



Tradition Of British Colonialism On Writing Of Indian History

M. Nagalaxmi¹, Dr. Siraj Khan²

¹*Research Scholar, Department of History, Ekalavya University, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

²Associate Professor, Department of History, Ekalavya University, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, India

***Corresponding Author:** M. Nagalaxmi

*Research Scholar, Department of History, Ekalavya University, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

Introduction

British Government administrative group had totally different view on Indian Nationalist movement. They were not ready to accept Indian Nationalist movement as Nationalist and wide spread. They believe that, Indian Nationalist group is just microscopic group of minority and with few in number of educative, selfish and irresponsible group of people who wanted to take advantage of few of the British laid perks, benefits and relaxations and used it against British Government to incite people against the British Government only. As a result of imperialistic History writing process, British administrative Historians started distorting Indian History. In the context, with reference to Great Revolt of 1857, Historians have dispute amongst themselves. British Historians which include John Lowrens, John Sheele, Thompson, PE Roberts etc believe it as a Soldier's Mutiny only. Whereas Patriotic Historians, presents it as First War of Indian Independence. In modern Period of History, V.D. Savarkar was the first Nationalist Patriotic Historian who for the first time called '1857 revolt' as First War of Indian Independence' and he produced his Nationalist views in his book "The Indian War of Independence" Ashok Mehta writes that Revolt of 1857 was not only revolt but was a social uprising which has got blessings of 'Deities'.

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History writing is one of the important facet of life. It is not a new development but one of the oldest method to describe the events and facts that have occurred earlier. History gives us a vivid picturesque view of the past. It gives reader a food of thought to visualize past and compare it with the present happenings. History has to be learnt and re- visualized so that, no past mistakes are repeated and the facts learnt from History are utilized for futuristic developments. It is evident that most of the civilizations of the world had their History. In present, countries have their own distinct history. History writing is one of the valuable contributions of thinkers of various periods and time phase since time unmemorable.

Imperialistic Scenario in India

The arrival of the Mughals on the axis of India is considered to be a new chapter in Indian History, but, at the same time the Mughal Empire established by Babar is found in its high state from 1526 to 1707. But in the closing year of the reign of Aurangzeb (1658-1707). The downfall of massive and such huge and mighty large empire had started. It was tottering to its fall and what was required only a small and soft push for its final demise Subedars who had become mighty by that time and become corrupt strove to be freed. They were pre-destined to become the prey of British Empire of India. In Bengal the independent Nawab was ready to raise his head. The similar situation was in Oudh. The Bundela, The Jats, The Sikhs, they all made their independent states despite of being huge and tiny states, but they completely estranged them selves from the supremacy of the Mughals.

Puranas and History

The puranas were kind of historical novels where a writer used the historical material to support the written literature to convince the readers. But this fact remain strong and we can not deny that puranas holds a strong reference for valuable information (Historical) and dynasties and held strong held of their geneological lists. They certainly composed and written during the 8th century B.C. and usually attributed to Vyasa but the also true, They do not provide ample information to decipher or interpret them properly they have written in two portion facts and fiction and it becomes

irksome task to separate facts from fiction, Modern history literature differs from puranas as they hold different view of materialistic and temporal life. The puranas could not make differences between myths, legends and supernatural events and history proper.

Indian History and we get insight about the social, political, cultural and religious life of ancient India. There is plethora of sources and evidences to write a proper, scientific study of ancient History of India. But we need to be more careful and more vigilant before using this source material for writing the History. Tradition of writing History has always been there in India. We need to make sources more scientific and logical by minimizing the biasness, our historians differs in opinions on one topic. A perfect knowledge of History of India has yet to come in limelight. To achieve their objectives, Historians need to have some room for new aspects.

Nature of the revolution of 1857 was in primitive nationalism. Where the Loyalty and patriotism of people was just confined to its own states. They raised their heads against the Socio-economic and religious policies and their atrocities towards the masses of India. Uprooting the foreign rule from their land they come together at one platform and joined hands to fight collecting with British Power. So, we need to see these kinds of events from different perspective, we need to find the solution between the two extreme sides of Rivers. Different types of historiography, methods and techniques of writing historiography have been developed since the colonial time. For example colonial historiography, Nationalistic Historiography, Marxist historiography where he talks about Asian means of production and now new emerging trend of writing historiography is subaltern historiography which is generated Antonio Gramsci and in India also, there are few names like Sumit Sarkar, Ranjit Guha, Kunwar Sarvesh Singh, they gave a new idea to study the tribal movements and called these movement self-spontaneous where everybody was a leader, self-motivated, self-trained.

Aashik (1316), Nooh sipir (1318), Tughlaqnama, Taarikh-e-Alaai give vivid and pictorial description of History of that period. In his compositions Khusru has supported facts with dates and pictures. This makes his literary work realistic and easy to believe in the same form which he has written. However, poetic style of history writing with metaphors used by Khusru makes his literary work over-emphasized and exaggerated. After reading all his compositions it becomes easy to understand society, culture, traditions and administration of Delhi Sultanate.

(c) Jiyauddin Varni. He composed Eight (08) books. Out of which "Taarikh-e-Firozshahi(1358) and "Fatwah-e-Jahadari" are of historical importance.

(d) Gul Badan Begam (AD 1523-1603). She was the daughter of Babar. She wrote 'Humaonama'. A brief details of reign of King Humaon are available in this book. This book lacks sequence of events and is mainly confined to the social customs and rituals followed by the Royal families.

(e) Mirza Haider Duglat (AD1499-1551). His book "Taarikh-e-Rashidi" gives us a brief account of ancestors of Mughals and various battles fought by Humaon. Book mainly deals with political happenings.

