Modern History · GS - I

Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Nineteenth-century reform, Western education, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Brahmo Samaj, Young Bengal Movement, Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, rationalism, women's emancipation, opposition to social evils, modern nationalism.

Model Answer

Introduction

Nineteenth-century socio-religious reform movements emerged in response to social inequalities, religious orthodoxy and the influence of Western education and modern rational thought.

Rise and Growth of Reform Movements

- **Brahmo Samaj:** Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Sabha in 1828, later known as Brahmo Samaj. It promoted monotheism, rational religion, women's education and opposition to sati.
- **Young Bengal Movement:** Led by Henry Louis Vivian Derozio at Hindu College, Calcutta, it encouraged free thought, scientific reasoning and criticism of traditional social practices.
- **Wider reform:** Arya Samaj, Prarthana Samaj and the Aligarh Movement extended reform debates to other regions and communities.

Contribution

These movements promoted education, challenged caste restrictions and patriarchal customs, and encouraged public debate. Reform campaigns contributed to measures such as the abolition of sati in 1829 and strengthened demands for women's rights.

Conclusion

Although initially concentrated among educated urban groups, socio-religious reform movements promoted rational inquiry, social transformation and the intellectual foundations of Indian nationalism.

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