

Extreme social and religious divisions presented a peculiar background to the growth of nationalism in India. The advanced British nation, for its own purpose, radically changed the economic structure of the Indian society, established a centralized state, commoditized land, established a codified and pan-Indian legal system, introduced modern industries, modern education, modern means of communication and other institutions. This resulted in the growth of new social classes and the unleashing of new social forces. These social forces by their very nature came into conflict with British Imperialism and became the basis of and provided the motive power for the rise and development of Indian nationalism.

A unified national economy took place as a result of the destruction of former pre-capitalist forms of production prevailing in India and their substitution by modern capitalist economic forms. Substitution of feudal economy by capitalist economy was accomplished by the capitalist class of Britain and not by any class of indigenous capitalists. Capitalist economic forms, which in various societies brought into existence modern nations, by economically and socially unifying a loose community, also engendered the Indian nation.

The British rule was bound with the decay and even extinction of old land relations and artisans and handicrafts industries and with the emergence of new land relations and modern industries. It led to the destruction of the self sufficient independent village economy and old classes, but unification of Indian economy by development of pan-Indian market relations post – commercialization of Agriculture. Industrialization in India in spite of its insufficient and unbalanced character played almost a revolutionary role in the life of the people. It led to the consolidation of the unified national economy. It also brought about the existence of modern cities which became the center of modern culture and

from which all progressive movements – social, political and cultural emanated.

A. R. Desai, argues that though the transformation of India into a single economic unit by the introduction of capitalistic forms by the British rule were historically progressive, yet the transformation was subjected to the economic requirements of British trading, industrial and banking interests. The Indian nationalist movement was the product of the pressure exerted by the British interests, which subordinated Indian interests by obstructing Indian industrialization, distorting her agricultural production and turning her into a market for British industries.

According to A. R. Desai, though it has been widely claimed by many that Indian nationalism was the product of modern Education introduced by the British, it was however no offspring of modern education. Indian nationalism, was in fact the outcome of the new social material conditions created in India and the new social forces which emerged in Indian society. It was the outcome of the objective conflict of interests, the interests of Britain to keep India politically and economically subjected to her and the interests of the Indian people for a free political, economic, and cultural evolution of Indian society. The Indian national movement arose from the conditions of imperialism and systems of exploitation. The rise of the Indian bourgeoisie and its growing competition against the domination of the British bourgeoisie were inevitable, whatever the system of education. However, modern education, indirectly if not directly gave a democratic direction to Indian nationalism.

The emergence of new social classes was the direct consequence of a new social economy, a new type of state system and state administrative machinery and spread of new