

EMB101 – Emergence of Bangladesh

Assignment on “Anti-Colonial Movement”

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Fakir-Sannyasi Resistance : An Anti-Colonial Movement

The Fakir - Sannyasi Resistance (1760s-1790s) is an anti - colonial movement that had led the period of rebellion against the British East India Company . Fakir - Sannyasi Resistance was an armed revolt led by a collaboration of Hindu yogis and Muslim sufis against the British East India Company's dominance in Bengal . This protest began in 1760 and extended for more than 40 years.

The Fakir - Sannyasi Resistance is one large term for mainly three distinct circumstances. A group of pilgrims, primarily Hindu monks, Muslim madaris, and pious fakirs, who had journeyed from North India to various Bengali locations to see holy sites. These monks/sannyasis are also Zamindars(landlords) and tribe leaders on the road. By way of an alternative, which was the most common phenomenon at the time, took religious offerings from landowners(zamindars). The tribe leaders, or zamindars, were also quite compassionate and devoted to these things during prosperous times. But the amount of charge significantly rose up when the East India Company gained governmental authority. For this reason, in this perspective, it was commonly troublesome for the regional landowners to assist the fakir monks monetarily.

The East India Company's many land interest experiments resulted in brutal eradications from the peasantry on the one side and the transformation of the greater number of the old zamindars,

both Muslim and Hindu, with a new set of middlemen and sub-administrators on the other. These new users were given permission to participate in land public auctions and money activities in order to pay for the company's administration fees and one-way export selling. In reality, Bengal and Bihar revenue climbed to Rs 2,20 crores from Rs 1.23 crores the year before the Company assumed control of 'Diwani', in 1765. Bullion imports, which were a redeeming aspect of pre-colonial times, began to decline after 1857 (Dasgupta,1982).

The level of exploitation of the British East India Company was becoming intolerable day by day for both the Hindu and Muslim People, the farmers' community. Moreover, the British government considered them as terrorists or robbers. So,when the revolt began, it became more spontaneous as it also got the encouragement of the farmers.

The "Sanyasi Rebellion"'s main figure was Pandit Bhavanicharan Pathak and the leader of "Fakir Resistance" was Fakir Majnu Shah.

In 1771, 150 saints were sentenced to death for exactly no reason. After this incident, the revolt began very promptly and made an extreme situation. The then Governor-General Warren Hasting had tried to stop this rebellion forcefully, but it continued(Dasgupta, 1982, P.48)

This revolt was unsuccessful. Discrimination of caste in society, which caused disunity, was one of the main causes of this revolt's downfall. After the war of Plassey and Buxar, this protest became fragile.The socialite problems that Pandit Bhabani Charan Pathak saw in his neighborhood were the themes of his speeches (Banarjee & Ishita,2014).

Though it was a failed rebellion, but this Fakir-Sannyasi resistance was significant for the renaissance of Bengali nation against this cruel British East India Company's exploitation and barbaric torture tactics.

References:

1. Dasgupta, A. (1982). The Fakir and Sannyasi Rebellion. *Social Scientist*, 10(1), 44–55.
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2. Banerjee, Ishita, A History of Modern India (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014)