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THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONALISM IN THE INDIAN CASE

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ABSTRACTS

The evolution of nationalism in India has been a complex and dynamic journey, influenced by various historical, cultural, political, and economic factors. From its nascent phases of colonial opposition to the period following independence, Indian nationalism has experienced substantial changes, shaping the nation's political identity and developmental strategies. This paper delves into the path of Indian nationalism, charting its growth from the anti-colonial struggle to the rise of nationalism post-independence, and more recently, the emergence of a newer, often more divisive form of nationalism in today's political arena. The research investigates how Indian nationalism, initially grounded in the fight for freedom and the creation of a secular, democratic republic, has been transformed in recent years by political dynamics that stress cultural and religious identities, especially through the perspective of Hindu nationalism. This transition has significant repercussions for India's aspirations of social democracy, as the nation grapples with issues concerning economic advancement, social equity, and pluralism. The ascent of this 'new nationalism' is set against a backdrop of both global and local demands for progress, igniting discussions on the path of India's development—whether to emphasize economic independence, market-oriented strategies, or inclusive growth that respects its varied societal composition.



KEY WORDS: Social Democracy, Development, Secularism, Political Identity, Hindu Nationalism, Indian Nationalism, Post-Colonial India.

INTRODUCTION

India's nationalism has gone through several stages, each of which was greatly impacted by the historical and sociopolitical climate of the day. A complex interaction of political, religious, and cultural elements has influenced the evolution of nationalism in India, from the anti-colonial movement to the democratic experiment that followed independence. In reaction to British colonial rule, the idea of a single Indian identity developed, which played a key role in galvanizing various subcontinental communities against imperial oppression. However, the character of Indian nationalism changed dramatically in the decades after independence, which had an impact on the political course and development plans of the nation. The early stages of Indian nationalism, spearheaded by leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, were rooted in secular principles, inclusiveness, and the ideal of a contemporary democratic republic. The battle for independence cultivated a sense of national

cohesion that crossed regional, linguistic, and religious boundaries, focusing on social equity, fairness, and economic advancement. India's nation-building after independence was characterized by a dedication to social democracy, with the government playing a pivotal role in fostering welfare, economic growth, and infrastructure development. Nonetheless, as India transitioned into the post-liberalization era, a notable shift began to emerge within the political landscape. The ascent of Hindu nationalism, especially during the late 20th and early 21st centuries, signaled the rise of a novel form of nationalism that prioritized cultural resurgence and religious identity. This "new nationalism," frequently promoted by right-leaning political factions, has increasingly constructed India's national identity around Hinduism, challenging the inclusive and secular principles that were fundamental to the foundation of the Indian Republic. This evolution has instigated profound changes in India's development strategies, as political figures endeavor to balance the pursuit of economic progress with the demands of identity politics. The focus on economic liberalization and self-sufficiency, alongside the surge in nationalism, has ignited discussions regarding the trajectory of India's development, especially in its impact on marginalized communities. Topics such as regional inequalities, social equity, and the discord between economic expansion and cultural identity are now central to India's political dialogue. This essay examines the evolution of nationalism in India, emphasizing how it has influenced the political identity and developmental path of the nation. It aims to comprehend the ramifications of this shift for India's democratic values, social policies, and economic strategies by following the development of nationalism from the anti-colonial movement to the current emergence of Hindu nationalism. The paper seeks to shed light on the opportunities and difficulties India faces as it negotiates its convoluted path toward inclusive development by analyzing the conflicts between nationalism and social democracy.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

