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SOUTH ASIA: ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND POLITICS

By: *Shweta Mahajan*, M.A. (Pol. Science)

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QUESTION PAPER

(June – 2019)

(Solved)

SOUTH ASIA: ECONOMY, POLITY AND SOCIETY

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: (i) Section I – Any two questions to be answered. (ii) Section II – Any four questions to be answered. (iii) Section III – Any two short notes to be written.

SECTION-I

Answer any two of the following questions:

Q. 1. Examine the features and structural changes in Pakistan's economy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 35, 'Economic Development'.

Q. 2. Assess the impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes and liberalisation on India's economy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-21, Page No. 112, 'Structural Adjustment Programmes' and Page No. 114, 'Liberalisation and SAPs in India'.

Q. 3. Describe how the South Asian Countries are managing the challenges to pluralism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-20, Page No. 106, 'What is Pluralism', Page No. 109, 'Managing Challenges : A Conceptual Toolkit'.

Q. 4. Critically examine the major challenges to regional cooperation in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-22, Page No. 120, 'The Dynamics of Regionalism in South Asia'.

SECTION-II

Answer any four of the following questions:

Q. 5. Examine the role of Islam in the politics of Pakistan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 38, 'Religion' and Page No. 39, Q. No. 4 and Page No. 36, 'Military Government of Zia'.

Q. 6. How did the military-bureaucratic alliance consolidate power in Pakistan?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 43, Q. No. 3 and Q. No. 4.

Q. 7. What are the essential differences between the human development and neo-liberal approaches to development?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 9, 'Dimensions of Human Development' and 'Human Development and New-Liberalism'.

Q. 8. Describe the policy orientations of major political parties in Sri Lanka.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 73, 'Political Parties and Elections'.

Q. 9. Describe the main features of the political system in the Maldives.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-17, Page No. 93, 'Politics'.

Q. 10. Examine the areas of tension in Indo-Bangladesh relations.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 25, 'India and Bangladesh'.

Q. 11. Examine the role of Monarchy in the politics of Nepal.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 55, 'Introduction' and 'Historical Background'.

Q. 12. Describe the nature of Sri Lankan society.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 78, 'Society and Culture'.

SECTION-III

Q. 13. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Bangladesh Nationalist Party

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 46, 'Nationalist Intervention'.

(b) Grameena Bank

Ans. The Grameen Bank is a Nobel Peace prize-winning micro-finance organisation and community development bank founded in Bangladesh. It makes small loans to the impoverished without requiring collateral. The name grameen is derived from the word gram which means 'rural' or 'village' in Sanskrit language.

Grameen Bank originated in 1976 in the work of Professor Muhammad Yunus, at university of

Chittagong who launched a research project to study how to design a credit delivery system to provide banking services to the rural poor. In October, 1983 The Grameen Bank was authorized by national legislation as an independent bank.

(c) Maoists in Nepal

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 59, 'Rise of the Maoists'.

(d) Religion in Bhutan

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 67, 'Religion'.



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SOUTH ASIA: ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND POLITICS

SOUTH ASIA AS A REGION

Struggle for Independence and Nationalism in South Asia



INTRODUCTION

South Asia has the long history of foreign aggression. In the ancient times it was invaded by the successive waves of the Aryans, Greeks, Shakas and the Huns. In medieval period, the Turko-Afghans, the Mughals and others came to this region got settled and completely assimilated with the indigenous people. In modern period, South Asia was ruled by the Europeans viz. Portuguese, Dutch, French and British. The British invasion in South Asia was qualitatively different from the earlier ones; they integrated the region into their empire and ruled it from London. The Britishers came to South Asia mainly to establish international markets for their raw material which became the source of exploitation of domestic markets of indigenous people and their natural resources. Its economy and society also became subordinated to the imperialist political economy. The powerful forces of colonialism in South Asia and continuous subordination and exploitation of South Asia led to conflicts and contradictions in that region in the form of nationalism among people against the imperialist rule which ultimately paved the way for their independence from the colonial rule.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

