

Course : Political and Economic History of Modern India – how it shapes the Nation – 1850 till 1950s

The course dealing with history of Modern India, and the modern Indian state shall then go through the phase of nationalist politics, the Struggle for Independence, while exposing the students to the tremendous dynamism of the Indian social and political scene, beyond the mainstream. Changes in agriculture, treatment of natural resources, the struggles of India's peasants, tribal's, Dalits and other backward communities, movements for recognition and rights by women, and so on.

This period of Indian history laid the foundations of a government based on Parliamentary Democracy, a modern state administration, land relations, political activity and consciousness, trends in social transformations, India's economic status, the idea of a shared nation hood based on a set of ideals such as sovereignty and self reliance. The objective of the course is to enable students to grasp the historical India that lives in us, shapes our circumstances and forms the basic beliefs, biases, faults and strengths of the Indian socio-economic fabric and the great importance of an understanding of the historical procession of events and state action to formulate an idea of policies and action for the present and future.

Before it concludes, we shall read and analyse the impact of the national movement on policies of the first years of Independent India, the making of the Constitution and the setting up of a nation state.

Course Design

Session 1, 2 : **Introduction to History and Historiography, What is History and Historical arguments, construct and play**

Essential Readings

E H Carr, *What is History*, Penguin 1990

R G Collingwood, *The Idea of History*, pages 3 to 7, 35 to 52, 79 to 127

Keith Jenkins, *Re-thinking History*, Routledge 2004

Keith Jenkins, "On *What is History*", Routledge 2005, pages 1 to 42

Session 3, 4, 5 : Early India Responses to British Imperialism

- Social and Religious Reforms
- Peasant and Tribal Uprisings
- Revolt of 1857

Readings

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 139 to 168, 169 to 183

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 31 to 40, 41 to 49, 50 to 60, 82 to 90

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 131 to 142

Suggested Readings

Kenneth Jones, *New Cambridge History of India, Vol III, Socio-religious reform movements in India*

Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose, *Modern South Asia – History, Culture, Political Economy*, Routledge 2004, pages 60 to 85

Eric Stokes, *The Peasant Armed – the Indian Rebellion of 1857*, OUP 1986

Session 6, 7 : Identity Formations (and their meanings)

- Caste Consciousness
- Communal Consciousness
- Was there a Class Consciousness?
 - Labour
 - The Capitalist Classes
 - Rise of the Middle Class

Essential Readings

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 205 to 217

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 37 to 86

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 82 to 90

Gyanendra Pandey, *The construction of Communalism in Colonial North India*, OUP, 1997, pages 1 to 65

Bipan Chandra, *Communalism in Modern India* (revised edition), Har Anand, 2008, pages 15 to 49

Suggested Readings

Peter Rob, *Dalit Movements and Meanings of Labour in India*, SOAS Studies on South Asia) Paperback – June 1997

Rosalind Hanlon, *Caste Conflict and Ideology- Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule and Low Caste Protest in 19th Century Western India*, Cambridge University Press, 2002

Session 8, 9 : Emergence of National Politics

- Role of the Middle Class
- Social Roots of the Intelligentsia
- Trends in Indian Islam
- Foundations of the Congress

Essential Readings

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 218 to 233

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 56 to 82

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 61 to 81, 91 to 101

Session 10, 11 : India on the eve of the 20th Century

- State of the Economy
- Rise of nascent Nationalism and the roots of “nation in the making”
- The trends in communities, identities and questions of class, and their engagement with the State
- The influence of international events

Essential Readings

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 218 to 233

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 56 to 82

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 61 to 81, 91 to 101

Session 12, 13, 14 : Emergence of National Politics

- Indian National Congress: Evolution
- Moderates and Extremists
- Muslim Politics and Foundation of Muslim League
- Movements in the Pre-Gandhian Era
- Swadeshi and Boycott Movements
- British Ideology and Policy of Divide and Rule

Essential Readings

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 102 to 169, 135 to 158

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 60 to 69, 87 to 139

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 227 to 278

Bipan Chandra, *Communalism in Modern India*, revised edition, Har Anand 2008, pages 15 to 49, 238 to 324

Suggested Readings

Peter Hardy, *The Muslims of British India*, Cambridge University Press 1972, pages 223 to 255

Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose, *Modern South Asia – History, Culture, Political Economy*, Routledge 2004, pages 86 to 101

Hamit Bozarslan, Gilles Bataillon, Christopher Jafferlot, *Revolutionary Passions- Latin America, Middle-East and India*, Orient BlackSwan 2017, pages 119 to 140

Session 15, 16, 17 : Era of Mass Nationalism

- Gandhi and Non Co-operation Movement
- Religious struggles for Rights
- Swarajists, Gandhi and others
- The Revolutionaries – Bhagat Singh, Surya Sen, and other Revolutionaries

Essential Readings

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 60 to 69, 143 to 218

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 170 to 269

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient Blackswan 2019, pages 279 to 333