Examining India's nationalism's evolution from its colonial beginnings to its modern expressions in the twenty-first century, as well as its effects on the nation's political identity, social cohesion, and development strategies, is the goal of this research. The study looks at how Indian nationalism's development has influenced political discourse, especially when it comes to the issues of social democracy, economic expansion, and inclusive development. The study will look at how India's policies and nation-building strategy have been shaped by various types of nationalism, especially secular nationalism during the independence movement and the emergence of Hindu nationalism in more recent decades. It will examine how nationalism and social democracy intersect, evaluating how the emergence of identity-based politics either supports or contradicts the values of welfare, inclusivity, and secularism. Along with addressing the possible marginalization of minority groups and regional disparities, the study will also look into how modern nationalism affects India's development strategies, specifically with regard to infrastructure, market-driven growth, and economic self-reliance. This study attempts to give a better understanding of how nationalism, in its various manifestations, affects the nation's political environment, socioeconomic policies, and strategy for addressing inequality and promoting sustainable development. In the end, this research aims to provide a thorough examination of the connection between nationalism and development in India, looking at how these factors are influencing the country's democracy, economy, and social justice in the future.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Many decades' worth of literature on Indian nationalism includes a diverse range of viewpoints and analyses that capture the evolving social and political landscape of the country. With an emphasis on how colonial experiences, post-independence nation-building, and more recent forms of political mobilization have influenced the evolution of nationalism, scholars have long debated the role of nationalism in shaping India's political identity, social order, and developmental trajectories. Scholars like Bipan Chandra and Sumit Sarkar highlighted the significance of anti-colonial nationalism as a unifying force that cut across caste, religious, and regional boundaries in the early post-colonial era. The Indian National Congress and leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi spearheaded the

freedom movement, which was seen as a movement that combined the objectives of economic modernization, social justice, and secularism with political independence. In this regard, Chandra (1989) asserts—a viewpoint that has dominated early nationalist historiography—that the Indian National Movement was essentially secular and inclusive. Researchers such as Gyanendra Pandey have also examined how the nationalism of the freedom movement involved intricate political and identity negotiations, with the interaction of religious and cultural identities being crucial to the growth of Indian nationalism.

However, nationalism started to change as India entered its post-independence era. Nehru's vision of a secular, socialist India was viewed as a continuation of the inclusive nationalism of the colonial era with the establishment of a democratic republic. According to A.R. Desai (1968) and K.K. Aziz (1993), the state's development policies, which sought to industrialize the country and improve the lot of its poorest citizens, were closely linked to India's post-independence nationalism. The state's dedication to social democracy was supported by its emphasis on planned economic development, industrialization, and social welfare, where nationalism was seen as a force that aided in social advancement, development, and unity. But as India began economic liberalization in the late 20th century, a notable change in the form of nationalism emerged. Recent years have seen a rise in interest in Hindu nationalism, as expressed by groups such as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and political parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Scholars like David Ludden (2002) and Christopher Jaffrelot (2007) have critically analyzed how Hindu nationalism has changed India's political landscape. This type of nationalism, which is frequently called Hindutva, puts Hindu identity at the forefront of Indian politics and goes against the secular principles that served as the cornerstone of the nation's independence movement. According to Jaffrelot, this type of nationalism not only reinterprets what it means to be Indian, but it also moves the emphasis away from inclusive growth and social democracy and toward cultural and religious uniformity.

DATA COLLECTION

The primary data for this research will be gathered from both historical sources and contemporary political discourse. The key focus areas include:

1. **Historical Documents and Archival Research:** archival materials, such as British colonial-era documents, government reports, speeches, and writings by influential political figures (such as Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mahatma Gandhi) after independence. primary sources, including party resolutions passed by Congress, constitutional discussions, and the works of significant nationalist figures.
2. **Interviews and Expert Opinions:** semi-structured interviews with political leaders, historians, sociologists, and analysts who can shed light on India's shifting nationalistic dynamics. interviews with scholars and activists addressing nationalism, development, and identity politics.
3. **Public Opinion Data:** data from surveys on identity politics, nationalism, and secularism with an emphasis on how various Indian communities view the emergence of Hindu nationalism. Information about the role of nationalism in political platforms that can be found in election manifestos, campaign speeches, and political opinion polls.
4. **Media Analysis:** content analysis of digital media platforms (such as blogs, social media, and online news articles), television broadcasts, and major national and local newspapers. Pay attention to the media's portrayal of nationalism, especially as it relates to political discourse, cultural identity, and economic advancement.