(f) Abulfazl. He was a versatile writer in the court of King Akbar. AbulFazl has written "Akbarnama". He composed Akbarnama in three(03) parts. These three parts give details of History of King Akbar's reign. 3rd part of Akbarnama known as "Ain-e-Akbari" is one of the famous literary works of the period.

(g) Abdul Kadir va Daayuri (AD 1540-1615). He was one of the historians who criticized King Akbar and his policies in his literary works. Due to his criticism against the ruling king, his literary work could not be published at the time of King Akbar's reign. His literary works were published during the reign of King Jahangir with the name "Muntkhaab-ut-Tabareekh". This work of Abdul Kadir is strongly against King Akbar's religious policies.

(h) Khwaja Nijamuddin Ahmad. He wrote "Tabakat-e-Akbari" based on 28 literary works.

His work was not on Royal Courts. His work is considered as real work with unbiased truthful literature. This work is regional work which has a good influence on the Indian History.

Jahangir (1569-1627): Emperor Jahangir left his memoirs with various names, it is known as Waqiat-i-Jahangiri, Dayaz-i-Jahangiri, Iqbalnamah, Jahangirnamah, Tarikh-i-Salim-Shahi. This memoir was written by Jahangir himself. He talks from 1605 to 1617. Few other writers also continued his work and ends it by the end of the reign of Jahangir by Muhammad Hadi. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri is the best work to know about the reign of Jahangir. It not only gives information about the rebellions, revolts, important events, wars and conquest of the emperor but also covers candid part of daily life of emperor Jahangir. It throws light on social, cultural spiritual life of people the extraordinary quality of his work, He composed this memoir with outstanding frankness. Jahangir mentioned how He murdered Abul Fazal. But sadly He did not mention anything about his marriage to Nurjahan.

Abdul Hamid Lahori: He composed work Padshahanamah by the order of emperor Shahjahan. It is basically on the model of Akbarnama, consists of three volumes. It talks about the events and activities of the reign of Shahjahan. The third volume which was composed after the death of Muhammad Waris is from 1647-1657.

Mirza Muhammad Kazim: He wrote Alamgirnama in 1688 on the order of Aurangzeb. He only covered 8 years of Aurangzeb's reign. It was on the order of Aurangzeb. He asked him not to continue. The Eliot and Dowson points out "Alamgirnama is a courtly Panegyric, Full some in its flattery, abusive in its nature. Laudatory epithets are heaped one upon another in praise of Aurangzeb; while his unfortunate brothers are not spared at the abused, but their very names are perverted.

Muhammad Saqi Mustaid Khan: The all minute information is available in his account Ma'asir-i-Alamgiri completed in 1710 AD. He had been patronised by Aurangzeb for 40 years. He himself eye witness to numerous events. He took

help of state papers; it covers the history of 51 years of Aurangzeb reign. The date of later period is his original contribution. It helps immensely in knowing the History of reign of Aurangzeb.

Muhammad Hashin Alias Hashim Ali Khan:- He is popularly known as Khafi Khan. His work is known as Muntkhab-ul-Lubab or Tarikh-i-Khafi Khan. It covers the complete History from the Muhammad's conquest of the 14th year of Shah's reign (1733). It divides in three volumes. In first He talks about Muhammadan conquest to Lodi dynasty. In second volume He tells about from Mughal king Babar to the reign of Muhammad Shah. It also tells the History of Provincial states like Khandesh, Gujrat and Deccan etc. The last and third volume completely deals with the Aurangzeb reign.

Colonial Historian did their utmost to prove Indian human beings of lower grade on the racial basis and established that India has been slaved since always foreign aggression ruled it. They spoke about Indians in words. They are without any Patriotism. There was no place for Nationalism amongst Indians. They were who remained engaged fighting each other for their selfish reasons. But, this fact was supposed only by Western Historians. While Indian Historians opposed it vehemently. According to them, from ancient time to Modern time feelings of Nationalism is present amongst the Indians. For this feeling of Nationalism, Nationalist Historians wrote Nationalist History and created a war of Nationalism which uprooted British rule in India.

Conclusion

Indian Historian reflected socialism in their writings. Amongst these Historians, Ram Manohar Lohia was prominent writer. Ram Manohar Lohia has considered the lowest and the weakest person of the society as a important unit for the building of a Nation. He has described the importance of society in Nation Building.

In 1919, Mahatma Gandhi started Non cooperation movement. This event gave boost to literature writing in the form of Nationalism and for the cause of Indian Independence. This literature shifted Imperialistic thought of History writing to Indian Nationalist History Writings.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's "First struggle of Indian Independence, 1857" was the early Historical literary work which reflected new tradition of History writing with Nationalism as one of the pious and primary AIM of literature. After this, history writing with Aim of Nationalism became the primary Aim of all the literary work in India. Distinctly, during struggle of India for Independence, Subhash Chandra Bose established Military though process to the Nationalist thought process and traditions of History writing in India.

During modern period of the Indian history writing, few of the writers included literary work on the social condition of woman in India and for Woman Empowerment. India got its Independence in 1947. After this, trends of History writing took turn. Feeling of Nationalism declined. Focus of the writers shifted, to literary work on the methods used for attainment of Independence, new administrative policies, and futuristic approach for development in the field of agriculture, science, culture and heritage development in free India. Book "The Discovery of India" by Jawahar Lal Nehru is one of the important Historical book by the Indian for the Indian which tells us the Brief History of India.

In 1984, Akhil Bhartiya Sankalan Yojana was formed under to guidance of Baba Amte in order to write History for the Indians by the Indians of the Indians. This organization collected historical information from basic Historical traces, literary works.

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