

P R E F A C E

The ideals of nationalism and internationalism have been the subjects of discussion of the scholars and political leaders of this country. In the Indian context, the importance and significance of these ideals were felt by the political leaders who took active part in the national freedom movement. In fact, these ideals acted as stimuli in creating a sense of oneness among the people during the black days of colonial domination. So, both from theoretical and practical aspects, the ideals of nationalism and internationalism exercised tremendous influence on the course of political development in those fateful years when the country was struggling to throw away the chains of British imperialism.

At the same time, it is important to note that there is no agreed definition of these concepts. A stereotyped, simplistic, Western version of nationalism and internationalism seems to be not only inadequate but also inapplicable in the Indian situation. The Indian context offers an example where there have been interactions between a number of factors, not to be found in a typical western situation. Since, in India, the sense of nationalism and internationalism emerged out of a long-standing struggle against an imperialist power, its

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negative aspect is of the same relevance like its positive aspect. Scholars have agreed in identifying that ours is an anti-colonial variety of nationalism and hence there have been clear interactions between the process of political movement and the emergence, growth and subsequent consolidation of the ideals of nationalism and internationalism. So, for a proper and comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon, this fact should not be lost sight of by any student engaged in such a study.

In this work, an attempt has been made to highlight the contributions of Tagore, Gandhi and Nehru in the freedom struggle, especially, their contribution to the development of the concepts and ideas of nationalism and internationalism. The present study seeks to reveal the structural variations and historical transformations of nationalism both as an 'ideal' and as a 'movement'. It takes into account the existence of taking certain broad general characteristics of both the western and the non-western varieties of nationalism, as an ideal, which stood for 'unity', 'independence' and 'welfare' of the people. The study also analyses various aspects of these ideals and examines to what extent, the ideas of Tagore, Gandhi and Nehru have been 'democratic', 'secular' and 'socialist' or 'egalitarian'. The study has

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also tried to ascertain the extent of influence of Tagore, Gandhi and Nehru on the course of national liberation movement in Afro-Asian countries in general and India in particular.

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