



14th August

Q) Decolonisation has finished. It definitely belongs to the past. Yet somehow it has refused to become history. Critically examine (20 Marks).

Ans) Decolonisation refers to the independence of several Asian and African countries witnessed after the end of Second World War, from the rules of their colonial masters. The European imperial and colonial powers such as Britain, France, Dutch etc, lost the control of their territories due to both rising nationalism in the colonies as well as weaknesses of the empire itself.

By 1960s and 70s, most of the colonial countries had got independence, leading to the end of Colonialism and Imperialism. However, the rule of colonial powers had resulted in such circumstances in these countries, that resulted in rise of New Imperialism.

Some of these circumstances ~~are~~ were:

- Backward social structure: The societies were divided on basis of several tribal ethnicities and cultures, which stopped any kind of single minded focus on development. They were fighting civil wars among themselves leading to neglect of governance.
- Development indicators: There were not many educated people in these country at independence and they were not ready for self-rule. Eg. Rwanda only had 17 graduates at time of independence.
- Single export economy: Most countries depended on export of single commodity for their economy. Eg. Cocoa in Ghana, Oil in Nigeria, Sugar in Cuba etc.

All these factors obstructed the politico-economic development of these countries and they came to depend upon Developed or Early Colonial powers for their economy. Much of the causes of under-development in present day Asia and Africa can be pointed to the colonial eras of past. Such as:

- India and Pakistan spending more on arms and weapons instead of social development due to colonial era partition issues.
- The economies of many countries in Africa like Ivory Coast is still dependent on Cocoa export.

- Global MNCs having their influence in several countries and influencing their policies to suit its needs. The profits earned by them are being siphoned off to their countries instead of being spent for the welfare of the country's population.

Thus, it can be seen that many conflicts and dominating situations of the present era can be traced back to the colonial era, which has refused to die down.

15th August.

Q) "Asian nationalism is just a product of western impact on the Asian intelligentsia in the last decades of the 19th century." Comment. (20 Marks).

Ans) Colonialism of most of Asia and Africa was ^{partly} ~~mainly~~ possible due to the backward nature of society present in these countries. When European nations arrived with the flushed ideas of enlightenment to the Asian shores, the people here did not have any nationalist feeling for their country.

Situation at the 19th century in Asia was:

- People owing their loyalties to next kin or to the tribes of their family. Eg. Chinese peasant society, caste system in India.
- Regional nationalism was present and there were numerous regional kingdoms fighting with each other. Eg. declining Manchu dynasty in China, Mughal rule in India, leading to rise of provincial kingdoms.

In such situation, European powers brought the enlightenment ideas to Asia, such as:

- Uniform administration: Country was unified politically, above their social classifications.
- Encouraged ideas of equality, secularism, rationalism etc.
- Western education and contact helped in the spread of these ideas among the native population.
- The establishment of rule of law encouraged people to look beyond their society for the betterment of all.

All these conditions resulted in rise of Asian intelligentsia, such as:

- Most of the moderate leaders of Indian National Congress were western educated and belonged to urban section who could absorb new ideas.

- Dr Sun Yat Sen of China stated his ideas for the development of China on 3 basis viz. Nationalism, Democracy and Land Reforms.

- Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam was influenced by the communist ideologies and established left government in the country.

- Similarly, Sukarno of Indonesia established his country on basis of enlightenment ideas.

These leaders across Asia inspired the masses and aroused the feelings of nationalism among them. Their views were spread with the means of communication provided by the colonial powers itself such as news, ^{railways} ~~roads~~, pamphlets, speeches, demonstrations etc.

Thus, the western impact for the spread of Asian nationalism from the leaders to the masses were immense, which also paved way for the demand of self-rule among these countries.