NATIONALISM IN SOUTH ASIA

The rise and growth of nationalism in South Asia was a reaction against the colonial exploitation and subjugation. The states which were under the direct

control of the British were India, Pakistan and Bangladesh which were the part of one nation i.e. India but after the partition it divided into three. It witnessed strong movements and revolts against the British colonial rule. The struggle of Free India became the source of inspiration for other smaller states of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives which remained the protectors of the British, means they were independent in existence but they have no autonomy over their external relations with others and they were controlled and protected by the British. The national movement of India gave rise to political consciousness and national awakening to these states, to break-out the shackles of the British colonial rule and to overthrow the administration. It would not be wrong to say that colonialism was the reason of their major exploitation whether its economy or political but that is also true that it led to the broadening of their social base, with the introduction of modern transport, railways and communication and the only force which constituted them for the unification of their nation.

FREEDOM STRUGGLE IN SOUTH ASIA

India

The rise and growth of nationalism in India under the aegis of British imperialism was the product of numerous objective and subjective forces. India had the long history of domination and subjugation under imperialist powers which caused a greater exploitation in the region.

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The first phase of the National Movement in India began with the formation of Indian National Congress in 1885, to 1905 after this period, the Congress led to the split between Moderates and Extremists. The early Congressmen were known as moderates they were Dadabhai Naoroji, G.K. Gokhale, M.G.Ranade, S.N. Banerjee, Ferozeshah Mehta etc. The methods of Moderates to make demands and appeal were liberal in nature. They believed in orderly progress, effective argument, constitutional agitation within the four corners of law. Their main objective was to reform in central and local legislative councils by securing more powers to Indian representatives and increase in their number in council and also wide employment for Indians in the highest offices of the public services as a result the Indian Councils Act, 1892 was passed. They complained for increased poverty and economic backwardness in the country and demanded for development and promotion of Indian industries. The basic weakness of the Moderates was their narrow social base which was limited to urban educated classes which led to their decline. Muslims were never part of it. Therefore, they preferred to accept the leadership of Sir Sayyad Khan and established Muslim community, Muslim League in 1906.

The second phase of National Movement began with the rise of militant or extremists as a reaction of the growing disillusionment among the people about the activities of the British Ruler when Lord Curzon made a proposal for the partition of Bengal to create a division between Hindu dominant West Bengal and Muslim dominant East Bengal. The famous militant leaders were Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Aurobindo Ghosh, Bipin Chandra Pal. They advocated the policy of Boycott, Swadeshi and National Education of people. The boycott movement included the renunciation of Government titles and posts, Boycott of British Councils and Schools. Their ideas instilled national pride, self-respect and confidence among the people. Their support base was also broad than moderates associating lower middle class, students and youth. But extremists were also not able to win hearts of the Muslim community because the movement resurrected the Hindu ideas and invoked Hindu symbols.

A new phase in Indian National Movement began when Mahatma Gandhi entered within the active politics. With the end of the First World War there was a growing unrest among people because of the rise in price, increasing poverty and profiteering in the nation.

In effect, the British Government passed the Government of India Act, 1919, to increase the participation of Indian people in the administration, but it didn't come up to the expectations of the leaders because the British Government was restricting the civil liberties of people by enacting the Rowlett Act, 1919. In these circumstances, Mahatma Gandhi initiated the struggle by the launch of Satyagraha Movement in the country. He organised series of non-violent acts of resistance against the Rowlett Act of 1919. With this Movement a new chapter of Freedom Struggle began. The turning point in the history of the freedom movement was the launch of Non-cooperation Movement in August 1920, because of twin issues (a) The issue of Jallianwallah Bagh, which sent a wave of horror and fury throughout the length and breadth of the country (b) Khilafat Movement.

The new programme of the Non-cooperation movement as stated in its resolution involved the surrender of titles and honorary offices and resignation from nominated offices in the local bodies, the movement assumed mass character. Unfortunately, the tragedy occurred in Chaura-Chauri changed the cause of Indian history, which resulted in the suspending of the movement by Mahatma Gandhi. A special feature of the non-cooperation movement was the Hindu-Muslim unity and fraternity. Moreover, the Congress also turned into a genuine revolutionary organisation.

