

Q. The Socio-Religious reformers of the 19-20th century aimed at modernization rather than westernization. Discuss.

Approach

In the introduction briefly explain about the socio-religious reforms of the 19-20th century.

Write a line about the difference between modernization and westernisation.

Discuss how such socio-religious reforms aimed at modernisation rather than westernation.

Conclude with the positive impacts of the reforms on Indian society.

Introduction

From the early 19th century, debates and discussion about social customs and practices took a new character due to the development of new forms of communication.

Various reformers like Raja Rammohun Roy, Ishawarchandra Vidyasagar, Swami Dayananda Saraswati persuaded people to give up degraded age-old traditions like Sati, child marriage, polygamy, female infanticide etc. by adopting a new way of life.

They were keen to spread knowledge of modernization in the country and bring about greater freedom and equality for women and “lower caste” people.

Body

Westernisation vs Modernisation

In simple terms, Westernization is a process of imitation of culture and values of western countries by non-western countries.

On the other hand, Modernization has a wider connotation. Adopting the modern style or modern ways and ideas of thinking, living, etc is ‘Modernization’. Modernization is a change or modification which offers the promise of the preservation of the past.

19-20th century socio-religious reforms aimed at modernisation rather than westernisation

The aim of these reformers was never to replace the local culture of India with the western culture. Rather they simply assimilated some western values which they saw as desirable for the development of the society such as humanism.

They emphasised more on the interpretation of scriptures and simplification of rituals rather than outrightly imitating westernisation.

Swami Vivekananda sought to bring reform through reinterpretations of the Vedas in the context of the changing world. He stressed on the ideal of social service and selfless action.

Similarly, Raja Rammohun Roy had great respect for the western way of thinking, yet gave utmost respect and importance to Vedas and Upnishads.

Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar used the ancient texts to suggest that widows could remarry. His suggestions were adopted by British officials, and a law was passed in 1856 permitting widow remarriage.

Such thinkers were against certain social evils like Sati, idolatry, polytheism, untouchability etc but they believed in the essence of scriptures as a persuasive truth and not that was not compatible with the modern notions of equality and dignity of all individuals.

In India, social reform did not ordinarily mean a reorganisation of the structuring of society at large, as it did in the West, for the benefit of underprivileged social and economic classes. Instead, it meant the infusion into the existing social structure of the new ways of life and thought; the society would be preserved, while its members would be transformed.

Conclusion

In the evolution of modern India the reform movements of the 19-20th century have made very significant contributions. They stood for the democratization of society, removal of superstition and abhorrent customs, spread of enlightenment and the development of a rational and modern outlook.

By the end of the 20th century, women themselves were actively working for reform. They wrote books, edited magazines, founded schools and training centres and set up a women's association.

These women, later on, joined various kinds of nationalist and socialist movements and contributed immensely in the freedom struggle.

Q. Indian nationalism grew partly as a result of colonial policies and partly as a reaction to colonial policies. Discuss.

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Approach

Introduce with explaining the Indian model of nationalism.

Discuss the factors that led to the rise of Indian nationalism especially focusing on colonial policies and Indian reaction to them.

Conclude suitably on a positive note.

Introduction

Indian Nationalist Movement was a grand and prolonged struggle launched against British imperialism. Nationalism was the main ideology and the instrument with whose help this struggle was launched.

In the context of the Indian Nationalist Movement, Indian nationalism represented two major ideas: anti-imperialism and national unity. In other words, any person, movement or organisation that practised and upheld these two ideas, could be considered a nationalist.

Body

Factors that led to rise of Indian Nationalism:

Colonial Policies:

Western education: When the British introduced Western education in India, they aimed at creating a class of educated Indians who could serve the British Interests. However, the English language helped nationalist leaders from different linguistic regions to communicate with each other and create a sense of national identity.

Modern western education also propagated the ideas of Nationalism, democracy, rights and freedom.

