



Sambhav-2024

Day 44: Examine the significance of the Era of Moderates in the Indian National Congress and the role played by other political associations in shaping the nationalist movement during this period. **(250 Words)**

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Approach / Explanation / Answer

- Start the answer by introducing the Era of Moderates.
- Discuss the significance of Moderates in the Indian National Congress.
- Explain the role played by other political associations during this period.
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

The Era of Moderates in the Indian National Congress (INC) marked a pivotal phase in the nationalist movement during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This period, characterized by the dominance of moderate leaders, witnessed significant developments and the emergence of other political associations that played crucial roles in shaping India's path toward self-governance.

Body

Significance of the Era of Moderates:

- **Foundation of Nationalist Thought:**
 - The moderate leaders, including Dadabhai Naoroji, Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee, and A.O. Hume, laid the intellectual foundation for the nationalist movement.
 - Dadabhai Naoroji's "Drain Theory" brought attention to economic exploitation, shaping the discourse on India's impoverishment under British rule.
- **Constitutional Methods:**
 - The moderates, including leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee, advocated for constitutional methods to seek reforms within the British colonial framework.
 - Their efforts laid the foundation for future constitutional struggles.
- **Identifying Collective Ideals:**
 - Moderates aimed at creating a united India, transcending linguistic and regional differences.
 - Their emphasis on nationalist ideals fostered a sense of collective identity and paved the way for the Gandhian era.

▪ **Educational and Social Reforms:**

- Leaders like Gokhale stressed the importance of education and social reforms as prerequisites for national progress.
- This period saw the establishment of institutions focused on education and social upliftment.

▪ **Bridge Between Government and Indians:**

- Moderates aimed to create a bridge between the British government and Indians through dialogue and negotiation.
- They believed in the gradual attainment of self-rule through cooperation with the colonial authorities.

Role Played by Other Political Associations:

▪ **The Extremists and the Surat Split (1907):**

- The rise of extremist leaders, such as **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Lala Lajpat Rai**, marked a shift from the moderate approach.
- The Surat Split reflected ideological differences, with extremists advocating direct action and swaraj.

▪ **Role of Annie Besant and the Home Rule Movement:**

- Annie Besant's Home Rule Movement (1916) sought self-governance within the British Empire.
- This movement played a pivotal role in mobilizing public opinion and laid the groundwork for future demands for self-rule.

▪ **Formation of Ghadar Party:**

- The Ghadar Party, formed by Indian expatriates in the United States and Canada, advocated armed struggle against British rule.
- Their activities, though largely unsuccessful, demonstrated the global reach of the nationalist movement.

▪ **Social and Religious Organizations:**

- Social and religious organizations like Arya Samaj and Brahma Samaj played supporting roles by contributing to educational reforms, social upliftment, and the promotion of rational thinking.
- They **complemented the political efforts of the moderates.**

Conclusion

During the Era of Moderates, diverse political groups, including the Muslim League, extremists, Home Rule advocates, and the Ghadar Party, coexisted with the moderates in the Indian nationalist movement. While moderates favored constitutional methods, these groups brought varied perspectives and strategies, shaping India's struggle for independence.