

## NATIONALISM TO NEO NATIONALISM- A HISTORIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

*A nation is made up of people who have nationalistic common feeling and the notion of being one as a unit. Nationalism as a movement flourished in Modern period i.e. the twentieth century. History has shown that people have been rooted in their native land and have deep attachment emotionally towards norms, rituals, and traditions of their own lands. Since the establishment of civilization, Civilizational identity became distinctive from national identity. During the middle ages, civilizations were tagged with religion. Christianity, Islam, Buddhist or Hindu became religious identities of nation. The end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the educational systems and social life with the emergence of middle class progressed towards nationalism. Political and poetic loyalties were centered on nationalism. Poets, writers, and historians reformed mother tongue and elevated its rank to literary language and rejoiced the glory of the past. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the celebrations of 'Declaration of Independence' with the birth of American nationalism deeply influenced the French Revolution. Napoleon's nationalism turned French nationalism and it yoked against European nationalism. The German Nationalism rejected French nationalism led by intellectuals and artist. United Nations Organization played a major role in forming and authorizing nationalism as, by 1980, more than 100 nations were the active members of UNO. The highest numbers were from Asian and African more than two third of the total count. The role of UNO also came under criticism due to its dubious stand over many controversial issues. Neo--Nationalism or New nationalism is the present trend and it is reflected in many global political turmoils in recent times. Postcolonialism or postcolonial studies is the academic study of the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism, focusing on the human consequences of the control and exploitation of colonized people and their lands.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Nationalism, Culture, Nation, Neo-Nationalism, Post Colonialism, United Nations Organization*

### INTRODUCTION

Nationalism as a movement flourished in Modern period i.e. the twentieth century. History has shown that people have been rooted in their native land and have deep attachment emotionally towards norms, rituals, and traditions of their own lands. But since 18<sup>th</sup> century Nationalism began to emerge as a cult of people. Modern history is a witness to this social, public and private changes. Nationalism characterized with dynamic vitality and pervading character since old times, but it is not the vital feature of it. French Revolution (1789 to 1799) and American Revolution (1775- 1783) sensitized the term nationalism. The infiltration of this sentiment waved into the new countries of Latin America and later on to eastern countries of Europe in the middle of the century and towards Eastern Europe. At the dawn of the twentieth century, Nationalism flourished in the ancient lands of Asia and Africa. The nineteenth century saw the spread of Nationalism in the Europe and twentieth century witnessed the rise and struggle of powerful national movements against

their colonial counterparts.

In the present sense, Nationalism stands for the identification of the state or nation with the people or group of fixed ethnographic order. The recognizable principle underlines the fact that each state should include all the members of that nationality to form a nation. Nationality which is abstract emotional entity must find its shape or body with the formation of state with concrete land boundaries. Politically nationalism denotes a political state with a population who believe in particular ethnicity. In earlier times the territorial parts under one regime were not tagged with nations. People of the state did not give their loyalty to the central administrator but to a different part of city-states, the feudal ruler or lord, the dynastic state, religious sect or spiritual group. The national state did not exist during the greater part of history and for the greater length of time, it was not even considered as a political compulsion. In the earlier centuries till the fifteenth century in the Christian times, the loyalties were not centralized around one authority. The Roman Empire (27 BC – 395 AD) was longest political reign by emperors set an ideal example of universal world state which continued through the Holy Roman Empire of the middle ages but also in the concept of the *Res Publica Christiana*. *Res Publica Christiana* is a Latin phrase combining the idea of *res publica* and *christiana* to describe the worldwide community of Christianity and its well-being. A single English word with somewhat comparable meaning is "Christendom"; it is also translated as "The Christian Commonwealth".<sup>1</sup>

Since the establishment civilization, *Civilizational* identity was distinctive from national identity. During the middle ages, civilizations were tagged with religion. Christianity, Islam, Buddhist or Hindu became religious identities of nations. Languages are also highlighted the cultural identity narrowed down the focus on language identity, Latin, Arabic (Persian). The principle was propagated that an educated would be he, who had learned only through his native language or mother tongue and other languages of other civilizations was looked with lesser spirits whether they were classical languages or the literary creations of other peoples who had reached a high degree of civilization.

In the period of Renaissance and classicism, it was the ancient Greek and Roman civilization became a superior civilization. Its validity and acceptance grew wider. Centuries after this, French civilization stood as the most accessible civilization in Europe. But in the eighteenth century, it was seen commonly that civilization was accepted as nationalism.