Socio- religious reforms: These reform movements sought to remove social evils which divided the Indian society; this had the effect of bringing different sections together, and proved to be an important factor in the growth of Indian nationalism .

Modern press: the second half of the nineteenth century saw the rise of modern press in India. It helped in often criticising the British policies and bringing together people from different backgrounds by spreading awareness.

Political unity: The political unification of the country, necessitated by the convenience had a two fold effect:

The economic fate of the people of different regions got linked together; for instance, failure of crops in one region affected the prices and supply in another region.

Modern means of transport and communication (esp Railways) brought people, especially the leaders, from different regions together. This was important for the exchange of political ideas and for mobilisation and organisation of public opinion on political and economic issues.

Reaction to colonial policies:

Rediscovery of India's past: The historical researches by European and Indian scholars created an entirely new picture of India's past.

The theory put forward by European scholars, that the Indo-Aryans belonged to the same ethnic group from which other nations of Europe had evolved, gave a psychological boost to the educated Indians.

The self-respect and confidence so gained helped the nationalists to demolish colonial myths that India had a long history of servility to foreign rulers.

Rise of middle class intelligentsia: British administrative and economic innovations gave rise to a new urban middle class in towns. This class, prominent because of its education, new position and its close ties with the ruling class, came to the forefront. The leadership to the Indian National Congress in all its stages of growth was provided by this class.

Racial arrogance of rulers: Racial myths of white superiority were sought to be perpetuated by the British through a deliberate policy of discrimination and segregation. Indians felt deeply hurt by this.

Example: Lytton's reactionary policies such as reduction of maximum age limit for the I.C.S. examination from 21 years to 19 years (1876)

It became clear to the nationalists that justice and fair play could not be expected where interests of the European Community were involved. However, the organised agitation by the Europeans to revoke the Ilbert Bill also taught the nationalists how to agitate for certain rights and demands.

Conclusion

The British policies and the growing anger against the colonial government brought together different groups and classes of Indians into a common struggle for freedom.

In a nutshell, we can say that Indian nationalism grew partly as a result of colonial policies and partly as a reaction to colonial policies.

Q. The Second World War gave a great stimulus to nationalist movements in colonies.
Comment.

Approach

Briefly explain the link between rise of nationalism and second world war.

Give examples.

Conclude suitably.

Introduction

Second World War had a major impact on the process of 'decolonisation'. This gave rise to several nationalist movements.

Decolonisation was the withdrawal of colonial powers from colonies and the acquisition of political or economic independence by such colonies.

Body

Factors behind the nationalistic movement rise following WWII were:

Principle of national self-determination: This principle, upholds by the charter to the UN and grants the freedom to decide the best government for themselves to inhabitants of the land.

The principle was given a boost by the rising the nationalistic sentiments in colonies that were inspired by the same ideologies motivating European powers to fight for their cause in WWII.

To contain rising communist influence: United States exhorted European colonial powers to grant independence to colonies, lest they would fall under communist influence.

Economic and political instability in colonial power: One of the ramifications of WWII was the ascendancy of United States and USSR as two superpowers and fall of former colonial powers who suffered heavily in WWII. They were more concerned with their national reconstruction and thus couldn't rule in colonies at the same time.

National Movements in colonies

Africa: The freedom struggle in African Colonies adopted different means. i.e., from gradualism or peaceful transition in Ghana under Kwame Nkrumah to violent struggle in Kenya under Jomo Kenyatta.

India: Indian National Congress launched the Quit India movement in 1942 and gained independence on 15th August 1947.

South-East Asia

Vietnam: An Indo-French colony, gained independence following victory in 'Battle of Dien Bien Phu' (1954)

Indonesia gained independence, following the surrender of Japan in August 1945.

Cambodia gained independence from French imperialism in 1953.

Conclusion

Post-WWII, almost everywhere, colonial exploitation was challenged by powerful nationalist movements. Hence, the war gave a great stimulus to nationalist movements in colonies.



