

# VIII D. Nationalism

For B.A. Part-III

Paper-VIII D. (Topic: Nationalism)  
G.K.Jha, Deptt. Of Political Science, Marwari  
College, Darbhanga

# Introduction

- Before we embark upon discussing the ideology of Nationalism, it is pertinent to probe the meaning of prefix “Nation”.
- The word ‘Nation’ is derived from ‘nasci’ meaning “to be born”.
- It is a complex phenomena that are shaped by variety of factors such as cultural, political and psychological.

# Nation

- Culturally a nation is a group of people bound together by a common language, religion, history and tradition.
- Politically, a nation is a group of people who regard themselves as a natural political community.
- Psychologically, a nation is a group of people having shared loyalty or affection reflected in their patriotism.

# Nationalism

- It is an ideology that reflects people love and commitment towards their own nation.
- **J.G Herder**, a German Philosopher coined the term “cultural nationalism”, that places emphasis on the regeneration of the nation as a distinctive civilization. In other words, this form of nationalism overtly or covertly emphasizes on awareness and appreciation of national tradition and collective memories.

# Nationalism and modernization

- Ernest Gellner linked nationalism to modernization as he emphasised that premodern societies has forged a network of feudal bonds and loyalties.
- It is something inescapable as it promotes mobility, competition and cultural cohesion.
- Though many others suspected its applicability for the large part of world and especially its inability to explain emerging nationalism in the parts of Asia.

# Political Nationalism

- It places emphasis upon shared citizenship regardless of their cultural, ethnic and other loyalties.
- Rousseau, who is credited as father of modern nationalism, stressed upon the popular sovereignty as an idea tied with the nationalism, which borne out of 1789 French Revolution.

# Political Nationalism

- Eric Hobsbawm argued that a belief in historical continuity and cultural purity as a myth and nationalism itself created nation than vice-versa.
- Benedict Anderson in his popular book, *Imagined Community* portrayed the nation as an artefact borne out of mental images. Thus it is an afterthought to create a sense of urgency among population.

# Varieties of Nationalism

- Liberal Nationalism
- Conservative Nationalism
- Expansionist Nationalism
- Anti colonial Nationalism



# Liberal Nationalism

- A classic form of European evident in Italian “Risorgimento’ (rebirth) nationalism expressed by Mazzini.
- It is based upon the premise that humankind is naturally divided into a collection of nations, each possessed of a separate identity. It has firmly affirmed the idea of “Nation-state”.
- It further proclaims that each and every nation has a right to freedom and self-determination.
- It therefore radically advocated the universal principle of national self-determination, a key principle in UDHR and other human right proclamations.

# Conservative Nationalism

- Unlike liberal nationalism dalliance with the universal self-determination, Conservative nationalism is more concerned with the promise of social cohesion and public order embodied in the sentiments of national patriotism.
- Patriotism is a sentiment, a psychological attachment to one's nation. (*Andrew Heywood, Politics, P.118*).
- Patriotic loyalty and idea of fatherland are the key points of this form of nationalism.

# Expansionist Nationalism

- An aggressive, militarist and expansionist are at the core character of this form of Nationalism. Popularly it has been referred to as “Jingoism”, a mode of public enthusiasm and celebrations provoked by military expansion or imperial conquest,
- Invariably it is associated with chauvinism, i.e. An irrational belief in one's own group or people.
- It therefore gives rise to ethnic or racial superiority, purity of blood and language.

# Colonial Nationalism

- Colonial world, which had a deep history of struggle against their foreign rulers, have spawned inspiration among the locals to get back their nation.
- Therefore the struggle for anti-colonialism sometimes intertwined with the nation-building.
- In Africa and Asia, it helped in forging a sense of nationhood shaped by the desire for “national liberation”.