## **CULTURAL NATIONALISM**

The end of 18<sup>th</sup>-century educational system and social life with the emergence of middle class progressed towards nationalism. Political and poetic loyalties were centered on nationalism. Poets, writers, and historians reformed mother tongue and elevated its rank to literary language and rejoiced the glory of the past. The past became a history of nations and foundations of nationalism become stronger. The grounds of building national interests could be seen in creations of large empires which destroyed small feudal lords and centralized the educational, revenue, political and cultural practices. The secularization, the freedom from religious hegemonies, an introduction of vernacular languages weakens the ties of church and sects. With the increase in trade and commerce with the territorial units allowed the spirit of the middle class and their capitalist aspirations. The economic fervor which springs out from centralized commercial systems was similar to religious movements in the earlier periods. The spread of knowledge, capitalization, education, and culture ignited the spirit of freedom and destroyed the notion of king or supreme ruler even God. In both 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the communal ideals of Western Civilization centered on humanism, faith in reason and welfare of humans at the center.

## **THE WAVE OF PURITANISM AND NATIONALISM**

The manifestation of modern nationalism is seen in 17<sup>th</sup> century England during the Puritan revolution. The Puritan movement which was religiously reformatory that flourished within the Church of England in end of 16<sup>th</sup> century. Under cordon from both church and crown, it sent a branch in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the northern English colonies in the New World, a migration that laid the foundation for the religious, intellectual, and social order of New England. Puritanism, however, was not only a historically specific phenomenon coincident with the founding of New England; it was also a way of being in the world-a style of response to lived experience-that has reverberated through American life ever since.

Enhanced by an immense pride in the new age, the English society realized that they had the mission of history at their hand. The new sense that they were at the threshold and a beginning point of a new true reformation they were the pioneer for new liberty. The new message from John Milton (1608 – 1674) was for entire mankind regarding the liberty and glory.

English nationalism primitively based its religious milieu compared with the advanced nationalisms which were rooted in secularization. This new nationalism had made greater progress. The nationalism of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was getting closer to humanism with its enthusiasm for liberty and humanitarian character. The English nationalism and trading middle class coincided with the rise of a new humanism. John Locke's political philosophy influenced American and French nationalism in the following century. American nationalism culminated through the fight against English colonialism influenced by Puritan revolution, ideals of Locke and partly by the new rational interpretations derived from French philosophers. English Colony gathered under American Nationalism engaged for a fight for liberty and individual rights expressed by American thinkers like Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. The American nationalism was liberal, humanitarian and universal in nature and in the vanguard of mankind on its march to greater liberty, equality, and justice to all. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the celebrations of 'Declaration of Independence' with the birth of American nationalism deeply influenced the French Revolution.

### **French Revolution and Nationalism**

Much of the credit of creating the ground for French revolution goes to Jean Jacques Rousseau as he led to stress on popular sovereignty, common cooperations for forming national will and common French civilization. French Revolution was the triumphant expression of national faith in humanity and the virtues of liberty. "Liberty, equality, fraternity" became a famous slogan of Declaration of the rights of Man which was particular for French nationalist but general for all humanity.

Nationalism helped democracy to grow and flourish. Taking inspiration from these values new trends were developed where democratic parties presided over the old system of the religious order, rites, and ceremonies. Festivals, national holidays, music, poetry, patriotic sermons and feelings of democratic values became symbolically important. Nationalism inserted almost all the manifestations of life. American and French national's novel phenomenon like warfare, national army. Professional warriors were replaced with soldiers committed with a patriotic feeling of sacrificing everything for the nation. Individual decisions became valuable in national formations. Self-determination of the national members constituted national policies. The plebiscite became instrumental in the will of the nation. America and France

revolutionized the vision of the people as they started looking forward nationalism as adherence to common future, quality for all, universal progression and welfare all nation than a particular individual. Authoritarianism was replaced with national will. Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 –1821) the great victorious warrior spread the spirit of nationalism throughout Europe and outside Europe. His nationalism turned French nationalism and it yoked against European nationalism. The German Nationalism rejected French nationalism led by intellectuals and artist.

## **GERMAN NATIONALISM**

Nationalism in the latter half of 19<sup>th</sup> century, fragmented the paranormal states of the House of Habsburg, (1438 and 1740) labelled as House of Austria, one of the most dominant and exceptional royal houses of Europe the Holy Roman Empire and the Ottoman dynasty which was made up of the members of the Imperial House of Osman also known as the Ottoman sultans were based on prenominal loyalties. Russian nationalism produced two opposite schools of thought. Some nationalist proposed a westernized Russia with more progressive, liberal forces than rest of Europe. Others stressed the distinctive character of Russia which was autocratic and orthodox. Slavophil was a movement of intellectuals originated from the 19<sup>th</sup> century that aimed to see Russian Empire developed upon the past values and systems developed from its early history and they opposed to the influence of Western Europe in Russia. World war first celebrated the victory for nationalism in central and eastern parts of Europe. Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland became new nations throwing away their thrones of Habsburg and Romanov but these states involved in conflicts and disputes over their own internal nationalist and neighbors. In Russia the great revolt of 1917, the triumphant Bolsheviks took over the primitive empire of tsars but they suppressed Russian nationalism. Bolshevik also claimed the world leadership of communism as they took their responsibility to fight against capitalism worldwide. Stalin appealed for nationalism to combat against German invaders during Second World War but with the victory over German, he realized duties of spreading communism across the world. National communism, as it was called, became a divisive force in Soviet Russia. The Yugoslavian leader Marshal Tito was declared as nationalist and traitor as nationalism became a strong factor in the rebellious movements that spread across Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Romania.

