



Critical Study On National Congress And Early Political Literature In India

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ABSTRACT :

Indian National Congress, also known as the Congress Party, is a major political force in the country. The Indian National Congress, which was founded in 1885, controlled the nation's campaign for independence from Great Britain. After India gained independence, it went on to create the majority of its governments. Early in the 20th century, the party's supporters started to support the swadeshi movement, which urged Indians to shun British imports in favour of locally produced products. This Journal Paper reflects critical study on National Congress and Early Political Literature in India.

Keywords : decided , literature , political , participation , movements

NATIONAL CONGRESS AND EARLY POLITICAL LITERATURE IN INDIA:

Political participation in India began at a young age and grew quickly. During the first thirty to forty years after it was decided to base higher education on western literature rather than eastern literature, as educated Indians were interested in adopting the new ideas. The first indications of the influence were in the realm of religion, where it resulted in both a revival of orthodoxy and the formation and growth of new groups. The earliest endeavors were centered on theological research because missionaries controlled a major share of higher education; this in turn spurred social reform movements. Raja Ram Mohan Roy created the theistic groups known as the Brahmo Samaj in Bengal, and it supported the abolition of sati. A schism was developed, when Debendranath Tagore took its leadership. The main area of controversy was the adoption of "Hindu usages and practices which appeared benign," which led to Keshub Chundra Sen, a young minister in the group, being excommunicated and starting a separate organization. The members of this group worked hard to promote marriage, women's education, and temperance as major social reforms. From morality and social progress, there was a brief transition to political activity. The works of English liberals, Italian politics, and most importantly, Mazzini's career and body of work, fired the imaginations of young Bengalis, which were already aroused by religious and ethical fervor. The British Indian Association in Calcutta already had their support to defend the landed gentry's interests. After joining the Indian Civil Service in 1871, Sir S.N. Banerjee began teaching and spent a lot of time with his students outside of the classroom. He was discharged a year later.

His approach included offering lectures on topics like Indian unification, history, "the biographies of Mazzini and Chatianya," and higher education in English. In his own words, his goal was to instill in the young the beginnings of civic spirit and to enthuse them with a patriotic fervor that would be advantageous to both them and their country. In an effort to achieve his goal of kindling a more active interest in public affairs among the middle classes, he helped in the creation of the Indian Association in 1876. There was a potential that the political instability will spread to other parts of India within a year. To raise awareness of a memorial calling for the lifting of the limit and for simultaneous examinations as well as to create branch groups, delegates were sent first to Northern India, then to the West and South. Indian aspirants felt that the reduced age restriction for admittance into the Indian Civil Service was unfair. These authorized actions were accompanied by an undercurrent of hatred and enmity, which took the form of malicious writings in the popular press that accused the British government of injustice and tyranny. The vernacular press reported on the passage of an act in April 1878 to strengthen the control of the move and a law limiting gun ownership, which sparked increased opposition to the administration and discontent with Indians' opportunities to shape public policy and obtain positions in the government.

Due to a shift in the English government, Lord Lytton resigned, and Lord Ripon succeeded him as Viceroy in 1880. His early announcement of the anticipated improvement in local self-government was praised by the Indian Association, and his decision to repeal the Press Act—which Mr. Gladstone had fiercely opposed when it was passed—raised his popularity. Racial tension increased when he was in power due to a disagreement over the limits of the jurisdiction that Indian magistrates might use when a European was charged with a crime. Non-official Europeans, particularly indigo and tea planters—who frequently lived on estates far from police and magistrate stations and were more likely to be the target of false or exaggerated accusations—raised a strong agitation in opposition to the bill that "Lord Ripon's government introduced" in order to broaden this jurisdiction.

The perception that a racial privilege was being upheld and that Indian magistrates were being disparaged inflamed resentment in the minds of the middle classes in India. Sir Henry Cotton, a former representative of the Bengali government who later joined the INC after retiring, believed that this agitation and European protests against Lord Ripon's policy had a greater potential to unite Indian national opinions than legislation drafted in the manner of the original bill would have.

