious reforms. These Movements Preached love for India, Indians, Indian things.

### **Economic Exploitation**

Britishers robbed the country which was known as the Golden Bird Mercilessly and endeavored to make economically crippled and financially bankrupt. They sent the raw material of India to England at low prices and by selling their manufactured goods on high rates in India, they exploited the people as well as the country. As a result, the Indian trade and industry were intensified the problem of unemployment. Moreover, the English government did not pay much attention to the advancement of agriculture; hence the economic conditions of the country went on worsening. The salaries for the Indians lower posts were so low that the people of India felt dissatisfied, hence, discontented merchants peasants and the educated unemployed all stood in anger against the English governments. The public debt increased tremendously. No proper use of the money was made while constructing the railways. The cruelties inflicted by the English

also infused the spirit of nationalism into them and they supported the National Movement. India, therefore, lost its economic resources not only in the form of revenue, salary to the British officers, investments etc, but mostly because of unfavourable balance of trade which was primarily a creation of the British. People all over India suffered financially mere subsistence level and with no hope of any relief in future. It was found to react and it was one of the most important causes of Indian nationalism.

### **Racial Impartiality**

Before the outbreak of the revolution of 1857 the relations between the English, arose and the Indians were not uncordial in spite of the fact that the policies of the former were anti – Indians but after the outbreak of this revolution, the tensions began to memo and the Indians became militant. The English began to look down on the people of India due to their feeling of superiority. Their behaviour towards the Indians began to grow from bad to worse. British had a very low opinion of the characters. After 1857, the mutiny provided an excuse to keep Indians out of higher jobs. Hence it was but natural that feelings of hatred rose against such a government. So the people of India decided to throw the English out of India through the National Movement.

### **Influence of Historical Research**

Many scholars, poets and religious reformers contributed towards the progress of the National Movement. The study and publication of the ancient Indian literature by Asiatic Society of Bengal and scholars like Max Muller. Monier Williams Colebrooke, M.G.Ranade, Har Prasad Sashtri, R. G.Bhandarkar, Rajendralal Mitra etc. revealed to the people of India the majesty of the Sanskrit language and also inculcated among them a feeling of pride in their past and their faith in future. However, the learned men & scholars made the people of India remember their glorious past, and awakened them buy in the 19th century nationalism emerged with renewed vigour, so the 19th century can be named as the century of National awakening. It goes without saying that the concepts of nationality and patriotism were known to the Indians throughout their history. Ancient literature and religious texts testify to a well defined image of Mother India and to a closer consciousness of national solidarity. The ancient Indians

gave it the name of Bharatvarsha or simply Bharat.

### **Middle Class**

The British conquest of India finally enveloped the entire country the new social economy administrative system and modern education spread all over India and gave rise to new social classes on a National State. The role of the intelligentsia in the history of modern Indian Nationalism was decisive. They integrated to a great extent the Indian people into a modern nation and organized various progressive socio – reform – and religio – reform movements in the country. They were the pioneers, organizers and leaders of all political national movements. They brought ideas of nationalism and freedom to wider and wider sections of the Indian people, through educational and propaganda work which involved great self sacrifice & suffering. The fact the progressive intelligentsia, which assimilated modern western democratic culture and comprehended the complex problems of the incipient Indian Nation, were the makers of modern India. The nationalist movement led by these poets historians, scientists, sociologist, philosophers, economist, etc.

### **Ilbert Bill**

The controversy of Ilbert Bill also added to the development of National Movement. During the regime of Lord Ripon in A.D. 1883, Lord Ilbert was the law member in India. By one his proposals, he wanted to authorize the Indian Judges to settle the case of the English. It was vehemently opposed by the English hence the Bill could not be passed. The opposition to the Bill antagonized the Indian Public opinion. It made the British policy of racial discrimination very clear to them. The Indians realized that they could not except any justice or fair play from the English when their own interest were involved. The behaviour of the English contributed to the rise of the spirit of nationalism and the Indians decided to root out the English government. Thus the period of Lord Lytton and Lord Ripon was the seed time of Indian Nationalism which brought forth the Indian National Congress.

### **All India National Congress**

The credit for starting the Indian National Congress is often given to Mr. Allan Octavian Hume (A.O. Hume), who was a retired civilian from Poona and who is called the “Father of the

Indian National Congress”. The Indian National Congress, the premier Political organisation of the Indian people, held its first session in Bombay in 1885. It was attended by almost all outstanding leaders of Indian Nationalism. Its aim was to represent all Indians, without any distinction of caste community, colour or sex. It claims to represent all Indian interest and classes.

### **Conclusion**

History of the national movement causes of its origin, its growth, and its influence on the politics of the country. The main landmark in the history of the struggle for political freedom of India. An account of Indian struggle for independence and part played by Gandhiji in it. The important factors which contributed to the growth of political consciousness among the Indian people. British writers are of the opinion that “British imperialism itself was one of the important causes for the growth of freedom movement in India”. Many factors contributed towards the growth of the National movement in India mentioned above in my paper.

### **References**

- 1 Bhatiya, H.S. Genesis of British Power in India, Deep and Deep publications Pvt, Ltd, New Delhi, Reprint, 2001.
- 2 Bipan Chandra, India's struggle for Independence (1857-1947), Penguin books, New Delhi
- 3 Grover B.L. and S. Grover, Modern Indian History, S.Chand Company, New Delhi, 2002.
- 4 Kulkarni, V.B. British Dominion in India and after, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Bombay, 1964
- 5 Kulshreshtha V.D. Landmarks in Indian Legal and Constitutional History, Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, Reprinted, 1997.
- 6 Mahajan, V.D. A History of India part-III (Modern India), S.Chand & Company, New Delhi, 1990.
- 7 Pattabhi Sitaramayya, The History of Indian National Congress, Vol. I ( 1885-1935), Padma publications, Ltd, Bombay 1946,
- 8 Rajiva Mohan, Indian National Movement and the British Raj, Chugh publications, Allahabad, 1988.
- 9 Ram Gopal, British Rule in India an Assessment, Asia publishing House, Bombay, 1963.
- 10 Tara Chand, History of Freedom Movement in India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India, Patiala House, New Delhi, reprinted 1990. (Vol.1 & 2).
- 11 William Wilson, A History of British India, Indian Reprints publishing, Delhi, 1972.