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### Home Rule League Movement (HRLs1916-18)

1) By Tilak and Annie Besant & not INC

2) **method = educative propaganda** on Home Rule/Swaraj within Br empire and not Non Cooperation & Civil Disobedience (NC & CD).

3) **Context**

a) When Tilak returned to India from Mandalay (Burma) after 6 years imprisonment in 1914, the **INM was in a dull phase**.

b) **Extremists & Revolutionaries** had been **repressed** by British and **Moderates** were **no more relevant** (since in 1909 they failed 2<sup>nd</sup> time after ICA1892, as ICA 1909 didn't bring Self Govt which was INC goal since 1906 Calcutta Session)

4) Therefore, to revive INM, **Tilak wanted re-entry of extremists** into INC (\*organization important for success) & did not want British to repress extremists. **Hence Tilak declared** that-

a) **Swaraj means** self-rule within British Empire and overthrowing Br Rule is not his goal. (\*Br will ☺)

b) **violence** has hurt INM's progress (\*Br will ☺, Moderates will ☺)

c) all Indians should support **British War effort** (\*Br will ☺, ) and

d) he is **loyal to Crown** (\*Br will ☺, Moderates be like: our sentence copied our sentence copied)

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5) In **1914 Annie Besant**, head of Theosophical Society based in Madras, joined INC.

a) an Irish lady inspired by Home Rule movement in Ireland and wanted self-rule in India.

b) campaigned in INC for re-entry of extremists as wanted stronger INM, but failed in 1914 due to opposition by Pherozshah Mehta (leader of Bombay moderates).

6) In **1915 Bombay Session**, INC **decided to allow re-entry** of extremists as P.M. Mehta had died. (\*actual re-entry in 1916 Lucknow). But INC did not agree to support idea of Home Rule Leagues (HRLs) (\*as not that much trust on extremists that educative propaganda wont turn into NC/CD/violence)

7) **April 1916- Tilak** setup **Indian HRL**. (\*hint- Tilak is *Indian* therefore *Indian* Home Rule League)

8) **September 1916 Besant** setup **All India HRL**.

9) Both leagues cooperated but **not one league** to prevent discord among each other's followers. For this they divided their area of operation:

a) Tilak's Indian HRL: Bombay Province/Maharashtra (except Bombay city), Berar, Karnataka , Central Provinces (6 branches, HQ: Delhi)

b) Besant's All India HRL: rest of British India (200 branches).

10) **Goal:** Educative propaganda on Home Rule/Swaraj.

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11) **Tilak slogan “Swaraj is my birth right & I shall have it” + also demanded**

a) education in **vernaculars**,

b) **linguistic reorganization** of Provinces of Br India (*\*will strengthen INM as linguistic unity would lead to better org of mass movts & improve functioning of INC + reduce factionalism in INC at Province level*)

c) end to **untouchability**- “If god tolerates untouchability then I wont recognise him as God” (*@Ganpati Festival 1893- Lord Ganapati worshipped by both UC & LC hence since beginning focused on caste unity.*)

d) Tilak – **demand of self-rule** is not **because** British are Christians but because India and Britain have divergent **national interests**.

e) Therefore **less use of Hindu nationalism**. In fact, **Tilak, Jinnah and Annie Besant's** efforts led to **Lucknow Pact 1916** b/w INC & ML.

12) Apart from going to the masses on ground, Tilak used his newspapers Kesari (\*Marathi) and Maharatta (\*English); while Annie Besant used her newspapers “New India” and “Commonweal” (\*means common/public welfare. From Commonweal came the word Commonwealth. Hence Annie credited with term Commonwealth).

13) Tilak and Besant **promoted INC in villages**.

14) **INC Lucknow Session 1916**: Extremists re-entered INC

15) **1917- Besant's arrest**/internment

- a) energised the movement.
- b) Now **moderates** also **joined** HRLs.
- c) **Sir Subramaniam Iyer** gave up his knighthood [*\*got it in 1909, lawyer & judge, knighted for contribution to legal field; was Secretary of Besant's All India HRL*]
- d) MG began **signature campaign** for release of Besant [*\*MG against using opportunity of WW1 therefore did not join HRLs. MG travelled across India and wanted youth to join British India Army to support British in WW1 as justice was on side of victim of aggression i.e. Allied Powers.*]
- e) **Result: Besant** released from+ made INC **president** of **1917 Calcutta session**.
- f) However, **Montague's Statement of 1917** deployed as DnR tactic. [*\*Montague Statement in layman terms= British will give Swaraj Gradually*].
- g) A programme for Passive Resistance(*\*i.e. NC + CD*) was suggested by extremists. Moderates opposed it & **Besant finally decided in Moderates favor** [*\*Hence Besant's methods are somewhere between Moderates and Extremists. She opposed violence & breaking of laws*]

but favored going to masses and opposing British without breaking of laws).

