Nationalism in Context of Globalisation

The terms nationalism refers to an ideology that the leaders of the country propagate to the masses that helps them develop a sense of belonging and unity in the country. The Russian revolution, the American Revolution, the French revolution, the Indian independence movement and many other historic events in the world could take place only because of nationalism among the people. While nationalism is different from patriotism, both help is developing love and unity in the country.

The Greatest leaders in India such as Mahatma Gandhi were all nationalist leaders who put their country first and everything else was of secondary and tertiary priorities. The nationalism was shown in its pure sense all throughout the 19th century. But the terms nationalism was understood differently by the people at the turn of the country.

There is no one particular definition of nationalism, but the popular discourse is that nationalism is an ideology or set of beliefs that the people of the country follow to promote the interest of the nation above anything else. Usually, nationalism and patriotism are used as synonyms. A country is run by its people. And to maintain unity in diversity for the country, there should be a sense of belonging inculcated amongst the citizens towards their country, and nationalism does exactly that.

Nationalism is at the core of Indian values and the democratic and the secular fabric of the nation. Indian freedom fighters who fought the mighty Britsh for more than 100 years were nationalistic and patriotic in nature. Nationalism is at the heart of India and its independence movement. It was because of nationalism that India could snatch freedom from the British and finally gain independence on August 15th, 1947. But the nationalism that existed during the freedom movement is quite different from the nationalism that we are witnessing in the 21st century.

While globalization is not a new phenomenon, recent globalization has involved some real changes in terms of scale, speed, and cognition. In terms of scale, the number of economic, political, and social linkages between societies is greater. In terms of speed, globalization involves a compression of time and space. In terms of cognition, there is an increased perception of the globe as a smaller place. Nationalists of India need not necessarily hate people from Pakistan. Loving one’s own country does not mean he or she should hate another country. This misunderstanding has led to a widespread war mongering situation, not just in India but elsewhere in the world as well.

Nationalism has absolutely nothing to do with culture, religion or ethnicity of the people. Unfortunately, nationalism, instead of developing a sense of belonging in the people, has developed fear in the crowds, especially for the ones with dissenting and critical voices.

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