Q. The Champaran Satyagraha was the first intersection of peasant unrest and the national movement. Comment.

Approach

Explain how Champaran Satyagraha was more inclusive as a mass movement than the previous movement.

Explain the issues with the previous movements.

Conclude suitably.

Introduction

The Champaran satyagraha of 1917 opened a new phase in the national movement by joining it to the great struggle of the Indian peasantry for bread and land. Agrarian issues rarely

formed the part of the political discourse earlier. However, Gandhiji led the struggle of indigo workers as India's first satyagraha that set the pace for inclusion of peasant struggles to the national movement.

Body

The early freedom fighters, earlier moderates and later extremists focused exclusively on political question of freedom struggle.

The movement was mostly motivated by and catered to the certain intelligentsia, educated, the urban middle class only and asked for certain concessions from British government like an increased representation of Indians in government, freedom of press, through tools like sending representatives, petitions etc.

The masses were neither involved in the struggle nor were their problems addressed.

The Champaran movement was the first Satyagraha, taken up by Gandhiji in India, to free indigo workers from excesses of indigo planters under tinkathia system who were trying to exploit peasants by increasing rent after falling of indigo prices due to coming of synthetic dyes.

Gandhiji spearheaded the movement non-violently and through political means, thus exposing peasants to political tools of struggle and paving the way for such other struggles.

Conclusion

It proved to be a watershed in the Indian freedom struggle by bringing peasants directly in its fold on one hand through the formation of Kisan Sabhas and inspiring future peasant movements based on political agitation on the other (Kheda, Bardoloi etc.) The freedom struggle from hereon became truly Indian by the inclusion of masses.

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Q. The First World War altered the economic and political situation in India. Comment.

Approach:

Highlight the economic and political conditions before World War I in British India.

Highlight the changing conditions during World War I and what led to them.

Conclude with the significance of these changes towards nationalist freedom struggle

Introduction

World War I (1914-18) was fought between colonial powers of Europe. It changed the course of freedom struggle by changing social and economic situation in India which was hitherto limited to certain class as witnessed in Swadeshi Movement and Congress Split at Surat Session.

Body

As British forces were active participants in the war, it led to an increase in defence expenditure of the government. To compensate for the rising fiscal deficit, the government increased taxes on all class alike including business class. Thus, increased expenditure and rising demand led to price rise leading to difficulties for common people.

As war created a demand for industrial goods, business class reaped immense profits due to declining imports in India. Thus, Indian businesses expanded during the war period, subsequently demanding greater opportunities for their development from the government.

Due to the need for soldiers villagers were forced to get recruited into armed forces and serve overseas. When they returned they brought back experience and understanding of how colonial powers were exploiting people of Asia and Africa.

The Russian Revolution at the end of the War inspired many towards socialist ideals and power of masses residing in peasants and workers.

Conclusion

These events created the ground for discontent against British Raj among across class divide. These conditions were then exploited by newer nationalists led by Gandhiji evident in Rowlatt Satyagraha, Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movement and further changing social, political and economic scenarios in the 1920s like the formation of Communist Party and Government of India Act, 1919.

Q. "The second World War was the result of nationalistic tensions, unresolved issues, and economic depression".

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Approach

In the introduction briefly discuss the formation of military alliances and the Second World War.

Discuss the background of the 1st World War and Treaty of Versailles.

In body mention various factors that led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

The rise of militarism in Germany and Japan, and the failure of the League of Nations.

Conclude the answer suitably.

Introduction

The Second World War (WW-II) was a global military conflict which lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of nations formed two opposing military alliances, the Allies and the Axis.

The Allies consisted of France, Poland and the United Kingdom, as well as their dependent states, such as British India. Later joined by the US and China.

The Axis, also known as "Rome–Berlin–Tokyo Axis", consisted of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Body

Factors led to the Second World War

Unresolved issues: The Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919 in a hostile environment after the first World War to bring peace in Europe.

