
UNIT 2 MODERN INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT: ISSUES & APPROACHES

Introduction

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 The Colonial Context and the Conception of Colonial Rule
- 2.3 Renaissance and Social Reform
 - 2.3.1 Rational Critique of Religion and Society
 - 2.3.2 Religious Revivalism
- 2.4 Liberalism : Different Strands
 - 2.4.1 M.G. Ranade
 - 2.4.2 Jyotibha Phule and B.R. Ambedkar
- 2.5 Nationalism
- 2.6 Socialism
 - 2.6.1 Revolutionary Socialism
 - 2.6.2 Marxist Socialism
 - 2.6.3 Congress Socialism
- 2.7 Sarvodaya and Anarchism
- 2.8 Let Us Sum Up
- 2.9 Some Useful Books
- 2.10 Answers to Check Your Progress Exercises

2.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

- explain the issues facing modern India;
- have an idea regarding the main currents of the history of political ideas in India during 19th and 20th centuries;
- differentiate between different strands of anti-colonialism and nationalism;
- list the arguments of different streams and schools of Indian thinkers; and
- attempt a comparative assessment of different arguments.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This unit is intended to introduce you to the main features of modern Indian political thought. It will give you a bird's eye view of the major issues as well as acquaint you with the basic approaches to the study of this theme.

Since the term 'modern' is open to different and varied interpretations, the idea of modern Indian political thought is difficult to date precisely.

Overlooking the importance of indigenous trends, some scholars credit colonialism with introducing 'modern' values in India. A few of them therefore welcomed British colonialism as an instrument of modernisation. In their reckoning the emergence of modern ideas and social and religious protest movements were a consequence of the introduction of European ideas and institutions through colonial rule. While the influence of Western education in the development of modern ideas in the 19th and