

The making of Hindu India

23/08/2023

6:08 pm

- **5th August 2020** India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi placed a stone for a Hindu Temple in **northern city of Ayodhya**
- People were campaigning since long time to build temple at that place (a Mughal-era mosque existed at that place before which was demolished by Hindu mob in 1992)
- Babri Masjid
- **1992** - Mughal Era Mosque demolished by Hindu mob
- It's **believed** that mosque was built on place where ancient temple existed which was built to honor the special place where people believed **Ram was born**
- And building of temple was planned move by Modi to gain popularity or support by the Hindu majority

Where is word "**Hindu**" originated from?

- "**Hindu**" comes from a word Persian and it's based on Sanskrit word "**Sindhu**" which means Indus River
- During colonial rule, the word "Hindu" was started to describe beliefs and customs which didn't fit these groups "Islam", "Christianity" and "Buddhism"
- **Colonial rule** refers to a period in history when one country or a group of countries established control over another region or country.
- The British had called these religions "disgusting" and "filled with irrational beliefs."
- The British thought these beliefs were weird and full of superstitions.
- The reformers agreed with the British and started to see Muslims and Hindus as completely different from each other.
- They didn't pay attention to the fact that over many years, Muslims and Hindus had shared many things like rituals, ideas, clothing, food, and music because they lived together and exchanged these traditions.
- **Groups like Arya Samaj started using the Nagri script as part of their changes. This was different from the common spoken language, Hindustani. The Nagri script, also called Devanagari, became special and was used with Urdu and English in the printing industry. This helped to create a separate distinct Hindu identity**
- The main thing stopping India from becoming a Hindu-only nation was the caste system. This system divided society into strict groups based on hierarchy.
- Gandhi said that his religion, like that of many "Hindus," was Sanatan Dharma, a traditional and long-standing belief, not the new and complicated ideas proposed by the reformers. He believed that caste, even though not good, was a part of life in this region. He thought that it couldn't be made to disappear or be changed completely.

- Gandhi believed that societies of different levels if worked together to avoid extremes. Like Hindu and Muslims can be held together based on common interests, and etc
- This idea was accepted by Congress party but **Muhammad Ali Jinnah believed that this idea could harm Indian Muslims as Hindus will gain more power and the idea for separate Pakistan would fade.**
- People who opposed caste system also opposed Gandhi's proposed solution they liked more modern and equal solution to the problem
- **Ambedkar believed in a new way of governing based on the constitutions of France and America** He thought this would be good for India. On the other hand, Savarkar tried to make a new kind of belief system for politics called Hindutva (which means being Hindu). **Savarkar wanted to bring India together, similar to how Italy became unified in the past.**
- **Both were against caste systems**
 - **After independence, govt led by Congress combined the idea of Gandhi but with modern approach**
 - **This was an era in which all were equal citizens of India, even Kashmiris**
- BJP revived Savarkar's version of Hindutva
- Hindutva is willing to accommodate the everyday oppressions that define Indian society.
- the people of Kashmir awoke to curfew and unfreedom
- A group of criminals – who should be in prison for having planned and orchestrated the demolition of a 450-year-old mosque – basked in the freedom they have to build a temple at the same spot.
- The campaign to demolish the Babri Masjid and replace it with a Ram temple was first and always an RSS-BJP campaign.
- Mid-1980s to the **destruction of the mosque on December 6, 1992**
- **Modi fast-tracked the mandir project through the apex court even as he used his control over the Central Bureau of Investigation to ensure the criminal case against the conspirators who demolished the mosque made no progress.**
- Supreme Court's verdict – it accepted that the Muslims had been illegally and forcibly dispossessed of their mosque and that the 1992 demolition was a crime,
- After the verdict, the government promptly announced the establishment of a trust to oversee the temple.
- **Nritya Gopal Das and Champat Rai** are important people in the group that pushed for the construction of a temple and were accused by the CBI of destroying the Babri mosque. This accusation could lead to them being put in jail. Despite this, they have become the **president and secretary of the trust.**
- Hindutva was political religion