The treaty was harsh on Germany and served as a humiliation for the Germans. It brought many hardships for the German population and further deteriorated the entire geopolitical landscape of Europe.

The treaty could not contain the rise of extreme nationalism in fascist regimes of Italy, Germany and Japan which in turn led to the increased scramble for new colonies.

Nationalistic tensions: Disintegration of German population into newly created nations was used by Hitler to justify German aggression and expansion before the second World War.

The humiliating conditions of the treaty of Versailles annoyed the Germans for years and in many ways led to the rise of Nazism in Germany.

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were violated by Hitler which led to the formation of alliances like the Anti-Comintern Pact (1937) between Germany, Japan and Italy and the Non-Aggression Pact (1939) between Germany and USSR.

The economic depression: The period before World War II was a time of great economic suffering throughout the world called the Great Depression. It posed severe risks to the entire economies of the world and specifically in Europe..

Aggressive foreign policy: Unemployment, poverty lead the cause for development of dictatorial regimes across Europe, who rationalized the idea to take anything by force, led to more aggressive/nationalist foreign policy.

Empire building forces: In the atmosphere of cut-throat economic trade/Depression, the answer of countries like Japan & Italy was to build an empire.

This secures their supplies of raw materials and natural resources. Countries like Japan (Manchuria), Italy (Abyssinia) and Germany (eastern Europe), therefore, set international conflict and tension, mistrust.

This created unstable governments and turmoil around the world that led to the Second World War.

The 1930s economic depression gave opportunity to Mussolini and his Fascist Party came to power, making Italy rich and powerful.

Rising to power in an economically and politically unstable Germany, Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist (Nazi Party) rearmed the nation to further his ambitions of world domination.

Other Factors Includes

Japan's Militarism: In 1931, Japan was hit badly by the economic depression. Japanese people lost faith in the government. They turned to the army in order to find a solution to their economic problems.

In order to produce more goods, Japan needed natural resources for its factories. The Japanese army invaded China, an area rich in minerals and resources.

Failure of League of Nations: The treaty led to the formation of the League of Nations which failed to prevent actions of fascist regimes like invasion of Manchuria by Japan.

The idea of the League of Nations was to prevent wars through disarmament, collective security and negotiation. Unfortunately the League failed miserably in its intended goal.

Appeasement policy: The failures of the League in the 1930s were not only because of aggressor nations undermining its authority, but also down to its own members.

Britain and France, the two most influential members, ignored the League in their efforts to appease Hitler, it allowed Hitler to expand German territory unchecked, this led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Conclusion

The seeds of the Second World War were sown in the treaty of Versailles. The harsh restriction led to the growth of dictatorial regimes and ingrained the feeling of revenge in Germany and Italy. Both these nations re-emerged as a strong military power with fascist tendencies driven by extreme nationalism in their respective countries.

Whereas, Japan's economic condition after the great depression and its militaristic policy in search of natural resources led to the formation of alliances with axis powers.

Q. Discuss the role of Jawaharlal Nehru in post independence consolidation and nation building.

Approach

Start the answer by writing a few introductory lines about Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Briefly explain the challenges faced by the newly independent India.

Discuss Nehru's role in post-independence consolidation and nation building with his visionary approach.

Conclude by summarizing the immense contributions of Nehru in the making of Modern India.

Introduction

Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India is widely acclaimed as one of the architects of modern India.

His remarkable personality was an unusual combination of an intellectual and a practical political leader.

The role that he played in the long struggle for national freedom, and later as one of the greatest political leaders of free India, has had a profound impact on the modern politics of the country.

Body

Challenges Faced by the Newly Independent India

India was born in very difficult circumstances. Freedom came with partition of the country. The year 1947 was a year of unprecedented violence and trauma of displacement.

It was in this situation that independent India started on its journey to achieve several objectives.

Yet the turmoil that accompanied independence did not make our leaders lose sight of the multiple challenges that faced the new nation.

Broadly, independent India faced the following challenges:

The first and the immediate challenge was to shape a nation that was united yet accommodative of the diversity.