Suggested Readings

D A Lowe, *The Government of India and the Non Co-operation Movement* (article)

Chaman Lal, *Understanding Bhagat Singh*

Hamit Bozarslan, Gilles Bataillon, Christopher Jafferlot, *Revolutionary Passions- Latin America, Middle-East and India*, Orient BlackSwan 2017, pages 141 to 171

S Irfan Habib, Inquilab : Bhagat Singh on Religion and Revolution

Session 18, 19 : Civil Disobedience Movement to the 2nd World War

- The Rise of Communal Politics
- The Left Influence, and Peasant Movements and Peasant organisations
- Freedom Struggle and Princely States
- The INA
- The National Movement phase of Government and Protest

Essential Readings

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 60 to 69, 219 to 274, 275 to 298, 299 to 331

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 270 to 283, 284 to 456

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 279 to 333

Suggested Readings

Sugata Bose, *His Majesty's Opponent – Subhash Chandra Bose and India's Struggle Against Empire*, Harvard University Press, 2011, pages 1 to 14, 45 to 84, 135 to 179, 238 to 303

Burton Stein, *A History of India* (2nd Ed.), Wiley-Blackwell 2010, pages 3408 to 356

Irfan Habib, *The Left and the National Movement*, *Social Scientist*, Vol. 26, No. 5/6 (May - Jun., 1998), pp. 3-33 (31 pages)

Session 20, 21 : Movements from Below

- Tribal Revolts
- Peasant movements
- Caste Movements
- Gender politics of National movements
- Labour Movements

Essential Readings

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 342 to 404

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 275 to 298

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 197 to 234, 296 to 310, 343 to 355

Session 22, 23 : Muslim Alienation and the Communal Question

Essential Readings

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 398 to 442

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 334 to 341

Suggested Readings

Francis Robinson, *The Congress and the Muslims* (article)

Bipan Chandra, *Communalism in Modern India (revised)*, Har Anand Publications 2008, pages 50 to 144

Ayesha Jalal, *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*, OUP, 1994

Session 24, 25 : Quit India Movement

Essential Readings

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 443 to 486

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient Blackswan 2019, pages 405 to 437

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 332 to 369

Session 26, 27, 28 : Freedom and Partition

- Was Partition Inevitable? Religion and nation state, rise and impact of communalism, the two-nation theory
- The coming of Freedom – years from World War II to 1947, events in the Freedom Struggle, in Britain, and in post WW II World
- The transition of power and the aftermath

Essential Readings

Bipan Chandra etc., *India's Struggle for Independence*, Penguin 1989, pages 487 to 528

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 438 to 472, 473 to 481

Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India 1885 to 1947*, Pearson 2014, pages 370 to 390

Suggested Readings

Gyanendra Pandey, *Construction of Communalism in Modern India*, OUP, pages 1 to 22

Sucheta Mahajan, *Independence and Partition*, Sage Publications 2000

Mushirul Hasan ed., *India's Partition – Process, Strategy and Mobilisation*, OUP, pages 160 to 197 (Chapter 8 – Jinnah and the Pakistan Demand by R J Moore)

Ayesha Jalal, *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*, OUP, 1994

Session 29, 30 : Establishment of the Indian State – 1947 – 1956

- The Partition of India and its aftermath
- Independent India and its new Government
- Writing of the Constitution
- Unification of States – issues of Junagadh, Hyderabad and Jammu and Kashmir
- Political Ideology and Structure - Political Ideology of the new State - construct of the new State and what it set out to be
- Economic Ideology and Structure
- Social Challenges

Essential Readings

Bipan Chandra etc., *India After Independence 1947 – 2000*, Penguin 2000, pages 1 to 130

Grenville Austin, *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of A Nation*

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After*, Orient BlackSwan 2019, pages 481 to 509

Suggested Readings

Francine Frankel, *India's Political Economy*, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4

Uma Kapila ed., *Indian Economy Since Independence*, Academic Foundation 2019, pages 33 to 58

Ramachandra Guha, *India After Gandhi*, Picador India 2007, pages 3 to 126

Session 31, 32 : Gandhi and his shaping of the National Movement

- Gandhi's outlook on nationalism, on economics, on organization
- Role of Gandhi in his stewardship of the national movement
- Gandhi and his addition to the intellectual and active climate of the period

Judith Brown, *The Cambridge Companion to Gandhi*

Ramachandra Guha, *Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World, 1914-1948*

Session 33, 34 : Idea of India – A Discussion

Discussion of what constitutes something like idea of a nation or a people, what were the different Ideas of India that emerged and then merged, and was there one large or hegemonic idea, and what were the many currents-regional, communal, linguistic, social, economic and political

Evaluation System

Evaluation	Marks
Class Participation, Class Exercises, Quizzes	20
Tutorials	20
Mid term Examination	20
End term Examination	40