

India And Colonialism

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Abstract

Colonialism refers to the process of one country establishing political, economic and cultural control over another country or territory outside its borders. It also includes the dominance of the colonial power over the local population of the colonial area. Often the goal is to exploit resources and increase the wealth and influence of the colonizers. The colonial period began in the 15th century and lasted until the middle of the 20th century. Economic interests were among the main motivations for colonial expansion. Because the European powers believed that it was their duty to civilize the world and convert the native population to Christianity. It also involved European confrontations, notably Britain, France and the Dutch. Until the 19th century, the British Empire was established as the largest empire in history, which covered almost a quarter of the world's area. Colonialism had a lasting impact on India as well as the rest of the world. On the one hand, it has facilitated the spread of technology, education and cultural exchange, but on the other hand, it has caused immense suffering to the local population. Consequently, in the mid-20th century, a combination of Hindustan nationalist movements, anti-colonial resistance and geopolitical changes contributed to the decline of colonialism. However, World War I and World War II also played a vital role in the movement. That was the reason to gain independence after World War II for many colonies and thus.

Keywords: Colonialism, Hindustan, India, East India Company, English Imperialism.

Introduction

The colonial thought or the colonial system is still a mystery of the helpless and backward regions, classes, societies and countries. Despite the supremacy of the democratic system in the world, there are more than two hundred independent countries and international organizations like the United Nations, the monopoly of a few countries and families is not beyond human reason. Man is forced to think that even today the same saying is true; "He who has a stick owns the buffalo". The form of slavery has changed, but the plan behind it is the same. It is for this reason that historians and critics seem unable to give a coherent definition of colonial thought or system. Because this thought and system changes with time and society. For example, until the 19th century, colonialism meant establishing a monopoly over another region or society, but not claiming it as one's own, but simply gaining interest from it. Just like the British did in India, while some states in the past did so. have played the economic game of ruling over other countries without direct occupation. Therefore, it is important to know about the thought or system of colonialism.

First, the basic structure of this word and its origin should be examined. "Colonialism" is primarily derived from the Roman word "Colonia" which means Farm, Field or Settlement. Originally, the term was used for those Roman citizens who had left their homeland and settled somewhere far away, but still had the honor of Roman citizenship with them. But time changed and after the 14th century it came to be associated with people who establish their control over other regions and raise the knowledge of their native government. Although it became not just a term but a proverb after the fourteenth century, Neel Ahuja while defining colonialism writes:

"The term colonialism refers to a large scale political and economic system that allow one geo political such as a nation state or chatty state to traditional, its beyond controls establish geographical borders in the service of increased profit or power. Because colonialism is a large-scale process that has shape human settlement which grow from economic and political cause." 1

Colonialism is the name of a thought and system under which one dominant nation or country defeats another for economic and political interests. We first see colonialism in the West. Western countries, especially Britain, France, Germany and Portugal, turned to different regions and regions of the world after the fifteenth century, behind which their economic and political interests were hidden. They not only affected these regions with various strategies but also maintained monopoly over them for centuries. India occupies a prominent position in the territories occupied by the British.

India is a fertile part of Asia which exists in present day in the form of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. From the very first day, India has been under the gaze of the imperialist forces. There are various reasons for this charm of India. This region is unmatched in fertility. Similarly, it is rich in natural resources. Not only four seasons are found but diversity of languages, cultures and religions is also found. Which in concept is like many colors. This is the reason that if India is judged in the framework of modern history, it is known that various powers are trying to monopolize India. Among them, the first regular attempt was made by Muhammad bin Qasim who hoisted the Islamic flag over Multan and other districts of Punjab through Sindh. After that, there is a series of invasions of different Muslim and non-Muslim nations on Hindustan. Sometimes the Turks, sometimes the Mongols, sometimes the Mughals, and sometimes the Whites dominated India.