India was a land of continental size and diversity. Its people spoke different languages and followed different cultures and religions.

At that time it was widely believed that a country full of such kinds of diversity could not remain together for long.

The partition of the country appeared to prove everyone's worst fears. Hence, consolidation of the country was one of the biggest challenges.

The second challenge was to establish democracy.

Everybody agreed on running the country through democratic government.

However, a democratic constitution is necessary but not sufficient for establishing democracy. The challenge was to develop democratic practices in accordance with the constitution.

The third challenge was to ensure the development and well being of the entire society and not only of some sections.

The constitution laid down the principle of equality and special protection to socially disadvantaged groups and religious and cultural communities.

But, the real challenge was to evolve effective policies for economic development and eradication of poverty.

The fourth challenge was to have a new foreign policy.

India had just gained independence from Britishers. The leaders feared that joining any of the two blocs (USA and USSR) might be a risk to the country's autonomy and compromising independence.

Nehru's role in overcoming these challenges

Consolidation of the nation: Nehru took a firm stance against the possible division of India into smaller principalities. He established the State Reorganization Committee to fulfil regional aspirations of the people which would lower the chances of them wanting to cede from the nation. This way he strengthened the unity.

Rehabilitation of refugees: Refugees from Pakistan were given shelter and attempts were made to reduce communalism.

Secularism: It was mainly due to Jawahar Lal Nehru's efforts that India emerged as a secular state in the mid-twentieth century. Much before independence, he played a heroic role in the development of a secular basis for Indian polity. This helped in building the narrative of 'Unity in Diversity'.

Welfare state: Nehru was a practical idealist and believed that socialism and democracy were not contradictory but complementary to each other. He wanted to build a welfare state for the equitable distribution of wealth.

Planning Commission: Nehru, a pragmatic socialist understood the importance of the welfare state in a country which does not have sufficient infrastructure, established a planning commission for long term planning of social schemes.

Non-Allignment Policy (NAM): Nehru, being the Foreign Minister, did not want to join either of the power blocs. Also he did not want India to remain aloof from world politics. Therefore, Nehru's visionary approach to establish NAM with other third world countries proved to be an ideal foreign policy approach.

Conclusion

Nehru's contribution to India can never be truly evaluated. Despite facing daunting tasks he was successful in maintaining and strengthening the nation. Carrying the traditions of the national movement, he nurtured the newly born nation, India.

Q. The Industrial Revolution was not only a technological revolution but a social-economic revolution that changed the way people lived afterwards.

Approach

Introduce by writing what is meant by the Industrial Revolution.

Discuss the revolution that took place in technology.

Explain various social and economic changes that took place during the time.

Conclude suitably.

Introduction

The Industrial Revolution, which took place from the 18th to 19th centuries, was a period during which predominantly agrarian, rural societies in Europe and America became industrial and urban.

Industrialization marked a shift to powered, special-purpose machinery, factories and mass production. The iron and textile industries became the mainstay of the industrial revolution. From cooking appliances to ships, all had components of iron and steel. The process went into hyperdrive with the advent of steam engines and ships.

Body

Technological changes that took place during the industrial revolution

During the industrial revolution, acceleration in the processes of technological innovation brought about an array of new tools and machines.

The following are key technological changes that took place during the industrial revolution:

Textiles: During the period, the organization of cotton production shifted from a small-scale cottage industry, in which rural families performed spinning and weaving tasks in their homes, to a large, mechanized, factory-based industry.

The boom in productivity began with a few technical devices, including the spinning jenny, spinning mule, and power loom.

Agriculture: Several factors came together in 18th-century Europe to bring about a substantial increase in agricultural productivity.

These included new types of equipment, such as the seed drill developed by Jethro Tull around 1701. Progress was also made in crop rotation and land use, soil health, development of new crop varieties, and animal husbandry.

The result was a sustained increase in yields, capable of feeding a rapidly growing population with improved nutrition.