In 1927, Simon Commission was appointed to study democratic reforms in India. The Congress boycotted the commission on the grounds that Indians were not represented in the commission. The Congress appointed the committee under the chairmanship of Motilal Nehru to draft a new constitution for India and self-government dominion for India. Since, the all parties convention of Congress did not accede to the demands of the Muslim League, Jinnah parted company with the Congress.

Due to the disappointment among the Congress leaders over the attitude of the British parliament, they met in the Calcutta under the Presidentship of Motilal Nehru on 31st December 1929 and passed the resolution for *Purna Swaraj* that is complete independence. The constitutional reforms finally took place in the form of Government of India Act, 1935. The act did not come out the way it was intended though it opened a new chapter in Indian Constitutional development. All the parties decided to fight elections for the Provincial Assemblies in 1937, the Congress won the majority in five provinces and a near majority

in Bombay. On the other hand, Muslim League could not form the government and this further alienated Jinnah. In March 1940, Jinnah propounded the “*two-nation theory*” and made demand for the separate Muslim state constituting the geographically contiguous regions on the western and eastern zones of India.

When the World War II broke out, the British declared war on India’s behalf without consulting Indian leaders. Gandhiji felt convinced that the British presence can be the incentive for Japanese attack; he took a revolutionary stand and holding forth *Quit India idea*. A meeting of All India Congress Committee held and the new famous “*Quit India Resolution*” was passed on August 8th, 1942. The movement was spread like the wild fire because of strikes, agitations and demonstrations in all parts of India. The police stations, post offices and railway stations were attacked and destroyed. After the end of war in April 1945, fresh elections were held in Britain and the new Labour government found it difficult to cope with the changed international situation in which the economy of Britain was weakened and to maintain the colony like India which is witnessing mass movements was also difficult for Britain.

In March, British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to India but was rejected, the Muslim League made a demand for the partition of the country and the separate state for Muslim Community and setting up of Constituent Assembly. The British sent Lord Mountbatten for transfer of power, he put forward his formula of partition and independence of the country in Indian Independence Act of 1947. The proposal was accepted reluctantly. The act provided the creation of two Independent nations and their constituent assembly. Thus, India attained independence on 15th August 1947 and on 26th January, 1950 the constitution was formally adopted.

Pakistan

The origin of Pakistan was one of the major developments of the national movement which gave rise to the simultaneous rise and growth of communalism in the nation. In the late 19th century the communalism started acquiring an all India dimension with the launch of reform movements by Muslim elite spreading the relevance of English education to prepare the Muslims for job market. The movement gave rise to the emergence of communal politics in India and development of Muslim communal parties. The British response to these developments

added fuel to the fire of communalism in nation, by encouraging the separatist tendencies among the Muslims to keep them away from the growing National Movement. In 1906, Muslim League, a conservative party was formed based on the communal ideology and politics which believed that Congress party is a Hindu dominant party and represents the interests of the Hindus. Therefore, the main objective of this party was the separate electorates for the Muslims and safeguards in government services.

The period of Hindu-Muslim Unity began when the partition of Bengal was annulled in 1912; the Muslim League was dismayed and disappointed with the British and began advocating self -government for India within the British Empire. In 1916, it signed the Lucknow Pact with the INC, whereby the Congress approved the institution of separate electorate and to work towards the dominion status for India. During Non-cooperation Movement the Hindu-Muslim unity and fraternity was at its peak. The prospects for the Hindu-Muslim unity were bright when all parties boycotted the Simon Commission and decided to formulate an all India constitution. The report of the committee of all parties’ constitution did not accede the demands of the Muslim League, which made Mohammad Ali Jinnah decide to part ways with the Congress.