A new chapter in the history of not only India but also the world began with the arrival of the colonists and especially the advance of the western colonists towards India. Which later greatly influenced the world in different phases of life. With the arrival of the British Empire, the industrial, economic, commercial, agricultural and especially the political conditions of India changed completely. The English Empire, which started a trade of only 30,000 pounds in 1601, would become so rich in just a short period of time that it would present three to four million pounds as a gift to the kings of England. This was the world of traders from other European countries, among which, France, Spain, Portugal and the Dutch are the leaders, but soon England not only strengthened its foothold in India in the name of the East India Company, but along with other Western powers, eventually India Overthrew the government. Only a trading company that came to get spices from India eventually took away the soul of India. Along with trade, the company started a campaign to turn the local people and especially the kings against the Mughal Empire. Those who served the company were rewarded with modern equipment and salaries.

After the establishment of the East India Company, the British Empire established new cities to further expand its power in India, including Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi etc. from where they transported goods between England and India. Thus, they started establishing various military bases under the shadow of the company, which were initially for the protection of the company, but later the same army was used against the Rajas and the Mughal Empire. First, the western settlers came only for the purpose of trade, but they became rulers under the shadow of the company, and after 1857 they began to rule directly. Dr Fouq Karimi writes:

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"In 1770, the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam entered the fort of Delhi under the shadow of the British by granting the Diwani to the British, and by the time he reached the fort in 1773, instead of the king's decree, the British decree began to be issued in the fort. 2

The British imperialism was well aware that India was a hen that lays golden eggs, capable not only of meeting the basic needs of the British Empire but also of establishing its monopoly over the world. This is the reason why the British imperialism adopted such strategies to gain control over India which would enable them to rule India for a long time. If we see even today, despite independence, we have not been freed from the cycle of British policies.

At first, the British took the trick that under the shadow of the company they started to develop closeness with the local people and especially with the influential people regardless of their sphere of life. The company made various efforts to gain their closeness and love, wealth and wealth being the foremost among them. The scene of intimacy began to emerge in India, even the Royal decrees started being issued by the will of the British. In this regard Sayed Tufail Ahmad writes with reference to Mrs. Anni Besant:

"The war of the companies was not a war of soldiers but a war of merchants. England did not conquer India with its own sword, but with the sword of the Indians themselves, and by following the infernal policy of bribery, conspiracy, hypocrisy and limitation, they got this country by fighting one party against another party." 3

British imperialism resorted to religion to establish and later sustain its power after conspiratorial and duplicitous policies. First, he increased the hatred among the people of India in the name of religion to such an extent that they became mortal enemies of each other.

Especially the Muslims and Hindus who were living happily together during Akbar's time, later made efforts to promote Christianity by making priests a part of their strategy. Many people also fell victim to this conspiracy while most of them realized this trick. Siddique Nafis writes:

"The trained preachers of the pastoral funds would go to the villages and invite the simple villagers to Christianity. It was addressed to educated Muslims and non-Muslims in the cities of South India in English." 4

British imperialism took a support of western civilization to establish its monopoly and later to consolidate it in 1857. Like other European countries, Britain also believes that the nations of Asia, and especially the people of the West Bank, are less civilized. Western civilization is highly compatible with Eastern civilization. Only the British rule made the concept of caste and color in India common, which not only created a feeling of inferiority in every person of India against the western civilization, but also started a war of color and race among themselves, which directly benefited the imperialists. The commandments happened. There was a wave of westernization and English education in India. Even the people of India started going to England and other countries for education to become civilized. In this scenario critic and historian Gadri Whishwa nathan writes:

"English literature as cultural studies was introduced here in the 1820s."
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While the English force used soft-power as its first resort in Hindustan, on the other hand it used hard-power as its ultimate weapon. For example, where the pen of British orders failed, the British sword worked. There were many kings in India who refused to accept Western slavery, including Tipu Sultan and Shuja ud Daulah. The Company and later the British Government fought and defeated such leaders for several other reasons. Only the British conquered India not only by intrigue and sword, but also ruled it directly and indirectly for many decades, which is unprecedented in history.

