
NATIONALISM IN INDIA

Course objective

The course aims to help students understand the national movement in India. It looks at the movement from different theoretical perspectives that highlight its varied dimensions. The course begins by looking at the Indian responses to colonial dominance in the nineteenth century, and traces the development of the anti-colonial struggle up to the mid-20th century. It successively focuses on the events leading to the Partition and the Independence in 1947. In the process, the course also tries to focus on the various tensions and debates within nationalism in India as it engaged with the questions of communalism, class struggle, caste and gender.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students would:

- Gain an understanding of the different theoretical views on the emergence and development of nationalism in India and the tensions that existed between them
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical trajectory of the development of the nationalist movement in India, with specific focus on its different phases
- Understand the contribution of various social movements in the anti-colonial struggle
- Demonstrate awareness of the history of partition and independence

Unit 1. Approaches to the Study of Nationalism in India: Nationalist, Imperialist, Marxist, and Subaltern

Unit 2. Reformism and Anti-Reformism in the Nineteenth Century: Major Social and Religious Movements in 19th century

Unit 3. Nationalist Politics and Expansion of its Social Base

- a. Phases of Nationalist Movement: Liberal Constitutionalists, Swadeshi and the Radicals; Beginning of Constitutionalism in India
- b. Gandhi and Mass Mobilisation: Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement
- c. Revolutionaries, Socialists, and Communists

Unit 4. Social Movements

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

Unit 5. Partition, Independence and Integration of states

Communalism in Indian Politics, The Two-Nation Theory and Partition, Independence and Integration of Indian States