



PHILOSOPHY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN INDIA (1907 TO 1947)

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Abstract:

The movements for Indian independence led by Mahatma Gandhi were significant, but there was another class that was sacrificing everything at the feet of Mother India: the revolutionary class. The revolutionary ideology, activities, and movement had a clear goal: "national independence." Revolutionary ideology and activities have a long and glorious history. First, in 1857, the Indian people launched a courageous, but unsuccessful, revolution against British rule. Additionally, three prominent revolutionaries emerged during the period 1858-1880: the Baha'i movement and the Kuko independence movement. However, the true heyday of revolutionaries occurred only in the 20th century, starting in Bengal and spreading throughout India, with Uttar Pradesh being the most prominent. Even before the beginning of revolutionary activities in eastern Uttar Pradesh, the currents of the revolutionary movement had been influenced by revolutionary organizations in Maharashtra, Bengal, and the rest of Uttar Pradesh. However, the establishment of the Viplavadi Dal in eastern Uttar Pradesh marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the revolutionary movement. Eastern

Uttar Pradesh became the center of the revolutionary movement, and gradually, the entire northern India came under its influence. Eastern Uttar Pradesh also holds significance for the revolutionary movement, especially in terms of Viplavadi philosophy, methodology, customs, and form.

Key Words: national independence, philosophy of the Bomb

Introduction:

As far as the contribution of students is concerned, it is clear that there was no movement in which the student community did not actively participate. Their working system was very secretive, and only a select few, highly capable young men joined the revolutionary organization. The revolutionary students in eastern Uttar Pradesh became historical figures, though their numbers are small. But whenever history is written, their names will be prominent.

After Sachindranath Sanyal's arrival in Varanasi (1908), revolutionary organization began in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Sachindranath came directly from Calcutta to Varanasi and enrolled at Bengali Tola High School. He established the Anushilan Samiti, modeled after the Calcutta Anushilan Samiti, but it had no connection with the Bengal Samiti. This Samiti was established in the Misar Pokhara (Lakshmi Kund) area of Varanasi, consisting of a single room, a platform, and several trees bearing the same name. The Samiti had approximately 20 members, most of whom were students, including Sachindranath Sanyal, Jagdish Prashab Mukherjee, Hemchandra Dutt Vinayak Rao Kapile, Chunnilala Karmakar, Hiranyaman Banerjee, and Jitendra Mukherjee. After the Bengal government declared the Anushilan Samiti illegal, Sachindranath Sanyal changed the name of the Kashi Samiti to the "Young Men's Association."

Kashi was the most suitable place to spread Bengal's revolutionary spirit throughout Uttar Pradesh. It was a central hub, a pilgrimage site, and a hub for numerous schools and colleges. A large number of Bengalis lived there. For these reasons, Sanyal chose Kashi as his base. The organization's objective was to promote the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. However, according to the commissioner of the Banaras Conspiracy Case, the committee's objective was to promote treason. The association also emphasized social work. Its members ran a university in Madanpura, for which they collected funds and recruited volunteers. Many students from Central Hindu College were admitted as members. Sachindranath Sanyal also had close ties with the students of Queen's College, a well-organized institution with strict discipline.

Among the people Sachindranath met in Allahabad through the support of the National School was Banwari Lal. He was introduced to Keshavdev Malaviya, a Congress activist. With Malaviya's help, other young students also came into contact, and the group's numbers steadily increased. Keshavdev Malaviya's group, Banwari Lal's group, and Narendranath Banerjee's group, alias Nundu, were working separately and were unaware of each other's activities.