The national convention reconvened in Calcutta in 1885 with participants from Northern India and Bengal. The first Indian National Congress, which incorporated the prior organization, was created as a consequence of a series of meetings the national union conducted in Poona around the same time. The organisers of both events stated that strengthening representative government was their primary goal and expressed hope that the conferences would result in Indian parliaments. A resolution adopted by Congress demanded the creation of new councils in the North-Western Province and

Oudh in Punjab, the right to petition all branches of government and to discuss the budget, as well as a significant number of elected representatives in the current councils. It also called for the creation of a standing committee of the House of Commons to look into legislative council protests when the executive overrides them. Additionally, the Congress sought to reduce military spending, abolish the secretary of state's advisory council, and organize concurrent exams in India and England for those wishing to enter the Indian Civil Service. In the event of annexation, it was suggested that Burma as a whole be run independently from India as a royal colony. It also denounced the annexation of Upper Burma on the grounds of expense.

As the British government continued to oppose Congress' goals at the start of the 20th century, the party chose to support the independence movement because it would allow for a new political structure in which Congress could be a prominent party. By 1905, a rift had developed between the Gokhale-led moderates, who downplayed public agitation, and the new extremists, who supported it and saw social reform as a diversion from nationalism. The radicals were led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who attempted to mobilise Hindu Indians by appealing to an overtly Hindu political identity demonstrated in the yearly public Ganapati festivities he established in western India.

There were some well-known politicians in Congress. As the first Indian Member of Parliament in the British House of Commons, Dadabhai Naoroji, a member of the sister organisation Indian National Association, was chosen as the party's president in 1886. (1892–1895). Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Mohammed Ali Jinnah were all members of the Congress. Jinnah supported Hindu-Muslim cooperation in order to achieve self-government as a member of the moderate faction of the Congress. Later, he rose to prominence as the Muslim League's leader and played a crucial role in the founding of Pakistan. During the 1905 partition of Bengal and the ensuing Swadeshi movement, Surendranath Banerjee transformed Congress into a popular movement.

Mahatma Gandhi joined Congress after his 1915 return from South Africa. His work in South Africa was well recognised among the general public as well as among the educated. Mahatma Gandhi participated in three protests in 1917 and 1918, including the Champaran Satyagraha, the Ahmedabad Mill Strike, and the Kheda Satyagraha. Gandhi became affiliated with the party after World War One and has since served as its unofficial spiritual leader and icon. As part of his opposition to British rule in India, he established an alliance with the Khilafat Movement in 1920. He fought for Indian rights using civil disobedience or Satyagraha as the tool for agitation. Following the deaths of police officers at Chauri Chaura in 1922, Gandhi put the protest on hold.

Gandhi was able to win the presidency of Congress in 1924 with the aid of the Gokhale-led centrist faction. The rise of Gandhi's popularity and his satyagraha art of revolution led to support from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Khan Mohammad Abbas Khan, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Chakravarti Rajgopalachari,

Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Jayaprakash Narayan, Jivatram Kripalani, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Congress developed into a powerful and dominant group as a result of the prevailing nationalism, Gandhi's popularity, and the party's efforts to eliminate caste distinctions, untouchability, poverty, and religious and ethnic divides. Although the majority of its members were Hindu, it also included people of various income classes, ethnic, and linguistic groups.

The gathering, which took place every year, encouraged more political organization and engagement. The delegates might be chosen by any association of any kind or, in fact, in any public assembly that anyone convened for a short period of time, despite efforts to give it a representative character. Several Europeans participated, but few individuals imitated their behavior. Muslims made up a small fraction of the membership, and a lecture delivered in December 1887 at Lucknow by the late Sir Sayeed Ahmad "while the Congress was assembling in Madras" decreased support from their community for the Congress. Sir Sayeed dedicated himself to persuading Muslims to study English after a prolonged career in the United Province's court system. He also had a candidate for the imperial legislative council. The state of India would suffer if the congress' demands were realized, he admitted, despite his complete absence of religious prejudice and his efforts to diminish it given the circumstances at the time. Even if competitive exams are appropriate in English-speaking surroundings, they would choose Indian officials whose backgrounds would offend the country's extremely conservative population, which takes great pride in their ancestry. Racial and cultural variety also created problems since Muslims and Rajputs, who have more violent traditions, would not submit to Bengalis' domination even though they were likely to gain the majority of the jobs. The prior concept for representation in legislative Councils was expanded in 1886 by the second Congress, which proposed that not less than half the members should be elected and not more than a quarter should be chosen non-officials. Muslims would be the minority in any regular government, Sir Sayyid said, and even if they obtained special representation, their educational disadvantage and relative deprivation would make them disadvantageous.

