

## **HS101 LAB 4**

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The video presented was actually a speech by Shashi Tharoor wherein he is sort of criticizing some of the The statements made by the british. I completely agree with him on all the things that he said in support of India.

He started by mentioning that while the british claim to have contributed in the economic and industrial development of India, The fact remains that India was a massive exporter of the fine and light weight muslin clothes before the british colonization and it was after the british came that the handloom sector in India suffered a major setback. The colonial power turned India from being a major exporter to becoming an importer and the craftsmen and weavers in India were beaten up and made to pay heavy taxes to turn. India into a market for british goods.

Talking about the aids that British claim to be providing to India as a compensation for the losses that the country suffered, the speaker denies this aid being of any real use by highlighting the fact that the Indian government provides more money than this aid to make up for the fertilizer costs alone.

Many supporters or rather defenders of the British Rule in India say that the losses were suffered on both the sides, so British are not responsible for paying any compensation to India. Shashi tharoor opposed this by saying that if a burglar enters a house and gets hurt there while stealing something, we cannot say that the losses were suffered on both sides (i.e. the house owner and the thief)!

The british also claimed that it was their ancestor's rule in which lead to the construction and development of railways and roads in India. The speaker then pointed out that the british had done so only to facilitate their personal interests and the Indians did not benefit from it most of the times . Also it was not necessary to colonialise a country in order to build railways there. Infact during the second world war, India had made major contributions in support of the british, be it in terms of manpower, money, ammunition or otherwise.

The way Shashi Tharoor pointed out every single fact and firmly opposed the ones defending the british rule in India is really commendable. Lastly, he also pointed out that it was not that the Indians wanted more money in the form of compensation but it is just that they want recognition for all that they have done and suffered. It is surely not the present day british population which was responsible for the losses suffered by the Indians but they should be apologetic for what their ancestors did rather than defending them.

I completely agree with whatever the Speaker said and pointed out in this entire speech.

**Thank you**