Medieval History · GS - I

Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - I	Medieval History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Gandhian mass mobilisation; revolutionary nationalism; socialism and communism; peasant movements; workers' organisations; Dalit politics; women's participation; tribal mobilisation; ideological diversity

Model Answer

Introduction

From the 1920s onwards, India's national movement developed beyond the earlier dominance of educated urban elites. Different ideological currents broadened its social base and made the struggle against colonial rule more inclusive and politically diverse.

Major ideological strands

- **Gandhian nationalism:** Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience and constructive programmes mobilised peasants, women, traders and students through non-violent mass action.
- **Revolutionary nationalism:** Organisations such as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association advocated militant resistance. Bhagat Singh and his associates increasingly connected anti-colonial struggle with socialism.
- **Socialism and communism:** Socialist ideas gained influence among young nationalists. The Congress Socialist Party, established in 1934, and communist organisations highlighted class exploitation and

economic inequality.

- **Peasant movements:** The Kisan Sabha movement and regional agrarian struggles brought tenancy, rent, debt and land rights into national political debates.
- **Working-class mobilisation:** Trade unions and industrial strikes connected anti-colonialism with demands for better wages and working conditions.
- **Dalit assertion:** B.R. Ambedkar foregrounded caste oppression, political representation and social equality. His approach differed from the Congress leadership on questions of representation and social reform.
- **Women's participation:** Women participated in protests, picketing, underground activities and political organisations, challenging gendered restrictions.
- **Tribal movements:** Adivasi resistance addressed colonial forest laws, land alienation and exploitation, linking local grievances with broader anti-colonial politics.

Assessment

Ideological diversity brought new social groups and concerns into the movement. However, disagreements over caste, class, communal representation and political methods also created tensions.

Conclusion

The national movement became a broad coalition rather than a single ideological project. Its diversity strengthened mass mobilisation and ensured that independent India's political agenda included freedom, social justice and economic transformation.

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