According to him, the Indian population is devoted, and those who seek political power are fairly few in number. He also questioned the legitimacy of the Congress's criticism of defense spending. In a letter address, he cunningly questioned the Indians' willingness to tax them, even if they had the right to. For twenty years, the majority of Muslims followed Sir Sayyid's counsel notwithstanding the third congress's selection of a Muslim from Bombay as president. As a result, the fourth congress's resolution that if one community complained vehemently to a resolution, it should not be brought up for discussion or enacted if it was determined that the concerns had little influence.

Since Lord Dufferin succeeded Lord Ripon as Viceroy in 1885, the overall strategy of satisfying reasonable demands with a liberality constrained only by limits deemed appropriate in the context of all interests has not changed. From his service in the Near East, Lord Dufferin had prior understanding of the practices of Eastern authoritarianism.

He also had expertise from Canada regarding the advantages of a constitutional governor general in a dominion attempting to make the transition to responsible governance. His natural propensity toward liberal policies was moderated by the risks of academic idealism that were engrained in him as an Irish land-Lord who had managed his own estates." He had written a program just a year earlier than his trip to India "for more closely incorporating the populace in Egyptian politics. This plan was copied by many Indian constitution writers and was in use for "twenty years". He penned a minute after spending two years studying Indian conditions that shows his comprehension of the actual desires of the forward party and his strategy for satiating them. To make it obvious that the concessions were the final settlement to the Indian system for the coming ten to fifteen years, he intended to carefully analyze the demands, to swiftly and generously grant everything was possible or desirable to grant, and to forbid "mass meetings and fiery discourse."

He recognised the need for reform in the legislative councils soon after his arrival and pushed for change that would allow the viceroy to completely benefit from the expertise and advice of Indian coadjutors while also potentially liberating the Government of India from its current isolation. The subsequent two years elapsed before Lord Dufferin sent home specific suggestions accompanied by a minute (November 1888). He was willing to liberalize the provincial legislative councils, one of which was established in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh in 1886 with the aid of a committee from his executive council despite earlier discussions about the risks of introducing a representative component into the Indian government. According to Lord Dufferin, his proposal was a strategy for the enlargement of our provincial councils, for improving their stature, increasing their scope of jurisdiction, applying the electoral principle only in some cases, and liberalising their overall nature as political institutions. He also objected to the suggestion that the Indian government was considering introducing an English constitutional order and parliamentary system throughout the nation. The Indian administration had direct access to the king and the British parliament as long as Great Britain dominated Indian politics. The governor couldn't ask the dissenters to replace his own official advisers, who are chosen by the queen-empress on the advice of the secretary of state, in the event that a vote in his legislative council went against him. He argued that the British system of responsible government couldn't be used in an Indian province. These advisers are chosen by the queen-empress. He stated that in order to liberalize government, each provincial government must maintain the right to make the final decision on all vital issues and the supreme control of its own policy. He stated that the governor might override his council when he considered it was essential and that nominated members of legislative councils should exceed elected members. Despite their limited authority, he thought that elected officials would be able to influence governmental policy. Because it would extend the scope of public discourse and because they would perceive themselves as representatives of increasingly educated sectors of their own countrymen, he thought their involvement in the council would be beneficial. The Conservative administration in England rejected every election method because it

would be irrational to support a significant reform of this nature without far more support than was provided. Lord Lansdowne followed Lord Dufferin's lead and agreed with his recommendation, requesting that the Government of India at least be given the authority to establish regulations for the appointment of additional members via nomination or in another manner, including election when necessary. A measure was drafted by the House of Lords in 1889, but it wasn't presented until February of that year. "All mention of an election system was completely removed from the papers that were simultaneously presented, and he recommended that the annual budget be presented and discussed and that non-official members be allowed to ask questions." quoted from the only parts of Lord Dufferin's minute. Lord Cross welcomed them and stated that the law provided for all these concerns, making him ready to significantly increase the number of nominated members in the councils."