Energy: The mining and distribution of coal set in motion some of the dynamics that led to Britain's industrialization. The coal-fired steam engine was in many respects the decisive technology of the Industrial Revolution.

Transportation: Concurrent with the increased output of agricultural produce and manufactured goods arose the need for more efficient means of delivering these products to market.

Steam engines and railways became important features of the industrial revolution during the 19th century.

Social and economic changes that took place during the industrial revolution

A lot of socio-economic change took place during the Industrial Revolution. It changed the character and culture of people in the whole world.

Population Explosion: Advancement in technology and better agricultural production led to better medical facilities and greater employment which led to population explosion.

Development of Banking and Finance System: the middle class began opening up new factories for which they required financing and therefore, the banking and finance system began developing.

Status of Women: The Industrial Revolution marked a dramatic change for women as many of them entered the workforce for the first time. Women had to compete with men for jobs. Female factory workers often made only one-third as much as men.

Rising Middle Class: The middle-class men started owning factories, sent their male children to school and rose up in society due to an increase in wealth.

Urbanisation: People started moving to urban areas in search of better jobs in factories due to which these areas became highly populous with poor housing facilities.

The exploitation of resources: industrial Revolution made the production of goods easy and ready in much less time. Therefore, more and more goods began to be produced which led to the exploitation of resources.

Conclusion

The Industrial Revolution was a revolutionary experience. It also increased material wealth, extended life, and was a powerful force for social change. And therefore, there was more to the Industrial Revolution than a bunch of machines, it was not only a technological revolution but a social-economic revolution that changed the way people lived afterwards.

Q. The roots of the disintegration of the Mughal empire may be found in the Indian economy and external incursions. Discuss.

Approach

Start by writing about the expanse of Mughal empire in the early 18th century.

Discuss the various reasons behind the disintegration of Mughal empire giving special emphasis on - economy and external incursions.

Conclude suitably by writing future implications of the disintegration.

Introduction

Disintegration of the Mughal empire was a decisive event in the history of India which led to the rise of different regional powers as well as British rule for over 200 years.

Beginning of the disintegration of Mughal empire can be traced to the strong rule of Aurangzeb.

Aurangzeb inherited a large empire, yet he adopted a policy of extending it further to the farthest geographical limits in the south at the great expense of men and materials.

Body

Reasons for disintegration of Mughal empire:

Economic reasons: The Mughal economy was affected by a number of reasons which in turn led to disintegration of the Mughal empire. Some of the factors are as following:

War of succession: Due to the absence of any fixed rule of succession, the Mughal dynasty often had to face civil wars between the princes.

These wars of succession became increasingly destructive and fierce during the 18th century which resulted in great loss of life and property.

Jagirdars: The economy of the empire deteriorated due to the Jagir crisis as many Jagirdars were contesting for a limited number of jagirs which in turn led to further political crisis between the nobles.

To increase profit with a limited number of jagirs, the Jagirdars started to maintain less than expected number of troops which weakened the army of the Mughal empire.

Foreign invasion: After the death of Aurangzeb, due to the weakness of later Mughals, many foreign invasions struck the empire. Such invasions resulted in plundering much of the wealth of the empire. It worsened the economy of an already declining power.

Empty Treasury: Shah Jahan's zeal for construction (eg Taj Mahal) had depleted the treasury. Aurangzeb's long wars in the south had further drained the exchequer.

External incursions: A series of foreign invasions affected Mughal Empire terribly.

Invasion by Nadir Shah: The condition of Mughal empire with its incompetent rulers, weak administration and poor military strength attracted foreign invaders.

Nadir Shah, the ruler of Persia, attacked the empire in 1739. Nadir Shah's invasion gave a crushing blow to the already tottering Mughal Empire and hastened the process of its disintegration.

Invasion by Ahmad Shah Abdali: In 1761, during the reign of Shah Alam II, Ahmad Shah Abdali, the independent ruler of Afghanistan, invaded India. He conquered Punjab and marched towards Delhi. Ahmad Shah Abdali's invasion further weakened the Mughal Empire.