16) **Impact: Negatives**

- a) Now **HRLs became defunct** & educative propaganda could not be converted into a mass movement.
- b) By 1917-18 Br successfully **repressed** HRLs.
- c) HRLs **failed** to develop a **mass movement**. In Madras, LC did not support All India HRL due to UC leadership.
- d) Extremists failed 2<sup>nd</sup> time to take over INC + moderates and Extremists **failed to unite**.

17) **Positives**

- a) **60,000 members** joined HRLs.
- b) Brought **Gujarat, Sindh, United Provinces (1902), Bihar(1936), and South India** into INM. (low participation until HRL)
- c) Prepared **leadership for future** Gandhian Struggle. E.g. Nehru joined Besant's League.
- d) HRLs created **organizational network** for later use in INM.
- e) Permanently decreased **influence of moderates** in INM.
- f) Movt was **secular** in methods and helped in Hindu-Muslim unity (\*H-M unity).

**Lucknow Pact 1916**

- 1) Between (\*b/w) INC1885 and ML1906. (\*context of rising tensions between ML1906 and British in context of World History topics discussed later. Muslim League (**ML1906**) also supported HRLs)
- 2) **1<sup>st</sup> time joint demands** given to Br **for constitutional reforms** by INC1885 & ML1906.
  - a) **Continue Separate electorates** in future council reforms.
  - b) expand councils & bring **elected majority**. (\*ICA1909-brought only Non official's majority & that also only in PLCs not in ILC)
  - c) At least **50% Indians** in Viceroy's Executive Council (**VEC**; i.e. ministers)
  - d) Universal Adult Franchise (**\*UAF**)
  - e) self-government at an early date i.e. **"Equal status with other Self Governing Dominions of British empire"** (\*on this basis one can argue in that Dominion Status was demanded by LP1916 (\*at an early date, not right away. Right now they are asking for Swaraj and not max Swaraj/Dominion Status- e.g. only 50% Indian ministers); However the exact phrase "Dominion Status" was first used by Motilal Nehru Report Aug 1928)
  - f) **Negative-** major **landmark@2 Nation Theory** as INC accepted continuation of separate electorates in future council reforms.



- g) **Positive:** It led to **INC-ML1906 unity later used by MG** in Khilafat1920-24 and NCM1920-22 (Non-Cooperation Movement). Created pressure & led to Montague Statement1917 & GOI Act 1919 + failed divide & rule (\*DnR) tactics of Br.

### **MUSLIM LEAGUE (ML1906) VS BRITISH**

- 1) **1911- Annulment of Bengal partition.**
- 2) **1911- Italy took over Libya** of Ottoman empire whose political head was Khalifa (also the religious head of Muslim world) & British didn't help (\*notice that Rome & Pope -head of Christianity in Italy; hence sentiments of Muslims)
- 3) **1912- 1st Balkan War** where Montenegro, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria attacked & took over Ottoman empire's territories in Balkan peninsula.
- 4) **1914-19: WW1**, where Ottoman fought as part of Central Powers against Britain (Allied Powers)
- 5) **1917- Balfour Declaration** where British declared intent of creating Israel from Ottoman's Palestine (\*\*Ottoman Empire populated by Turks + Arabs. Arabs supported British and began civil war against Ottoman. This was hence a stab in the back for Arabs)
- 6) **Treaty of Sevres 1920** (signed with Ottoman post WWI 1914-19) was harsh & therefore a breach of promise to Indian Muslims as British had

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promised to maintain dignity of Khalifa after war, to get support of Indian Muslims in war effort (\*civilians don't begin strikes, join army, don't resign from army). As per the treaty

- a) Arab regions of Ottoman Empire were converted into colonies of Britain & France (France-Syria: Britain-Iraq, Palestine, Transjordan)
- b) + Greece was given many Turk populated areas example Smyrna (which was in Turkish mainland) & Eastern Thrace
- c) + Khalifa lost control over some religious places like Hagia Sophia (\*as Istanbul came under League of Nations control).

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