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**Course:** EMB101

**Section:** 17

**Assignment:** Historical context and background of the chosen book

**Book chosen:** The Home and the World

The book ‘The Home and the World’[[1]](#footnote-1) is a translated novel by Surendranath Tagore, which was originally written by Rabindranath Tagore on 1916 by the name of ‘Ghare Baire’. It is written on the context of some of the aspects of the early 20th century India. It includes the then situation of Indian women, uprising of nationalism among Indians and Swadeshi Movement.

There are three main characters in the novel. Quayum illustrated those characters and scenarios in his article[[2]](#footnote-2). The characters are the landowner Nikhil, his wife Bimala and his friend Sandip who is a revolutionary against British rule, according to Quayum[[3]](#footnote-3). Here, Nikhil is well educated, likes doing things non-violently, has a rational thinking capability. On the contradictory, Sandip is violent, likes to do things in any means possible, trying to make a revolution. On the other hand, Bimala is in the middle, she tends to stay inside the home and refrain herself from going outside. Whereas, Nikhil wants Bimala to know the outside world and adopt the outside world’s culture[[4]](#footnote-4).

The overall situation gets clearer in the article of Mitra[[5]](#footnote-5). According to Mitra[[6]](#footnote-6), by the inspiration of Nikhil, Bimala gets to know the outside world and becomes an awaken woman. This depicts the then bad situation of women and their beginning of awakening, and also some men assisting women to uprise. Secondly, Sandips works depicts the Swadeshi Movement of the early 20th century India against British colonialism. And that Swadeshi Movement developed nationalism in Indians to protest against the British and grow faith on their nation. The novel also includes some part of the early 20th century Indian politics[[7]](#footnote-7).

To sum up, the novel ‘The Home and The World’ was written on the historical contexts like Swadeshi movement of the early 20th century India, growing nationalism among Indians because of that, some aspects of the then politics and awakening of the then women by the united effort of men and women.

1. Rabindranath Tagore, *The Home and the World*, Edited by William Radice, Translated by Surendranath Tagore, Penguin Classics, 2005. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Mohammad A. Quayum, *In Search of a Spiritual Commonwealth: Tagore's "The Home and the World"*, Journal of South Asian Literature, vol. 31/32, no. 1/2, 1996, pp. 32–45, JSTOR, http://www.jstor.org/stable/23234182. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Quayum, page 37. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Quayum, pp. 37-39. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Indrani Mitra, *"I will make Bimala one with My Country": Gender and Nationalism in Tagore's "The Home and the World"*, Modern Fiction Studies, vol. 41, no. 2, 1995, pp. 243–64, JSTOR, http://www.jstor.org/stable/26285526. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Mitra, page 243-246. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Mitra, page 257-358. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)