Further, the emergence of British and other European powers in the Indian subcontinent also posed as a challenge took away the last hope of the revival of the Mughal Empire.

Conclusion

The disintegration of Mughal Empire made the soil fertile for the colonisation by the British.

In 1857, Bahadur Shah II played an important symbolic role and with his death in 1862, the Mughal Empire came to an end.

Thus, decline of economy and external incursions acted as termites in the strong wood of mughal empire.

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Q. Examine the contribution of Ambedkar in awakening Dalit consciousness.

Approach:

Briefly introduce about Ambedkar and his works.

Elaborate the contribution of Ambedkar in awakening Dalit consciousness.

Give conclusions.

Introduction

Dalit consciousness in India is an outcome of the great works done by Dr. Ambedkar for the rights of Dalits and untouchables.

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was a jurist, social reformer and politician. He is also known as the Father of Indian Constitution.

A well-known politician and an eminent jurist, his efforts to eradicate social evils like untouchability and caste restrictions were remarkable.

Throughout his childhood, Ambedkar faced the stigmas of caste discrimination. Hailing from the Hindu Mahar caste, his family was viewed as “untouchable”.

In the 20th century, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar sharpened the consciousness of the oppressed classes and groomed them to be a powerful constituent of the present-day political system. His political and literary contribution to the awakening of the Dalit Consciousness is immense and he is universally accepted as the father of the Dalit Consciousness. He not only gave a voice of the voiceless people of India but also a political identity.

Body

Contribution of Ambedkar in awakening Dalit consciousness:

Ambedkar launched full-fledged movements for Dalit rights during the 1930s. He demanded public drinking water sources open to all and right for all castes to enter temples. He openly condemned Hindu Scriptures advocating discrimination and arranged symbolic demonstrations to enter the Kalaram Temple in Nashik.

He adopted various means to safeguard Dalit rights. Ambedkar launched a movement against Dalit discrimination by creating public opinion through his writings in several periodicals such as Mook Nayak, Vahishkrit Bharat, and Equality Janta, which he started for the protection of Dalit rights.

Ambedkar had been closely involved in the struggle to give Scheduled Caste people solid statutory safeguard. He was a delegate at the Round Table Conference in London, where he asked for separate electorate for Dalits.

In 1932, the Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Ambedkar and Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya to ensure reservation of seats for the untouchable class in the Provincial legislatures, within the general electorate. These classes were later designated as Scheduled Classes and Scheduled Tribes.

In 1936, Ambedkar founded the Independent Labor Party which later transformed into the All India Scheduled Castes Federation.

He linked nationalism with the social and political aspiration of the untouchables.

According to Ambedkar what British imperialism was to India, Hindu imperialism was to the untouchables. He was against injustice and imperialism in any form and any part of human society.

He encouraged the Dalits to embrace Buddhism to liberate their own selves from Hindu subjugation.

He saw that the Dalit movement lacked philosophical justification. So he wrote about the French revolution ideas of fraternity, liberty and equality.

Being the chairman of the drafting committee of Indian Constitution, Dr B.R. Ambedkar provided certain constitutional provisions to protect the rights of Dalits in social, economic,

educational, employment, and political fields, in the form of positive discriminations or preferential treatments or reservation policy.

Ambedkar's efforts brought educational awareness among Dalits who became socially conscious about the circumstances and social problems of untouchability and caste discrimination meted out to them.

Ambedkar launched the social liberation movement for social rights and opportunities of the deprived and downtrodden section of society.

Conclusion

The period from 1920 to 1956 was influenced by the writings and political activities of Dr. Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar. He argued the case of the untouchables from the boundaries of the villages to the Round Table Conferences.

The Dalit movement in India is a legacy of the multiple streams of Ambedkar's efforts to bring equality and to make systemic changes to the social order.