Banaras's Kashi Vidyapeeth was a stronghold of revolutionaries. Manyanath Gupta, Pranavesh Kumar Chatterjee, and Chandrashekhar Azad were students

there, and Damodar Swarup was a teacher there. In 1923, Manyanath Gupta was studying in the 10th grade, and Pranavesh Chatterjee was in the 9th grade. It was Manmaynath Gupta who recruited Pranavesh Chatterjee into the revolutionary group. Initially, Gupta gave Pranavesh revolutionary literature to read, including biographies of Maikhin and Gauribaldi, Bengali Vilatvad, Kanhai Lal, Khudiram, and Jyotindranath. The two often met at the Carmichael Library in Varanasi. One day, in the library, Manmaynath Gupta introduced Pranavesh to Yogesh Chatterjee. A month or two later, he was also introduced to Rajendranath Lahiri. Following the start of the Non-Cooperation Movement, a student named Chandrashekhar Tiwari reprimanded a notorious gangster in Varanasi. Impressed by his courage, Acharya Narendra Dev removed him from the Sanskrit school and brought him to Kashi Vidyapeeth. For his participation in the 1921 Non-Cooperation Movement, Chandrashekhar Tiwari was arrested and presented before the court of ICS Magistrate Khareghat. He bravely confronted the question, giving his name as "Azad," his father's name as "Swadhin," and his mother's name as "Jailkhana." From then on, Chandrashekhar Tripathi was referred to as Chandrashekhar Azad. The First Phase of Revolutionary Activities (1907 to 1917)

Revolutionary activities began as a byproduct of the growth of militant nationalism. After the decline of the Swadeshi and Boycott Movements, the first phase of revolutionary activities, which continued until 1917, grew rapidly.

After the failure of the movement led by the liberals, young nationalists became disillusioned. Those who had actively participated in this movement became disillusioned and began looking for a suitable platform to express their nationalist energies. The militant attitude of the extremists also contributed to revolutionary activities. Their activities encouraged these young nationalists. Although the extremists involved a large number of youth in their campaign and inspired them to sacrifice, they failed to build an effective organization or harness the revolutionary spirit of the youth for the freedom struggle. Ultimately, with the attainment of independence, the youth found the existing means unsuitable and concluded that violent methods were necessary to end colonial rule. They attempted to demoralize European administrators by assassinating them, paralyze the administration, and completely destroy Indian and British opponents of independence. To achieve their objectives, they considered all violent activities, including murder, robbery, and looting, legitimate.

Revolutionary Program -

The revolutionaries decided that all Indians should cooperate in violent activities to end British rule. To achieve this, a nationwide violent movement should be launched and the imperialists and their supporters should be suppressed. The revolutionaries drew inspiration from Russian nihilists and Irish revolutionaries. The revolutionaries' program included individual acts of violence, the murder of British officials, their supporters, and collaborators, robbery to raise funds for revolutionary activities, and military action with the

support of anti-government groups. The revolutionaries wanted to terrorize the rulers through violent actions and allay Indians' fears that the British were powerful and invincible. They propagated nationalist sentiments and appealed to Indians to support their work, urging young people to come forward to support this cause. This was because the British had repressed a large number of young people. The extremists, through their actions, were not successful in curbing revolutionary activities; instead, they indirectly contributed to their rise. The revolutionaries disbelieved in the inspiration popularized by the moderate party and the policy of slow action adopted by the extremists. They believed that imperialist rule would destroy India's religious and political independence, culture, civilization, and moral values. Their sole objective was to liberate the motherland from foreign slavery.

Overview of Revolutionary Activities

The various actions undertaken by revolutionaries in India and abroad after World War I can be viewed in the following perspective:

(a) Bengal

The revolutionary movement in Bengal originated from the elite society. By 1870, several secret societies had been formed by Calcutta students, but these societies were not very active. The first secret organization of revolutionaries in Bengal was the Anushilan Samiti, formed in 1902. It was founded in Midnapore by Gyanendranath Basu, while in Calcutta it was founded by P. Mishra. The Anushilan Samiti in Calcutta included prominent revolutionaries like Jatindranath Banerjee and Barindra Kumar Ghosh. However, the Anushilan Samiti's activities were limited to providing physical and moral training to its followers, and by 1908, it had become virtually inactive.