Data Analysis

1. **Qualitative Analysis:** Discourse analysis is the process of closely examining political statements, manifestos, and news articles to determine how nationalist discourse has changed over time, particularly after independence and the emergence of Hindu nationalism. Thematic Analysis: Finding recurrent themes about the connection between nationalism, identity politics, and development policies in historical documents and interviews.

2. **Quantitative Analysis:** Survey Analysis: Survey data will be analyzed using statistical methods to look for relationships between demographic variables like age, region, caste, and religion and political opinions on nationalism.
3. **Economic Data Correlation:** Regression analysis is used to evaluate how the rise of nationalism, both Hindu and secular, relates to developmental outcomes like inequality, poverty alleviation, and economic growth. Reports from NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Finance, and the Indian Census could all be considered data sources.
4. **Case Studies:** comprehensive case studies of areas, such as Gujarat under Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh under Yogi Adityanath, where nationalism has had a particularly significant influence on local development policies. The relationship between politics, cultural identity, and developmental policies will be examined in these case studies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

You would mainly be working with quantitative and qualitative data sources if you're searching for a research methodology that focuses on data analysis for the growth of nationalism in India. This is a succinct method for organizing the data-driven research methodology:

1. Quantitative Data Analysis: Examine census data to determine how India's population has changed over time, as well as migration trends and urbanization trends. This can help explain the ways in which various social groups participated in the nationalist movement, such as workers, middle class people, and peasants. During British rule, keep tabs on economic metrics such as GDP, income distribution, industrial growth, and agricultural output. Examine the ways in which nationalist sentiment was impacted by economic exploitation and the "Drain of Wealth" theory. The rise of political mobilization in India can be demonstrated with the use of data on the number of political parties, election participation, and membership in nationalist groups (such as the Muslim League and Indian National Congress). To measure widespread participation in the nationalist movement, count the number of demonstrations, strikes, and movements (like the Quit India Movement, Salt March, and Non-Cooperation Movement) over time. Examine how social reforms (such as the movements started by leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jyotirao Phule), education, and literacy rates influenced the formation of national consciousness.

Sources of Quantitative Data:

- British colonial records (e.g., Census Reports, Economic Reports)
- Archives of political party records (INC, Muslim League)
- Statistical data from the Indian government and international organizations

2. Qualitative Data Analysis:

To comprehend the ideological and cultural aspects of nationalism, this approach analyzes non-numerical data such as speeches, documents, texts, and testimonies. Examine the writings and speeches of notable figures, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, and others. Observe how their rhetoric changed over time, moving from moderate calls for reform to more radical demands for independence. Examine how publications such as *The Hindu*, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and *The Tribune* covered events like the Salt March, the Bengal Partition, and the 1857 Rebellion. Public opinion was shaped and support was mobilized by media coverage. Analyze plays, poetry, and other works of literature produced during the nationalist era. Works by writers such as Lala Lajpat Rai, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, and Rabindranath Tagore can demonstrate the ways in which culture shaped nationalism. Seek out allusions to unity, national identity, and opposition to British colonialism. Examine the ways in which women, Dalits, and underrepresented communities participated in the nationalist movement. Autobiographies, oral histories, and interviews may shed light on grassroots involvement.

