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SECTION : 22

The historical context of “The home and the world”

“The Home and the World” by Rabindranath Tagore is set against the background of Swadeshi Movement. The movement had its roots in the anti-colonial movement. Political and domestic tensions have been incorporated into the story by the author. This book does a great job of handling both the nationalist idea and the independence struggle. Individual decisions and trauma are also given enough room in the story in addition to that. This story centers on Bimala, Nikhil, and Sandip and a social movement that began as a protest against the division of Bengla in the first decade of the 20th century. Which pushed for the boycott of British products and the support of Indian industry. It continued from 1905 to 1908 (Roy, 2021). In August 1905, at Calcutta Townhall, a massive meeting was held and the formal proclamation of the Swadeshi Movement was made (Swadeshi and Boycott Movement, 2021). In the movement, the plan was to self-help with the industries of the nation, national schools and village improvements, cause the people had been motivated to identify and realize their national identity by social, economic, and political circumstances. A classic statement came from Aurobindo Ghose (nationalist leader) in a series of articles in April 1907, later reprinted as 'Doctrine of Passive Resistance'. He envisioned a campaign of "organized and relentless boycott of British goods, officialized education, justice, and executive administration" (supported by the successful growth of Swadeshi industries, schools, and arbitration courts), and he also looked forward to civil disobedience, a social boycott of loyalists, and resort to armed struggle if British repression went beyond what could be tolerated(Ghose, 2021). Rabindranath and other literary men were interested in the restriction on the movement's spontaneity. Rabindranath, though considerably swayed by revivalism for some years, under the impact of communal strife, pointed out in a series of remarkably perceptive articles in the middle of 1907 that simply blaming the British for the riots was quite an inadequate response. (Roy, 2021). We are all aware of the significance of this movement and its influence on the nation's struggle for independence and this book focused on how it affected ordinary people, particularly the poor class, and how they suffered in the name of "Bande Mataram". It offers a unique, intelligent, and interesting look at the movement's darker side.

# References

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