In April 1906, two members of the Anushilan Samiti, Barindra Kumar Ghosh and Bhupendranath Dutta, began publishing a weekly newspaper called *Yugantar*. Around this time, members of the Anushilan Samiti also engaged in some revolutionary activities. From 1905-06, in addition to *Yugantar*, several other newspapers and magazines also played a significant role in spreading revolutionary ideas, among which *Sandhya* was prominent. However, *Yugantar* played the most significant role in spreading revolutionary ideology in Bengal. For example, while protesting the police atrocities against the delegates of the Barisal Conference, *Yugantar* wrote that "the problem can only be solved by the people," "600 million hands must be used to stop the colonial oppression and exploitation of the 300 million people living in India; only force can be countered by force." A collection of some of *Yugantar*'s key articles was published in the book "*Mukti Kaun Paaye*" (Which Path to Liberation). In this book, Indian soldiers were urged to provide arms to the Indian revolutionaries.

Rasbihari Bose and Sachin Sanyal formed several secret societies to promote revolutionary activities in remote areas such as Punjab, Delhi and the United Provinces, while Hemchandra Kanungo travelled abroad to receive political and military training.

In 1907, members of Jugantar groups unsuccessfully attempted to assassinate the unpopular former Lieutenant Governor of East Bengal, Fuller, who served as Lieutenant Governor of East Bengal and Assam from October 16, 1905, to August 20, 1906. In December 1907, an attempt was made to blow up the railway track in which Lieutenant-Governor Andrew Fraser was traveling.

In 1908, Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki threw a bomb at the carriage of Judge Kingsford of Muzaffarpur district, intending to assassinate him. As Chief Presidency Magistrate, Kingsford had handed out severe punishments to young men for minor offenses. However, the bomb accidentally landed on Mr. Kennedy's carriage, killing two women. Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose were subsequently arrested. Prafulla Chaki committed suicide, and Khudiram Bose was tried and hanged.

The government raided several locations in Maniktola Gardens and Calcutta to search for illegal weapons, arresting 34 individuals. These included the two Ghosh brothers, Aurobindo and Varindra Ghosh. They were charged with the Alipore Conspiracy Case. During the trial, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, the Public Prosecutor, and government witness Narendra Gosain were murdered. Members of the Dhaka Anushilan Samiti, led by Pulindas, committed a robbery in Bara. These activities of the revolutionaries were lavishly praised in many newspapers and magazines of the time. In Bengal, Sandhya and Yugantar, and in Maharashtra, Kaal, numerous articles were written in support of the revolutionaries, justifying their actions.

In conclusion, revolutionary activities emerged after the failure of the Swadeshi Movement and instilled a new sense of nationalism in the young generation. However, due to its excessive emphasis on religion, it lacked Muslim support, and Muslim youth abstained from participating. The social base of revolutionary activities was not very broad, and in Bengal, the upper class provided the most support and cooperation. Due to its narrow social base and lack of widespread public support, it could not withstand government repression and gradually ceased to exist.

(b) Revolutionary Movement in Maharashtra -

The 1918 Rebellion Committee report stated that the first signs of a revolutionary movement in India were found in Maharashtra, particularly among the Chitpavan Brahmins of the Poona district. These Brahmins were descendants of the Peshwas of Maharashtra, the rulers of Shivaji and Shahu. It was the Peshwas' kingdom that was abolished by the East India Company under Lord Hastings. These Brahmins maintained a strong love for self-rule, which led to discontent and a desire for regaining power. Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak, himself a Chitpavan Brahmin, celebrated the Ganesh festival in 1893 and the Shivaji festival in 1895. This awakened anti-British elements among the people of Maharashtra, who had some love for self-rule.

The Murder of Rand in 1897 -

The first political assassination of Europeans took place in Poona on June 22, 1897, for which two Chitpavan Brahmins, Damodar and Balkrishna, often known as the Chapekar brothers, were responsible. The target of this