Another event which became the basis for the further discussion for the future of India was the general elections of 1937, in which Congress won the majority in five provinces and Muslim League badly fared by winning only 108 seats out of 484 seats and did not able to form government in any of the provinces and that evolved into a strong anti-Congress party. This further alienated Jinnah to consolidate the idea of separate nation for Muslim community propounded in his “two-nation theory”. With this intention, the League fought the elections of 1945-46 on the ground that, ‘*a vote for the League and Pakistan was a vote for Islam*’ and emerged as a dominant party among the Muslims. The Cabinet Mission which was sent to India by new British Government for the establishment of an Interim Government was failed to make any decisions as Jinnah declared there could be no compromise on the demand for Pakistan. The following period was even worst witnessing communal riots between the two communities. The British Government announced the appointment of Mountbatten to transfer the power to the Indians. In discussions between Mountbatten and

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Congress on one hand and Muslim League on the other the scheme for the partition of the country was outlined, which was embodied in an Indian Independence Act, 1947, made adjustable and fixation of the final boundaries of two dominions by the award of the boundary commission. Thus, the communal divide led the division of India and creation of Pakistan.

Bangladesh

Ever since the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the people of its eastern half—the East Bengal or East Pakistan, were struggling against the domination of their culture and economy by the people of West Pakistan.

The first event was the decision of ruling government of Pakistan to introduce Urdu as the national language of Pakistan in disregard of Bengali wishes. The language movement sparked the first nationalistic sentiment. The people of East Bengal came out with the strong resistance against the move. The most significant impact of the language movement was on the 1954, general elections. It led to the emergence of the organisation of Awami League under the leadership of Bhasnani in 1949. The party committed to secure the rights of the people of East Bengal. However, the Muslim League dismissed the united front government within six months and imposed military rule. The military dictatorship of Ayub Khan maintained with vengeance. The rapid polarisation that followed reflected the cumulative impact of the growing political, economic and cultural differences. The West Pakistan was diverting the foreign exchange earnings of East Pakistan to develop its economy and life and also reaped benefits from the industrialisation, which left the East Pakistan lagging behind. This found expression in the Six-point programme announced by the leader of the Awami League, Mujib-Ur-Rahman in 1966, demanding full autonomy for East Bengal, due share in economic and political life of the Bengalis.

The third phase of the struggle started with the first general elections of 1970 since independence, which had secured the clear majority for Awami League. The attempts were made by Yayha and Bhutto's PPP to prevent the transfer of power to East Bengal. In response to this, Sheikh Mujib's Awami League created a sharp and violent protest and forced the people of East Bengal to launch a civil-disobedience movement for securing the legitimate rights and for ending the era of exploitation. The movement turned into armed

struggle. The heavy civilian casualties led to an unprecedented migration of Bengalis to India which involved India to the objective of Bengalis liberation of East Pakistan. With the involvement of India in this issue, Pakistan declared war against India on 3rd December 1971, considering the matter as internal affair of Pakistan the war ended on 16th December, with the surrender of Pakistani army to the joint command of the Bangladesh Liberation Army and the Indian Army in Dacca. The administration was entrusted to the leaders of Bangladesh and Bangladesh was recognised and declared a sovereign independent state.

Sri Lanka

The political history of Ceylon, which later came to be known as Sri Lanka, can be traced back to the 3rd century B.C. during the early years; the island was divided into small principalities. Ceylon experienced periodical invasions from the South India, these invasions which culminated in the formation of a Tamil kingdom in the Jaffna peninsula in the north of the island in 16th century. When Ceylon was invaded by the Portuguese, Ceylon was divided into three kingdoms: two Sinhalese, one based at the Kotte with control over the south and east of the island, and other at Kandy ruling the central highlands; and one Tamil kingdom controlling north and east, this made easy for invading Ceylon. Later came Dutch in 17th century which ruled for over hundred years which were replaced by the British in 1796. They made the Tamil state their colony, 1815, they overthrown the Nayakkar dynasty from Kandy kingdom though they were guaranteed privileges and rights but administered separately which reduced the status of Bhikkus and aristocrats this led to the rebellion against British control in 1818.

In later period British also began their reform process but these changes were made in urban areas and areas which were under plantation. The rest of the country continued under subsistence. This gave rise to national and political consciousness in Ceylon. The forces of nationalism gathered momentum during the First World War followed by the civil disturbances in 1915, when British arrested the prominent Sinhalese leaders and to voice the nationalistic view point, the Sinhalese and Tamils formed together the Ceylon National Congress in 1919. Following these reforms there was sudden rift came between the Sinhalese and Tamils harmony of interest and with the increase of