



**LEFT MOVEMENT
IN INDIA**

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- Began originally in Russia.
- Heavily influenced by International politics.
- **M.N. Roy** (original name - **Narendra Nath Bhattacharya**).
 - First Indian **Communist Party** was founded by him in 1920 in Tashkent Military School (Soviet Russia).
 - Roy, initially a revolutionary extremist, also founded **Communist Party of Mexico** outside Russia.
 - Lenin appointed him **Chief Advisor on colonial matters in Asia**.
 - Lenin recognized him as '**symbol of Revolution in the East**'.
 - Encouraged and guided many communist leaders such as S A Dange, Nalini Gupta, S Usmani to set up communist groups in India.
 - **Highly critical of Gandhi:**
 - ◆ He believed – Gandhi 'championed the cause of reactionary and medieval forces'.
 - ◆ Gandhi's non-violent and non-cooperation method was hardly different from constitutional methods, so could never be basis for any revolutionary change.
- **1920s: national movement was in full swing:**
 - Was the age of Gandhian politics.
 - Unrest among many about the inaction of the Moderates.
 - Alternative method of struggle led by '**Lal-Bal-Pal**'. (Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak & Bipin Chandra Pal).
 - Rise in various streams and methods of fighting against British rule.
 - Rise of educated youth in the freedom struggle.
 - Revolutionary terrorism was on the rise.
 - Impact of Russian Revolution of 1917 – "*a mighty rule could be overthrown as was done with mighty Czarist Empire*".
 - Socialist doctrines became popular with the Communist Manifesto of Karl Marx.
 - Print media contributed further with publication of various socialist weekly.
 - A number of youth associations founded as alternate method of Gandhian politics.
 - Great Depression of 1929.

KANPUR CONSPIRACY CASE 1924

- Communist leaders – S. A. Dange, Muzaffar Ahmad, Nalini Gupta and S Usmani were tried for sedition.
- **All India Communist Conference at Kanpur (December 2, 1925):**
 - Communist Party of India (CPI) formally constituted.

ROLE OF BRITISH COMMUNISTS

- Prominent British communists – R.P. Dutt, Allison, Phillip Spratt, Hutchinson.
- Contributed to strengthen the base of communism in India.
- R.P. Dutt
 - One of the founders of British Communist Party.
 - Said that Indian bourgeoisie was a counter-revolutionary force. *'Struggle of Indian people must be ultimately a struggle for social liberation'*.
- Phillip Spratt
 - Arrived in India in December 1926.
 - Formed 'Workers and Peasants Party' in 2 largest industrial cities, Bombay and Calcutta.
 - Got financial support from Moscow.
- B.F. Bradley:
 - Reached India in September 1927.
 - Worked among workers of cotton mills and railways.
- H.L. Hutchinson also arrived in 1928.
- Contribution of British communists to Indian communism:
 - New strategy
 - Organizational framework
 - Honest conduct
 - Spirit and courage to take risks

POLITICS OF TRADE UNIONISM

- Before 1920, Indian working class lacked effective leadership.
- After 1st World War, drastic change in the working and methods of working class could be seen.

- All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) formed in 1920.
- 1928 was the 'year of intense industrial unrest'.
- Ultra-Leftist Policy in 1928:
 - 6th Congress of Comintern in September 1928:
 - ◆ Called upon Indian communists to develop a militant communist party to energise the masses.
 - ◆ Wanted 'to sever connections with all elements of bourgeoisie and the Indian National Congress'.
 - It proved to be a great tactical error for Indian communism:
 - ◆ Attack on Gandhi and Congress alienated a good number of masses.
 - ◆ Created confusion and division; Bombay Communist Party divided into many groups.
 - ◆ M.N. Roy too dissatisfied with this new policy.
 - ◆ Roy was expelled from Comintern in 1929.
 - This policy continued to guide Indian communists till 1935, when 7th Comintern (Moscow Aug 1935) reversed this by advocating formation of popular and broad national fronts against Imperialism.
- United Front Policy
 - adopted by 7th Comintern held at Moscow in Aug 1935.
 - Dutt-Bradley Thesis:
 - ◆ 7th Comintern line was clarified by R P Dutt and Philip Bradley.
 - ◆ published as article named "The Anti-Imperialist People's Front in India" in February 1936.