assassination was Mr. Rand, the head of the Poona Plague Committee, but Lieutenant Ayrst was also accidentally killed. The immediate provocation of this murder was that the Plague Committee had sent soldiers to civilian homes to treat plague-stricken people. Commenting on this in his newspaper, "Maratha," Tilak wrote, "The plague currently raging in the city is more merciful than its human forms." The Chapekar brothers were arrested, found guilty, and hanged. The ruling class also held Tilak responsible for writing articles against the British and sentenced him to 18 months of rigorous imprisonment. Although contemporary nationalists and later Indian historians have argued on Tilak's behalf, it is clear from a fair perspective that Tilak's writings and speeches inspired the Chapekar brothers to violence. As is evident from these words written in Kesari on June 15, 1897: "Shri Krishna's teaching in the Gita is to kill even your teachers and relatives. If a person performs his duty without any desire for its fruits or without being attached to the action, he is not guilty of any sin. God did not give the kingdom of India to foreigners by writing on a copper plate. Do not limit your vision like a frog in a well. Come out of the confines of the penal code and enter the noble atmosphere of the Bhagavad Gita and contemplate the deeds of great souls.

Shyamji Krishna Varma and the Establishment of India House in London - Krishna Varma was a native of Kathiawar region in western India. He was educated at Cambridge University and became a barrister. After returning to India, he worked in several princely states. However, unhappy with the behavior of the British Political Residents, he resolved to work for India's independence and chose London as his place of work. In 1905, Krishna Varma formed the Indian Self-Government Committee, often known as India House. He also launched a monthly magazine, "Padakanpada VVPASWHpage," for this purpose. He also established six fellowships of one thousand rupees each for qualified Indians coming abroad. Soon, India House in London It became a hub for the movement for Indians living there. Revolutionaries like V.D. Savarkar, Hardayal, and Madanlal Dhingra became its members. V.D. Savarkar, a young graduate of Fergusson College, Poona, took advantage of a Krishna Varma fellowship and left for London in June 1906. Prior to this, Savarkar had started an organization called "Mitra Mela" in Nasik in 1904, which soon evolved into a secret society called "Abhinav Bharat," modeled after Mazzini's "Young Italy." These young and agitated youth made India House a center for anti-British and pro-India propaganda. In May 1908, India House decided to celebrate the golden jubilee of the 1857 rebellion. Savarkar called this rebellion the Indian freedom struggle. He expressed these views in his book, "The Truth and the Truth of India." Similarly, a short booklet titled "The Truth and the Truth of India" (Churchi Samj) was also distributed in London, and some copies were sent to India.

In 1909, Madanlal Dhingra shot and killed Colonel William Curzon Wylie, Political Assistant (PIA) in the India Office. The British government took a tough stand. Madanlal Dhingra was arrested and hanged. Savarkar was

arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. Shyamji also left London and went to Paris, thus shutting down the activities of India House. On December 21, 1909, the unpopular district magistrate of Nashik was assassinated. Two other incidents of the Abhinav Bharat Sabha's involvement in western India occurred: the Ahmedabad bombing in November 1909 and the Satara conspiracy case in 1910.

(c) Revolutionary Movement in Punjab -

Many factors played a role in the rise of revolutionary activities in Punjab. Among these were the excessive increase in land revenue and irrigation taxes despite two consecutive famines, the forced labor imposed by landlords, and the events in Bengal. Lala Lajpat Rai and Bhagat Singh's uncle, Ajit Singh, also played a significant role in the rise of revolutionary terrorism in Punjab. Through his newspaper, Punjabi, Lala Lajpat Rai encouraged the people of Punjab to resist oppression through their own efforts under any circumstances. While Aji Singh formed a revolutionary committee called "Anjuman-e-Mohisban-e-Watan" in Lahore, Bharat Mata wrote numerous revolutionary articles and called on the people to rise up against oppression and persecution. Initially, Ajit Singh and his supporters campaigned for the repeal of the heavy land revenue imposed on the farmers of the Chenab and Bari-Doab canal areas, but later they turned to revolutionary activities. In addition to Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh, Agha Haider, Syed Haider Raja, Bhai Parmanand, and the famous Urdu poet Lalchand "Falak" also played important roles in the rise and spread of revolutionary activities in Punjab.

As soon as revolutionary activities began in Punjab, the government began efforts to suppress them and in May 1907, passed a law banning political meetings and committees. Lala Lajpat Rai was arrested and imprisoned, and Ajit Singh fled to France after his retirement. However, he continued his revolutionary activities with the support of his associates, including Sufi Amba Prasad, Bhai Parmanand, and Lala Hardayal.