The suggestions were not opposed in the House of Lords, but it was requested that the administration permit a vote and make the dispatches and minutes fully public. Due to the widespread knowledge that Lord Dufferin supported elections, according to Lord Ripon, his minute was covertly printed in India. Lord Northbrook made a strong case for it while also opposing any efforts to put the British system into place, claiming that India was far from having what it called a responsible government—that is, a government made up of individuals who have a majority in the representative parliament. Even while he admitted that some of the Congress's members were circulating potentially deadly items and that he disagreed with the electoral system it had supported, he was not antagonistic to the institution. Everyone who supported him understood that specifics would need to be worked out there due to the complexity and diversity of Indian situations. Budget motions were also discouraged since they can spark irrational debate. The serious duty that belonged to any government that exploited the electoral principle as a potent tool in the management of India was highlighted by Lord Salisbury. When he said: "I don't want to doubt it, but it may be that this will be India's final destiny," he was careful to avoid making any rash predications. However, he emphasised that the concept was alien to the East and that acceptance of it had not yet had a significant impact in either Turkey or Egypt.

He found representative administration to be attractive only when everyone represented had interests that were tolerably comparable and desired almost the same thing. He stressed the stark and bitter separation between Hindus and Muslims, probably mirroring Sir Sayeed Ahmad's lectures, and he made fun of the idea that other groups, like Panjabis and Rajputs or even the riots, could have a voice in a body chosen to mark streets and drains. He believed that a complete representation of all interests was the most important requirement. The House of Lords immediately adopted the bill, but the Commons never gave it any thought. The administration was discouraged by Irish issues, despite the fact that they had inspired Indian leaders and their supporters in England. At the INC's request in 1889, Mr. Bradlaugh had already published one home rule proposal for India. There were many elected representatives, a complicated electoral college system, and proportional representation. When the government initiative was

abandoned (5 August 1890), he drafted a small bill and left the details to the rules. Early in 1891, the Indian Councils Bill was revived as the public's attention was diverted by Mr. Balfour's Land Purchase Bill for Ireland. To India's dismay, the administration again abandoned the law after many postponements due to the probability of heavy pressure to make it more liberal. The bill was shelved, according to the president of that year's congress gathering, who pointed to Mr. Bradlaugh's election.

Strangely enough, it was Mr. G. N. Curzon's job as undersecretary of state to guide this bill through the House of Commons. He also created the final text of a proclamation that culminated in the tentative introduction of responsible governance in Indian Province a quarter of a century later. He asserted that the act "in no way" established a parliamentary system, echoing other administration spokesmen. There was no objection to the ideas for the budget discussion or the opportunity to ask questions. The election was the main topic of controversy, and Mr. Schwann proposed an amendment to state that no system would be suitable if it did not take this into account. He presented relevant information regarding voting in committee and not less than 2% of the population to be eligible to vote, with the percentage of elected members set at between one-third and 50% of the entire membership. The new rules would protect the electoral concept, but the administration was unwilling to commit to such a strict strategy. The sixteen additional members of the viceroy's council should be chosen by the municipalities where an elective system was in place for "municipal reasons," according to the suggestion made by Sir R. Temple, an Indian official with extensive experience in high office and the former governor of Bombay. The British India Association was identified by Mr. Curzon as a group that would be suited for serving as a constituency (For the discussion on the Bengal Tenancy Act, Lord Ripon had already proposed more participants utilising this group) In a vivid and informative manner, Mr. Curzon challenged the congress's immature claims to be acknowledged as representatives, saying that it is difficult to infer anything about the motivation and inspiration of the Indian people from the plans and ideas of the congress party. The Sir Richard Temple, who had a better understanding of each member, advised against giving them greater political power until they demonstrated "greater moderation, greater sobriety of thought, greater robustness of intelligence, and greater self-control, all of which qualities build up to the physical features of a country covered in early morning mists, only a few of whose highest peaks have been touched by the Sir Richard Temple. On May 26, 1892, the measure was approved without change, and the Indian government was informed. The governor-general and the local governors may find it convenient and advantageous to consult on occasion where corporations have been established with specific powers, on a recognised administrative basis, or where associations have been formed based on a sizable community of legitimate interests, professional, commercial, or territorial. The act resulted in more people joining the imperial council that could be added from twelve to sixteen, more than doubling it in Bombay and Madras, and raising it by seventy percent. Examples include Bengal, the North Western Province, and Oudh. Certain of them must be nominated in accordance with the law after receiving recommendations

