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## Rise and Development of Nationalism in Maharashtra

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DOI - [10.5281/zenodo.14784834](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14784834)

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Nationalism in India was really started with the arrival of the British and Europeans. They were forced to study English. English education made Indians to think of western knowledge and got an opportunity to study them. From this, the principles of the French Revolution i.e. equality, independence, fraternity and patriotism arose in Indians which started Nationalism in India

### What is nationalism?

'Prior to the French Revolution, no statesman or statesman had anywhere propounded the philosophy of nationalism.' So the term 'nationalism' in its modern sense was rarely thought of before the nineteenth century, with few exceptions, But according to Dr O. K., "it is not easy to believe that nationalism is not the basic primitive nature of human beings, but it is a human feeling that is slow and developing". Politician Gracia says, "Nationalism is a feeling of love for the country, nationalism is a mixture of many, and in all these feelings there is a quality of universality. According to Jon H. Raindol, 'nationalism is the only concept to which today a large number of people are ready to surrender.'

### Reasons for the rise of NCP n Maharashtra:

An umbrella act of the British is the main reason for the rise of nationalism in India. The Maratha empire took advantage of it, but due to internal factions and social conditions, the Maratha empire turned to decline at a rapid pace. The British further took advantage of it and spread the English empire throughout India with the force of diplomacy, intelligence and modern weapons. In order to bring uniformity in governance, the British created regional unity, due to a single law, a uniform land recovery method, the differences between the provinces were destroyed and the feeling spread among the people that we are all one. As the idea of oneness grew stronger, nationalism became evident.

Missionary education system can also be the main reason for the rise of nationalism in India, along with the expansion of the empire, the British also undertook the work of spreading religion, for which the missionaries played a valuable role. The spread of education to the bottom of the society resulted in the dawn of enlightenment through modern education. Modern vision was increased due to the education of modern science, literature and art. The effects of this transition had an effect on Indians. Due to the western

education, the western thinker became closely acquainted with the philosophers such as Rousseau, Plato, Burke, Spencer Mill, Voltaire, etc. and we got to know each other.

The Enlightenment era was also an important factor in the rise of nationalism in India. Majority of the people in India were Hindu but there were many problems in this religion like old traditions, caste system which needed to be reformed. Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Prarthana Samaj, Satya Shodhak Movement all these organizations have an important role in this. During this period, the basic nature of Hindu religion and culture disappeared and superstitions and rituals were prevalent. Various social organizations in India did the same work as the Protestants did in Europe. This process of religious revival completely destroyed the feeling of neunganda among the Indians. This religious movement created immense respect for self-religion and self-culture. The awareness brought by religious reformers in the religious field also laid the foundation of the national movement in India since, Swarajya and Swadharma were considered two sides of the same coin at that time.

The role of social reformers became an important factor for the rise of nationalism. Many social reformers emerged from the religious reform movement. The goal of the reformers was to democratize social institutions and reconstruct the old religious outlook for the fulfillment of new social goals. In Bengal reformers like Raja Rammohan Rai, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Justice Ranade, Gopalkrishna Agarkar, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Pandita Ramabai, Savitribai Phule in Maharashtra attacked the evil customs and superstitions, women's reform, elimination of caste discrimination etc. He created vitality in the society by working.

The newspapers also contributed to the rise of nationalism in that era which was inspired by the western lifestyle and used effectively for media and public awareness. At that time, about 62 newspapers were published in Mumbai province in Marathi, Gujarati, Farsi and Hindi languages. Balshastrijambhekar's 'Darpan', Bhau Mahajan's 'Prabhakar', Lokmanya Tilak's 'Keshari' and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's 'Muknayak' did a memorable job of creating public awareness and political discontent. Newspapers did an unprecedented job of shaping the mentality of Indians in terms of the nationalist movement, thus the foundation of the nationalist movement became strong.

Means of communication also became an effective resource of creating patriotism and nationalism in India. Although the British built communication facilities in India such as construction of railway, post, satellite, road construction etc. to smoothen their administration, it was seen that the direct and indirect benefit of the British came only to the Indians. The reforms were actually done by the British to strengthen their administrative grip, but it also connected the cities, ended the inter-provincial divide, and started the process of direct communication between the leadership at the national and provincial levels. The railway network spread across the country and the development of the railway department created a sense of unity in the entire country. As people of different regions and castes started traveling together through the railway, they started understanding each other's happiness and pain, so the idea of nationalism took root through the process of integration through ideological exchanges.

Literary production also contributed to the rise of nationalism. Many writers and poets who were inspired by English education wrote books, articles and essays in their mother tongue and stimulated the

national spirit. In Maharashtra, Lokhitavadi's 'Shatapatre', Vishnushastri Chiplunkar's 'Nibandhamala', Keshav Suta's poetry created revolutionary interest in Marathi. The literature of all these writers was created pride about Swadesh and Swadharma.

The contribution of English language also was proved to be a boon to the rise of nationalism across the country including Maharashtra. In the West, the science of knowledge was introduced only because of the English language. It was only because of the English language that we realized how backward we are and how advanced the people in the West are.

Equal economic exploitation of Indians is also an important reason behind the rise of nationalism in India. After the industrial revolution in England, the raw materials required for the factories there were bought from India at a cheap price and the same finished goods were sold back in the Indian market at a higher price. Due to this policy of the British, millions of cottages and small

industries in India were closed. Dadabhai Noroji's "Theory of Economic Exploitation" against youth unemployment had a great impact on the Indian people.

#### **Summary:**

The arrival of Westerners behind the rise of nationalism in India, their internal reforms, their ideas about democracy, their feelings about individual freedom and evil, all these things were absorbed by Indians. The creation of nationalism from the spirit was created all over India including Maharashtra.

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