(d) Revolutionary Movement in Delhi -

Revolutionary activities in Delhi became clearly manifest when revolutionaries threw a bomb at the convoy of Viceroy Lord Hardinge on December 23, 1912. Several of Hardinge's servants were killed and seriously injured in this bomb attack. Rasbihari Bose and Sachin Sanyal played key roles in this incident. Following the incident, the police arrested 13 individuals, including Master Amir Chandra, Awadh Bihari, Dinanath, Sultan Chandra, Hanumant Sahay, Basant Kumar, Balmukund, and Balraj. All of them were tried in what was known as the "Delhi Conspiracy Case." Some of them were hanged, and the rest were exiled from the country.

(e) Revolutionary Movement in Madras -

The revolutionary movement also began in Madras. Vipichandra Pal visited Madras in 1907 and propagated his ideas. He was sentenced to six months'

imprisonment for failing to testify against Aurobindo Ghosh. Upon his release from prison, local revolutionary leaders Subrahmanyam Siva and Chidambaram Pillai organized a reception in his honor. Consequently, they were arrested on March 12, 1909, which sparked riots in Tinnevely. The government arrested and prosecuted newspaper editors and movement leaders. This sparked public outrage. Revolutionaries began to organize, damaging government property and attacking police stations and police stations. The government's repression began. Aroused excitement among the youth. M. Pithal Acharya and B.B.S. Nayyar were their inspirations. On June 17, 1911, the District Magistrate, Ash, was assassinated by revolutionaries in Tinneveli.

(f) Revolutionary Movements in Other Provinces -

The educated class in Punjab was influenced by these revolutionary ideas. The Punjab government proposed increasing land taxes in the Chenab and Bari Doab canal settlements. This aroused great anger among the rural population of the region. The central government passed this bill, which was not passed by the Punjab Legislative Council. He had passed the Act, which he cancelled using his veto powers, but at the same time he arrested two prominent leaders of the movement, Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh and deported them from the country under Regulation III of 1818. Ajit Singh was released after six months and fled to France. Lalchand Falak and Bhai Parmanand were also given jail sentences for different periods.

In December 1912, during the royal visit of Lord Hardinge, a bomb was thrown in Chandni Chowk, killing his servants. In Bihar, Orissa, and Uttar Pradesh, the Muzaffarpur and Nimej murder cases, as well as the conspiracy in Varanasi, were reported, although the remaining provinces were not significantly affected.

Revolutionary Activities Abroad -

Nationalist revolutionaries established numerous organizations abroad—Britain, the United States, Afghanistan, Germany, Paris, and others—to establish contact with other revolutionaries, to legitimately promote India's independence, and to secure foreign aid. Revolutionaries continued revolutionary activities in many places, including India, as well as abroad. Some of these places/countries are as follows:

(a) Revolutionary Activities in England -

Revolutionary activities in London were primarily led by Shyamaji Krishna Varma, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Madan Lal Dhingra, and Lalihar Dayal. Shyamaji Krishna Varma established the "India House" here in 1905. The organization's objective was to achieve independence by terrorizing the British government. From here, they also began publishing a newspaper, Sociologic. Due to government repression in London, Shyamaji moved to Paris and eventually Geneva. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar took over India House after Shyamaji Krishna Varma. It was here that Savarkar wrote the famous book "The War of Independence of 1857." He also translated Mazzini's

autobiography into Marathi. In 1909, Madanlal Dhingra assassinated Colonel William Curzon Wylie. Dhingra was also arrested and hanged. On March 13, 1910, Savarkar was arrested in the Nasik Conspiracy Case and sentenced to life imprisonment.

(b) Revolutionary Activities in France -

Madam Bhakaji Rustom Cama, a Parsi woman, propagated revolutionary ideology against British rule in America and various European countries. She participated in the International Socialist Conference held in Stuttgart (Germany) in August 1907 and hoisted the Indian national tricolor (green, yellow, and red) flag there. Madame Bhikaji Cama is also known as the 'Mother of the Indian Revolution.'