Sources of Qualitative Data:

- Personal letters, diaries, and autobiographies of nationalist leaders
- Newspapers, journals, and periodicals from the period
- Literary works, religious texts, and cultural documents
- Oral histories from people who lived through independence and partition

DISCUSSION:

The political, social, and economic conditions of the country have all had an impact on the gradual development of Indian nationalism. Early Indian nationalism, which strongly emphasized social justice and national sovereignty, served as a unifying force against imperial oppression during British colonial rule. However, the diverse nature of Indian society—which is marked by linguistic, cultural, and religious pluralism—made the idea of a single national identity more difficult to understand. As leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, and others pushed for an inclusive, secular vision that sought to unite all the communities under a single national umbrella, resistance movements played a significant role in shaping Indian nationalism, particularly during the freedom struggle. With the newly independent state emphasizing inclusive growth, equitable development, and industrialization, post-independence Indian nationalism was primarily based on the principles of secularism, democratic governance, and social democracy. The principles of social justice and secularism were incorporated into the state's political and economic policies as part of Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of a modern, socialist India. As the main political party, the Indian National Congress promoted nationalism based on the pluralism of India's various communities and a dedication to both diversity and unity.

But in the later half of the 20th century, Indian nationalism started to change. The political conversation around Indian identity changed in the 1980s and 1990s with the rise of Hindu nationalism. Groups like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) began advocating for a different kind of nationalism that was founded on the concept of Hindutva, or Hindu cultural nationalism. By highlighting Hindu culture and values as the cornerstone of the Indian nation-state, this new wave of nationalism aimed to reinterpret the idea of India's national identity through a Hinduistic lens. Hindu nationalism raised questions about the future of India's secular democracy because it offered a vision that excluded religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians, in contrast to the secular nationalism of the Congress-led freedom movement. Wider political changes also influenced this change. The market-driven agenda that emerged from economic liberalization in the 1990s matched the goals of Hindu nationalist organizations that promoted economic independence and a more robust sense of national identity. A nationalist agenda that was closely linked to economic development was reflected in economic policies like "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India), which placed an emphasis on local industries, self-sufficiency, and national pride. Urbanization, globalization, and the growth of the middle class all contributed to the political rise of Hindu nationalism, but they also brought into question the development policies that were being implemented.

CONCLUSION:

India's nationalism's rise is a complicated story that combines political beliefs, historical conflicts, and changing social dynamics. India's nationalism, which combines a desire for political independence with a dedication to social justice, inclusivity, and secularism, was a unifying force against British rule from its beginnings during the colonial era. Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi espoused this vision, stressing a national identity based on democratic values and unity in diversity. This framework influenced India's early years after independence as it worked to create a contemporary, democratic republic that could support its enormous diversity while pursuing social welfare and economic growth. But Indian nationalism changed over time, especially when Hindu nationalism gained traction in the latter half of the 20th century. A change from the secular nationalism of the freedom struggle to one that increasingly characterized India through a Hindu cultural and religious lens was signaled by the rise of this type of nationalism, which was embodied by organizations

like the BJP and the RSS. Questions concerning the inclusivity of India's national identity and the position of minorities within the nation's sociopolitical framework have been raised by this change, which has altered the political discourse. Concerns about the marginalization of religious minorities and regional identities have emerged as Hindu nationalism has grown in popularity, casting doubt on the pluralistic and democratic principles that guided India's founding. India's developmental strategies have also been significantly impacted by the emergence of new forms of nationalism. Although economic growth and liberalization have been hailed as the cornerstones of national advancement, they are frequently perceived as favoring corporate interests and urban elites at the expense of rural populations and marginalized communities. Given that the advantages of growth have not always been shared equally, especially in light of India's diverse and unequal society, the conflict between social justice and economic development is still a major concern.

In summary, the evolution of Indian nationalism is a tale of ongoing compromise between conflicting ideas about development, unity, and identity. In addition to reflecting broader shifts in political ideology, the move from secular to religiously framed nationalism poses serious obstacles to India's democratic and developmental objectives. The conflict between nationalism and social democracy will continue to be a major theme in India's political and economic future as the nation works through these difficulties. As India attempts to strike a balance between its rich diversity and the demands of national unity and progress, the changing face of Indian nationalism will continue to shape its identity and developmental trajectory.

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