

Moderates and Extremists (Indian National Movement)

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Moderates

Demands:

1. No taxation without representation.
2. Demand for Swaraj.
3. Greater Indianization of ICS.
4. Simultaneous examination of ICS.
5. They were against the attack on Burma and Afghanistan.
6. They popularised Swadeshi.
7. They were against the abandonment of tariff on imports.
8. They were against the imposition of cotton exercise duty.
9. Against drain of wealth.
- 10.They demanded the separation of power between Judiciary and Executive
- 10.To repeal the Arms Act.
- 11.Reduction in Military expenditure.
- 12.Appointment of Indians above the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in Indian Army.

Achievements

- 1.The Indian Council Act 1892 was the result of their demand.
2. The concept of Swaraj which was highlighted in Banaras and Calcutta Session in 1905 and 1906, continued to be a guiding factor of Congress up to 1929, Lahore session.

3. Webley Commission was constituted to assess the revenue expenditure.

4. The military expenditure reduced considerably..

5. Swadeshi considerably affected the import patterns,

6. The Drain theory exposed the character of British exploitation..

Important moderate leaders were, K.T. Telang, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Feroz Shah Mehta, R.M. Shawney, A.M. Dharamsi, Badruddin Tayabji, W.C. Banerjee, Dada Bhai Naoroji, George Yule, S.N. Banerjee, Anand Mohan Bose, Henry Cotton, Rahmat Ullah Sayani, C. Shankaran Aiyar, Lal Mohan Ghosh, besides many others.

Extremists

Mode of Struggle

- Passive resistance
- The concept of passive resistance was given by Aurobindo Ghosh.
- Mass Agitation
- Self reliance.
- The concept of Atma Shakti (self reliance) was given by Rabindranath Tagore.
- Self respect (this concept was given by Swami Vivekananda)

Causes for the rise of Extremists

1. Due to the mendicancy of the moderates.

2. The international influence

a) The defeat of Russia by Japan in 1904-05.

b) In 1896, Ethiopia defeated Italy.

c) Influence of the Russian nihilism.

3. The emergence of radical leaders

a) Aurobindo Ghosh

- He started a systematic critic of moderate politics.
- He published an article called New Lamps for Old and this article created new awareness among the new generation.

b) Ashwini Kumar Dutt

- He said about 1897 Congress session at Amravati that it is a three day tamasha.

c) Lala Lajpat Rai

- His opinion about the Congress sessions- 'it is fatuous annual festival of British educated elites.

d) Bal Gandhar Tilak

- He started patriotic cum historical cult as the central symbol of nationalism.
- In 1894 he started Ganpati Shivaji festival.
- In 1896 he started no revenue campaign
- In 1896 he boycotted against the Cotton Excise tax and therefore he gave the concept of swadeshi.
- Vincent Chirol said 'he is the father of Indian unrest'.

e) Bipin Chandra Pal

- He was one of the main architects of Swadeshi movement.
- Stood against the partition of Bengal.

f) Rabindra Nath Tagore

- Through his poems he attacked the Congress mendicancy and repeatedly called for Atma Shakti by establishing swadeshi industries.
- He pleaded melas for mass contact.
- Therefore he may be regarded as an exponent of ‘mass agitation’,

4) Curzon’s reactionary policy of mission, omission commission.

5) Partition of Bengal in 1905

6) The impact of Drain theory -

a) M.G.Ranade. The Essays in Indian Economics.

b) R.C.Dutt- Economic History of India

c) Dadabhai Naoroji- Poverty and Un-British Rule in India.

Important extremist leaders were K.K.Mitra, Brahma Bandhav Upadhyay, Satish Chandra Mukherjee, Pulin Das, Ras Bihari Bose, Apurva Kumar Ghosh, Rajnikant Sen, Ashwani Kumar Dutt, Kharpade, besides others.

Differences Between Moderates and Extremists

Moderates	Extremists
1.They believed in persuasion.	They believed in passive resistance.
2. They believed to work with the existing bureaucracy.	They opposed bureaucracy.
3.They wanted to win over British	They wanted to exterminate them,

4. They wanted self-government under British dominion.	They wanted self government outside British dominion.
5. They believed in Swadeshi but in a limited scale.	They believed in Swadeshi at national level.
6. They believed in mass awareness	They believed in mass participation
7. Peaceful bloodless persuasion.	Peaceful blood less resistance

The Indian National Congress split in December 1907. The moderates had their share of achievements, yet their failure were numerous. Their basic failure however was that of not keeping pace with events. They failed to meet the demands of the new stage of the national movement.