



INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS: A POLITICAL CHANGER

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ABSTRACT

The Indian National Congress is a political party in India with wide spread roots. It was formed in Bombay on December 28, 1885, where it held its first session. Its founder member were Allan act avian Hume, Dadabhai Naoroje, Dinshaw Edulji Wacha. It was first modern nationalist movement to emerge in the British Empire in Asia and Africa The party's prominent leaders include Annie Basant, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, K.Kamaraj and Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Indian National Congress was initially focused on moderate reform under the British raj in India. However, some early 20th-century activists began to boycott British imports and promote Indian goods, garnering the support of a wide swath of social classes. In the 1920s and '30s party leader Mahatma Gandhi supported nonviolent acts of civil disobedience. Although tensions between the Congress Party and the raj escalated during World War II, by 1947 these tactics had secured independence for India.

KEYWORDS :**INTRODUCTION**

The Indian National Congress first convened in December 1885, though the idea of an Indian nationalist movement opposed to British rule dated from the 1850s. In the early 20th century, elements within the party began to endorse a policy of swadeshi ("of our own country"), which called on Indians to boycott of imported British goods and promoted Indian-made goods. The party began to endorse a policy of swadeshi which called on Indians to boycott of imported British goods and promoted Indian-made goods. By 1917 the group's "extremist" Home Rule wing, which was formed by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant the Previous Year, had begun to exert significant influence by appealing to India's diverse social classes. The Indian National Congress represents the progressive soul of India. This soul defines who we are a Nation. It is time to fight for the very idea of India. Its aim was to obtain a greater share in government for education Indians, and to create a platform for civic and political dialogue between them and the British Raj.

Gandhi And Congress

In the 1920s and '30s the Congress Party, led by Mohandas Gandhi, began advocating nonviolent noncooperation. The new change in tactics was precipitated by the protest over the perceived by the protest over the perceived feebleness of the constitutional reforms enacted in early 1919 (Rowlatt Acts) and Britain's manner of carrying them out, as well as by the widespread outrage among Indians in response to the massacre of civilians in Amritsar (Punjab) that April. Many of the acts of civil disobedience that followed were implemented through the All India Congress Committed, formed in 1929, which advocated avoiding taxes as a protest against British rule.

Notable in that regard was the Salt March in 1930 led by Gandhi. Another wing of the Congress Party, which believed in working within the existing system, contested general elections in 1923 and 1937 as the Swaraj (Home Rule) Party, with particular success in the latter year.

World War II

When World War II began in 1939, Britain made India a belligerent without consulting Indian elected councils. That action angered Indian officials and prompted the Congress Party to declare that India would not support the war effort until it had been granted complete independence. In 1942 the organization sponsored mass civil disobedience to support the demand that the British "quit India." British authorities responded by imprisoning the entire Congress Party

leadership, including Gandhi, and many remained in Jail until 1945. After the war the British government of Clement Attlee passed an independence bill in July 1947, and independence was achieved the following month. In January 1950 India's constitution as an independent state took effect.

Postindependence Dominance

From 1951 until his death in 1964, Jawaharlal Nehru dominated the Congress Party, which won overwhelming victories in the elections of 1951-52, 1957, and 1962. The party united in 1964 to elect Lal Bahadur Shastri and in 1966 Indira Gandhi (Nehru's daughter) to the posts of party leader and thus prime minister. Supported by secular policies that encourage equal rights for all citizens, including those in lower castes. Throughout much of the Cold War period, the Congress Party championed a foreign policy of nonalignment.

Policy And Structure

The Congress Party is a hierarchically structured party. Delegates from state and district parties attend an annual national conference, which elects a president and the All India Congress Committee. However, the 20-member Congress Working Committee, the majority of whose members are appointed by the party president (handpicked by the prime minister when the party is in power), wields enormous influence.

CONCLUSION

In a larger context, the founding of the Indian National Congress was a response to the then existing political and socio-economics conditions which has resulted from long subjection to the alien rule. During the 1880s, as we have seen, the idea of a national organization was very much in the air, In fact, during the last ten days of 1885 as many as five conferences were held in different parts of the country. The Madras Mahajan Sabha holds its second annual conference from 22 to 24, December. It was so timed as to enable the members of the Sabha to attend the Congress at Poona. The Second Indian National Conference, convened by the Indian Association, met at Calcutta. Early in December 1885 when the plan to hold a conference at Poona was announced, attempt seems to have been made to persuade Surendranath Banerjea to cancel his conference. But he expressed his inability to do so at that stage. It merged with the Indian National Congress in 1886. Two other conferences held during the same period were the conference organized by Eurasians at Jabalpur and by Prayag Central Hindu Samaj at Allahabad. Given the emergence of a countrywide educated class, the ideas they expressed and the organizational

developments that had taken place, it was only a matter of time before a national body was created. The groups of the need to work together for political purposes.

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