

HISTORY

CLASS - X

CHAPTER : EARLY STAGES OF COLLECTIVE ACTION : CHARACTERISTICS AND ANALYSIS

1. How much it was true to call the revolt of 1857 was the first war of Independence?

Ans. The historians greatly differ about the nature and characteristics of the revolt of 1857, V. D. Savarkar has called — it was the first war of independence. Prof. Hirendranath Mukherjee, Susovan Sarkar expressed the same view. But Dr. Rameschandra Majumder did not support the view. He said that people at that time had not yet understand the meaning of nationalism. Hence this was nothing but a revolt of the soldiers. Also, Dr. Surendranath Sen, Rajani Palm Dutta expressed the same view.

After the independence the researchers like Ranajit Guha, Goutam Bhadra, Haraprasad Chatterjee thought that there were vast participation of the common people to the revolt. Prof. S. B. Chaudhuri saw the revolt of 1857 as the first combined attempt of many classes of people to challenge a foreign power.

2. How much Bangabhasa Prakasika Sabha and Zamindar Sabha were succeeded to achieve their goals?

Ans. Bangabhasa Prakasika Sabha was formed in 1836 by Prasanna Kr. Thakur, Kalinath Chowdhury, Dwarakanath Tagore and so on. They were all came from Zamindari traditions. Gouri Sankar Bhattacharya became the president and Durgaprasad Tarkapanchanan became the secretary of the sabha. The sabha vehemently opposed the imposition of taxes on non-taxable land. But they did not create heavy political protest in the country. Because of this the sabha did not last a long. But it was the first political association of India.

Zamindar Sabha was formed in 1838 by Dwarakanath Tagore, Radha Kanta Deb. Rich businessmen became the members of the sabha. Their goals were to establish the interests of zamindars, spread of permanent settlement all over India, reforms in police, judiciary and revenue departments. But they did not raise voice about the problems of common people. They created a new dimentions in institutional politics.

3. How is Nationalism described in the “Bartaman Bharat” of Swami Vivekananda?

Ans. Swami Vivekananda, though a personality of spiritualism was a strong spokesman of Nationalism. He thought deeply about the emancipation of the nation from the long time bondage under foreign rule.

In Bartaman Bharat Swamiji vividly described his concept of nationalism. He thought his Indian soil (Bharatbhumi), motherland as “Upavan of Youth”, as well as “Varanasi of old age”. According to him Indian soil was “The Heaven”. Hence in his speeches for the countrymen he strongly uttered that the main duty of the countrymen is to serve the Nation. Swamiji firmly believed that the youth power of the country can driveaway the curse of bondage. Hence he has given much more emphasis on youth power. He boldly uttered, “Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved”. As a preacher of the youth, Swamiji mentioned, “..... your life is ready for sacrifice for the nation from the day of your birth”. To revive or regain the mind power of the fellow countrymen, he proudly uttered, “only the brave, courageous can attain freedom”.