Colonialism is considered to be a disease similar to cancer in human history which affects regions, societies, states and countries instead of people. It's like cancer the blood of these countries or states is sucked and their desire to develop and live in freedom ends. Thus, the spreaders of this disease establish their monopoly. Colonialism in India inflicted atrocities that are unprecedented in history, irrespective of any sphere of life. Pre-colonial India as a prosperous region, the colonial

powers wanted to visit the planet, which they called the golden bird. Which can be estimated from this point of Shashi Tharoor:
"At the beginning of the Eighteenth century India's share of the world economy was 23% ." 6

But the advance of colonialism first devastated India. The livelihood here became nominal. All resources were diverted to the West. The tyranny came to an end when the British Empire imposed heavy taxes on Indian goods, on the other hand it closed factories in India to promote western goods. Not only this, even the hands of the artisans were cut off. Only the wave of colonialism trampled India's economic output and its mold. Which is understood from this quote:

"Taxation by the company, usually at a minimum of 50% of income was so burdensome that two thirds of the population ruled by the British in the late Eighteenth century fled their lends."7

Colonialism also created a cultural and social crisis in India. There was such a fire of color and race that India itself began to despise the Eastern civilization and culture and the new Western civilization. came forward as activists. Only in the East did a new West begin and India drifted away from its thousands of years old civilization. Even today this influence of colonialism in the Eastern region is still present despite independence.

Thus, under the shadow of colonialism, the effects are also seen in the form of religious crisis in India. People seem to be influenced by Western thought as well as Christianity. It seems that colonialism has affected India in every way, whether it is related to Indian economy, society and culture, politics or even religion. All these seem to have changed under the influence of colonialism, the effects of which are still present after independence.

I have no doubt that man has been created free by nature and that life is seen as a seeker of freedom, regardless of the scope and ideology of this freedom. The colonial powers directly enslaved India and its people after 1857. India came under British rule which was against its basic beliefs and principles. First, for a few years, the people of India remained silent against the violation of fundamental rights, in which the Muslim society was at the forefront, the main reason for which was the defeat in the War of Independence in 1857, but soon the worst violation of rights in human history gave India its tongue. Which became possible in 1885 in the form of Indian National Congress. She raised the slogan that

she would not only inform the British government about the problems of all the people of India but also protect their rights. Regarding which Madan Mohan writes:

"One of the main aims of them is facilitating the establishment of the national congress to offer an outlet a safety value theory." 8

The Congress awakened political consciousness among the people of India and developed the courage to demand their rights. Gradually this courage came in the form of criticism. The people of India began to raise their voices against Western imperialism through poetry and prose, for which they resorted to magazines, books and newspapers. A link in this chain is Akbar and Hasrat Mohani. After the establishment of Muslim League in India, this voice became even louder. Along with political party leaders, poets and writers, World War I and II also raised the voice of Indian politics and especially freedom. Britain was victorious both wars, but it suffered irreparable losses, which made it difficult to maintain its monopoly over India. Second, the political environment of India became so active for independence that it became full of rebellion, to avoid the wrath of which, in 1947, Britain divided India into two independent countries. Thus, India became free from slavery after a distance of centuries.

Overall, we can say that colonialism in India started with two failed attempts by the Levant Company, but its formal era began in 1600 when Captain William Bacon sent his ship Pictor to the Indian port of Surat took off and announced the East India Company. The spice company gradually spread across the land of India and within a few years its true colors began to emerge before the people of India. Even in 1857, it completely swallowed India economically, socially, politically, culturally and religiously. During this time, the company fought political battles to establish a monopoly on India, sometimes it was active in the battlefield and sometimes it was seen crushing the rulers and people of India in conspiratorial moves, but soon after 1857, it started raising its voice against British imperialism. The first form of which came in the form of the establishment of the Muslim League in 1885 and 1906. With the efforts of these parties, India was freed from British oppression in 1947 and appeared on the world map as two independent states, India and Pakistan.

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