## **NATIONALIST WAVE IN ASIA AND AFRICA**

After the First World War new leaders like Kemal Ataturk in Turkistan, Said Pasha Zaghul in Egypt, Ibn in Arabian lands, Mahatma Gandhi in India, SunYat-Sen in China aroused and they fostered the spirit of nationalism in their countrymen. Kemal succeeded in Turkey to replace medieval Islamic hegemony and with the nationalism, he modernized new secular republic in 1023. The smooth transformation of power happened in Egypt (1922 and completed in 1936) and Iraq in 1932. Indian Nationalist movement under the leadership of Congress and Mahatma Gandhi integrated the entire India which was divided into more than 500 smaller or bigger dynasts. Mahatma Gandhi's novel peaceful ways of resistant with Satyagraha and nonviolence forced British to hand over the power to Indians in 1947 but British with the help of conspirator Mohammad Ali Jinnah divided the country into two nationalist states India and Pakistan. Indian Nationalism became secular and broad beyond religious fervor and it became the largest democracy in the world. Pakistan became an Islamic state and their opportunistic and hatred attitude against India converted the state into the heaven for Islamic terrorists. Japan after nuclear attacks gathered together and became modern industrial and technological superpower with authoritarian nationalism.

## NATIONALISM AFTER WORLD WAR- II

The defeated nation in the First World War Germany was forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles. This event marked the constitution of the League of Nations who reduced the empires of the defeated Germany and Turkey. The league disseminated Germany's African colonies as mandates to Great Britain, France, Belgium, and South Africa, and its Pacific possessions to Japan, Australia, and New Zealand under various classifications according to their expectations of achieving independence. The league was dissolved in 1946. During league's control only Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria successfully got their independence. In the brief history of United Nations formed in 1945 after the horrified World War II, only 51 members had joined UNO China, India, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey from Asia and only four from Africa. By reaching 1980, more than 100 nations were the active members of UNO. The highest numbers were from Asian and African more than two third of the total count.

## NATIONALISM AND CLASHES

The political, economic and religious clashes were seen among new nations. The complex politics of the United Nations illustrated the problems of the new nationalism. The Dutch invention in Indonesia, the Suez crisis between Egypt and Israel, Middle East troubles between Israel and Arab nations, Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan, Korean patrician and war, intervention in Congo, the struggle of Greece and Turkey over Cyprus, dispute between Indonesia, Philippines and Malesia over Sarawak and Sabah were some of the politically intensive issues happened which raised question on the accountability of UNO.

## NEO-NATIONALISM

The present decade nationalism which is distinctive in its nature is recognized as New or Neo-Nationalism. It came into form in 2010 in Western Europe and North America. It constitutes with several positions such as anti-globalization, right wings populism, religious fundamentalism, nativism oppositions to migration and Eurocepticism. England's exit from European group, a victory of Donald Trump over the slogan 'America First', Narendra Modi's substantial victories in India vindicates towards strong neo nationalism wave in the world.

## POSTCOLONIALISM

Post as the prefix contains the time frame for the period but it is difficult to frame the time-line for post-colonialism. Its era is termed as the beginning of the end of colonialism. The history of post-colonial has many unfolded phases which are overlapping too. Spanish and Portuguese expansion was dated back to 15<sup>th</sup> century but the British, German, Dutch and French colonization varied from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century till the independent movements of Asia, Caribbean, and African the mid of twentieth century. The status of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada have more complexity in fixing the post-colonial era. Commonwealth literature was referred to the writings in English belonging to the countries which were British colonies in the past. The post-colonial literature is designated to the literature in English that deals with the colonialism legacy and dominated by English literary canons.

In *Post-Colonial Drama: Theory, Practice, Politics* (1996), Helen Gilbert and Joanne Tompkins clarified the denotational functions,

“The term *post-colonialism*—according to a too-rigid etymology—is frequently misunderstood as a temporal concept, meaning the time after colonialism has ceased, or the time following the politically determined Independence Day on which a country breaks away from its governance by another state. Not a naïve teleological sequence, which supersedes colonialism, *postcolonialisms*, rather, an engagement with, and contestation of, colonialism's discourses, power structures, and social hierarchies.... A theory of post-colonialism must, then, respond to more than the merely chronological construction of post-independence, and to more than just the discursive experience of imperialism. (Gilbert-Tompkins, 1996)

## CONCLUSIONS

The present paper thus shows the birth, growth and different turns and molds in the perspective of Nationalism. Nationalism as political and philosophical discourse is important in the present context. The peace and harmony in general and human welfare, in particular, are invariably associated with nationalism. Neo-nationalism and its application in the present discourse are the trends which have the greatest power to change the face of the world.

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