



REVOLUTIONARY
TERRORISM OR EXTREMISM

PHASE I 1900-1920

- Beginning of 20th century brought another method of political struggle known as revolutionary terrorism or extremism.
- Mainly operated in Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab.
- These regions were politically more active than other parts of country.

RISE AND GROWTH OF REVOLUTIONARY EXTREMISM: FACTORS

- Economic exploitation by British Imperialist Government:
 - Dadabhai Naoroji, G.V. Joshi, R.C. Dutt, G.S. Iyer and William Digby exposed how British colonial economic policies had ruined the Indian economy and caused deindustrialization, drain of wealth, unemployment and impoverishment.
 - Their works were constant sources of information which influenced the minds of revolutionaries.
- Methods of nationalist struggle:
 - Moderate phase of Congress (1885-1905) had adopted methods such as petitions, prayers, appeals and memorandum.
 - Extremist leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal endorsed passive resistance methods – boycott, hartals and demonstrations.
 - Political philosophy of the Revolutionaries was to bring an end to foreign predominance in all forms, and they found methods of struggles of Moderates and Extremists insufficient to achieve this.

- Role of Renaissance – Indian as well as European.
 - Inculcated the ideas of nationalism, democracy, self-government and the rights of citizen in the minds of western educated youths.
 - Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Bankim Chandra Chatterji, Swami Vivekananda and Swami Dayanand Saraswati opened a new era of national awakening.
 - European thinkers – Bacon, Spencer, Locke, John Stuart Mill, Adam Smith and Carlyle – opened new doors of thought and expression.
 - Lives and teachings of Burke, Voltaire, Garibaldi and Mazzini – greatly influenced Indian youth.
 - Patriotism and sacrifice became their mantras.
- Role of Cultural Revivalism
 - Renaissance leaders used religious festivals and fairs as a platform to spread nationalism and radical ideas among the people.
 - Tilak started Ganapati, Shivaji and Ramdasa festivals in the 1890s.
 - Seditious Committee described Ganapati and Shivaji festivals as first indication of the beginning of revolutionary movement.
 - Bipin Chandra Pal revived the cult of Shakti and declared that the worship of Mother India (Bharat Mata) as the worship of Goddess Durga.
 - Dayanand gave the slogan, 'Go back to Vedas'.
 - Aurobindo Ghosh, Barindra Kumar Ghosh - members of Yugantar group and Upendra Nath Banerjee admitted the necessity of religion to inspire people.

- ❑ Religious revivalism became a vital force for the growth of revolutionary work in the country.
- **Nationalist Movements of Italy, Germany and Ireland.**
 - ❑ Italian idea of armed struggle fascinated Indian youth.
 - ❑ Irish revolution also showed them the path of armed struggle.
- **Partition of Bengal in 1905 and subsequent Swadeshi Movement.**
 - ❑ Gave national politics a push towards extremism.
 - ❑ *Militancy – not Mendicancy* became the method of struggle.

REVOLUTIONARY INDIVIDUALS/ GROUPS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

Maharashtra

- First sign of Revolutionary Terrorism:
 - ❑ By *Chapekar brothers* (Damodar and Balakrishna) on June 22, 1897.
 - ❑ They shot *Lt. Ayrest*, though target was *Mr. Rand*, President of Plague committee at Poona.
- *'Mitra Mela' and 'Abhinav Bharat'*
 - ❑ V.D. Savarkar founded an association *'Mitra Mela'* in Nasik in 1900 to obtain freedom through armed revolt.
 - ❑ Later in 1904, developed this association further and renamed it *'Abhinav Bharat'*.
 - ❑ Its two members – *Mirza Abbas* and *B.N. Bapat* – went to Paris to learn the art of making bomb.

Bengal

- Secret societies were formed on the pattern of *Carbonari*, secret revolutionary societies of Italy.

- **First revolutionary Secret Society: Anushilan Samiti:**
 - ❑ Founded on March 24, 1902 in Calcutta.
 - ❑ By *Promoth Nath Mitra, Jatindranath Banerjee and Barindra Kr. Ghosh*.
 - ❑ Established many branches throughout Bengal.
 - ❑ *Jnanendra Nath Basu* in Midnapore, *Pulin Das* in Dacca.
 - ❑ Their activities confined initially to physical and moral training of members.
 - ❑ Was banned along with other samitis under *Samitis Act of 1908*.
- **Swadeshi Movement (1905) onwards:**
 - ❑ Bengal Extremism wasted a lot of energies in purely verbal or literary violence and in-fighting over the Congress.
 - ❑ By 1907, mass movement perspective was being challenged from within its own ranks by calls for *elite-action terrorism*.
 - ❑ FIRST systematic critique of Moderate politics brought in 1893-94 in a series of articles entitled *'New Lamps for Old'* in *Indu Prakash*.
- **Revolutionary Contributors:**
 - ❑ **Aurobindo Ghosh (in Baroda)**
 - ◆ Rejected slow constitutional progress.
 - ◆ Tried to organize secret societies by the turn of the century.
 - ◆ Sent *Jatindranath Banerjee* and *Barindra Kumar Ghosh* to Bengal as emissaries.
 - ❑ **Barindra Kumar Ghosh**
 - ◆ Younger brother of Aurobindo Ghosh who sent him to Bengal from Baroda.