from particular organizations. The non-official additional members of the councils of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Province, and Oudh were to elect four of the 10 non-official members of the imperial council, who made up 65 of the body, while the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce was to elect one. The appointment of specialist in particular legal fields and for the proper representation of various social classes through community nominations was arranged for the vacant seats. Depending on the local conditions, the selection procedure for the provincial councils varied. Along with nominations from each of the three presidency cities, there were delegates from the university senates and trading associations (Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta). Representatives from district boards and smaller municipal boards gathered in an electoral college to select more candidates. Bombay's population and Bengal's municipal income were used to set the pay scale for municipal board members. The North Western Province and Oudh sent two representatives to the Electoral College, while each municipal board only sent one. As a result, Bengal's metropolitan influence outweighed its rural influence. Bombay's larger landowners also had the option to run for office. The act of 1861 was criticized by the Congress of 1892 for not explicitly recognizing the right to vote. However, the regulations made under it effectively established an electoral system and it made it clear that, unlike the act of 1861, the councils would no longer be entities that only met when there was no legislative activity to be conducted. Financial matters have only been discussed sixteen times in the thirty years since they were founded; now, the budget must be submitted annually, regardless of whether taxes change or not. And it was obvious that the members had more power since they could ask questions.

The national movement grew slowly but gradually after the INC was formed. The year 1885 marked a turning point in this process, according to Bipin Chandra, because it was then that the Indian politicians, the intellectuals, interested in politics, who no longer saw themselves as spokespersons for a specific group of interests but as representatives of national interest visa-a-visa foreign rule, as a national party, saw their efforts pay off. They envisioned the all-India nationalist organization they founded to act as the platform, coordinator, administrative centre, and symbol of the emerging national politics.

Purna Swaraj (complete independence) was proclaimed the party's objective at the Congress 1929 Lahore session, which designated 26 January 1930 as Purna Swaraj Diwas. (Independence Day). The same year, Gandhi wanted complete independence rather than just home rule, and Srinivas Iyenger was expelled from the party for this.

In the winter of 1936–1937, eleven provinces in India conducted provincial elections following the passage of the Government of India Act 1935: Madras, Central Provinces, Bihar, Orissa, United Provinces, Bombay Presidency, Assam, NWFP, Bengal, Punjab, and Sindh. In February 1937, the election's official results were announced. Eight of them saw the rise to dominance of the Indian National Congress; Bengal, Punjab, and Sindh were the three exceptions. No Province could be governed by the All-India Muslim League.

Ministers in Congress In protest against Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's statement that India was a belligerent in the Second World War without consulting the Indian people, resigned in October and November 1939. Subhas Chandra Bose, who was chosen president of India in 1938 and 1939, left Congress in protest over the choice of the working committee in 1939.[69] The Congress served as an umbrella group for conservative Hindus and Muslims as well as radical socialists. In 1939, along with Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi dismissed all socialist organizations, including the Congress Socialist Party, the Krishak Praja Party, and the Swaraj Party.

Mahatma Gandhi issued a call to "Do or Die" in his Quit India movement speech delivered in Bombay on 8 August 1942 at the Gowalia Tank Maidan and opposed any assistance to the British in World War 2. This was in response to the failure of the Cripps Mission, which was launched by the British government to gain Indian support for the British war effort. Over 1,000 Indians who were involved in this campaign were killed by the British government in retaliation, which included widespread arrests, including those of Gandhi and Congress leaders. The nationalists also committed a number of violent assaults against the British administration. The movement helped prepare the way for Indian independence by contributing to the British regime's loss of influence over the South Asian region.

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