
DSC 3: Colonialism and Nationalism in India

Course Objective

The purpose of this course is to help students understand historically the advent of colonialism in India and the emergence of the discourse on nationalism as a response to it. The aim is to engage with theoretical explanations of colonialism and nationalism in India at the same time study the social, political and institutional practices that unfolded in that period, gradually paving way towards independence and democracy in India.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students would be able to:

- Show an understanding of the nature of colonial rule in India and the various developments through which it consolidated itself.
- Demonstrate awareness of the specific impacts of colonialism on Indian economy
- Show knowledge of the gradual emergence of the nationalist movement in India in response to the colonial rule
- Demonstrate an understanding of the distinct periods of the nationalist movement and the nature of resistance politics adopted in different phases
- Show awareness of the various social movements, the kind of questions they raised and their contributions in the nationalist movement

Unit 1. Colonialism and Nationalism:

- Main perspectives on colonialism: Liberalism, Marxism, Postcolonialism
- Approaches to the study of nationalism in India: Nationalist, Imperialist, Marxist, and Subaltern

Unit 2. Colonial Rule in India and its impact:

- Constitutional developments and the colonial state
- Colonial ideology of civilizing mission: Utilitarians and Missionaries
- Impact on agriculture, land relations, industry and ecology

Unit 3. Reform and Resistance:

- The 1857 war of Independence
- Major social and religious movements
- Education and the rise of the new middle class

Unit 4. Nationalist Politics and Expansion of its Social Base

- Phases of the Nationalist Movement: Liberal constitutionalist, Swadeshi and the Radicals, Formation of the Muslim League

- Gandhi and mass mobilisation: Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India Movements
- Revolutionaries, Socialists and Communists
- Communalism in Indian Politics
- The two-nation theory, negotiations over partition

Unit 5. Social Movements

Peasants, Tribals, Workers, Women and anti-caste movements

Unit wise reading list

Essential Readings

1. Colonialism and Nationalism:

Chandra, B. (1999) *Essays on Colonialism*, Hyderabad. Orient Longman, pp.1-22.

Chandra, B. (1988) *India's Struggle for Independence*, New Delhi. Penguin, pp.13-30.

Fulcher, J. (2004) *Capitalism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Datta, G. Sobhanlal. (2007) 'Imperialism and Colonialism: Towards a Postcolonial Understanding', in Dasgupta, Jyoti Bhusan (ed.) *Science, Technology, Imperialism and War*. New Delhi: Centre for Studies in Civilization Publication and DK, pp 423-466.

Guha, Ranajit. (1982). *Subaltern Studies, I*. Oxford University Press. Delhi. pp.1-8.

Metcalf, T. (1995) 'Liberalism and Empire' in Metcalf, Thomas. *Ideologies of the Raj*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.28-65.

Young, R. (2003) *Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 9-68.

Thapar, R. (2000) 'Interpretations of Colonial History: Colonial, Nationalist, Post-colonial', in DeSouza, P.R. (ed.) *Contemporary India: Transitions*. New Delhi: Sage, pp. 25-36.

2. Colonial Rule in India and its impact:

Bandopadhyay, S. (2015 revised edition) *From Plassey to Partition and After: A History of Modern India*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, pp. 37-65; 66-138.

Chandra, B. (1999) *Essays on Colonialism*. Hyderabad: Orient Longman, pp. 58-78. Metcalf and Metcalf. (2002) *A Concise History of India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 55-80.

Sarkar, S. (1983) *Modern India (1885-1847)*. New Delhi: Macmillan.

Sen, A.P. (2007), 'The idea of Social reform and its critique among Hindus of Nineteenth Century India', in Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi (ed.) *Development of Modern Indian Thought and the Social Sciences*. Vol X. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.