In France, Mr. S.R. Rana and Mrs. Bhikaji Rustom Cama continued revolutionary activities from Paris. In 1906, Shamaji Krishna Varma also arrived from London, further intensifying the movement. They also attempted to publish a newspaper called Vande Mataram. Here, S.R. Rana established scholarships for Indian students, but the friendship between France and England during World War I slowed the revolutionary activities.

(c) Revolutionary Activities in America and Canada -

Indians settled in the United States and Canada in the last decade of the 19th century began anti-British nationalist activities around 1906. In 1907, Taraknath Das, an Indian expatriate living in the United States, formed the Indian Independence League in California. He also published a newspaper, "Independent Hindustan," in 1908. Consequently, in 1913, the "Hindu Association of America" was founded by Sohan Singh Bhakna, and a weekly magazine, "Gadar," was published to commemorate the 1857 rebellion. This magazine was published in English, Urdu, Marathi, and Punjabi. The "Hindu Association of America" was named after this magazine, "Gadar Party." This organization named the Yugantar Ashram in San Francisco after the famous revolutionary magazine "Yugantar," published from Calcutta.

With the outbreak of World War I, relations between England and Germany became strained, and as a result, revolutionaries made Germany the center of their activities. Lala Hardayal and his companions moved from America to Germany. Virendranath Chattopadhyay made Berlin the center of their activities.

(d) Revolutionary Movement in Germany -

Madam Bhakaji Cama and Lala Hardayal are credited with keeping the Indian independence movement alive in Germany. After the Ghadar Movement was banned and the First World War began, they moved from America to Germany and established the Indian Independence Committee there. The Zimmerman Plan was formulated as a result of discussions between the German government and the revolutionaries. Hardayal, the leader of this plan, established the Indian Independence Committee in Berlin in 1916. S.S. Rana, K.R. Banerjee, and M.P.T. Acharya were co-members of this committee.

Their objective was that Indians living abroad should make every effort to achieve India's independence. These included sending volunteers to India to prepare Indian fighters for rebellion, sending explosives to Indian revolutionaries, and, if possible, launching a military invasion of India. The first president of the Indian Independence Movement was Mansoor Ahmed.

(e) Ghadar Movement-

Ghadar The movement was led by the Ghadar Party, which was formed on November 1, 1913, with its headquarters in San Francisco, United States, and branches in several American cities. It was a revolutionary organization that began publishing a weekly magazine, Ghadar, commemorating the 1857 rebellion. Its activists were primarily farmers and former soldiers from Punjab who had settled in various parts of Canada and the United States in search of employment. In addition to various cities in Canada and the United States, their presence was also significant on the West Coast. Even before the Ghadar Party's founding, anti-British revolutionary activities had begun in the region. Ramdas Puri, G.D. Kumar, Tarak Nath Das, and Sohan Singh Bhakna played key roles. These activities gained further momentum with the arrival of Lala Hardayal in 1911. Through their efforts, the Ghadar Party was established in 1913. Prior to this, the Swadeshi Sevak Griha in Vancouver, Canada, and the United India House in Seattle had been established to conduct revolutionary activities. The objective of both these organizations was to liberate India from foreign slavery through revolutionary activities. The Ghadar Party played a key role in organizing anti-British revolutionary activities from abroad. The main objectives of this movement were to assassinate British officers, publish revolutionary and anti-imperialist literature, work among Indian soldiers stationed abroad and instill anti-British sentiments in them, acquire weapons, distribute them among Indian revolutionaries, and launch rebellions in all the British colonies one by one. Lalalar Dayal played a prominent role in the activities of the Ghadar Party. In addition, Ramchandra, Bhagwan Singh, Kartar Singh Saraba, Barkatullah, and Bhai Parmanand were also prominent members of the Ghadar Party. They also declared the establishment of independence in India as their primary goal. After the Ghadar Party's founding in 1913, as its activities began, two other events played a catalytic role.

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