

Chapter No. 10 Nation Building and its Problems

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Learning Objectives

In this chapter you will be able to understand:

- Nehru's approach to nation building.
- Factors that led to partition.
- Consequences of the partition of India.
- Refugee resettlement a complicated problem.
- Organization and reorganization of states.
- Political conflicts over language.

Introduction

India achieved freedom from British rule on 15th Aug 1947, and had two goals to achieve, to establish democratic form of government and to work for socially disadvantaged groups. The country had three broad challenges in the process of nation building to maintain unity since India spoke different languages and followed different cultures and religions. Second goal is to develop democratic practices in accordance with the constitution. The third goal is to develop effective polices for economic development and removal of poverty.

The partition between India and Pakistan led to severe consequences. Large scale communal violence and the influx of millions refugees from Pakistan brought with them lot of problems. There were as many as 565 princely states. They had an option to join either India or Pakistan or Remain Independent. The states reorganization commission was setup in 1953 to look into the redrawing of boundaries of states. On the bases of its reports, the states reorganization act was passed in 1956.

Challenges on the eve of independence:

After Independence India face three main challenges to nation building. These are as:

- **Accommodation and Unity:** The first Challenge India was to Shape a nation that was united as well as accommodative of the diversity in our society. India consists of people having different languages, cultures, religions and different customs. The biggest problem before the Indian leadership was to bring to unity as well as preserve the diversities in India.
- **Establishment of Democracy:** The second challenge was to establish democracy were people enjoyed the right to vote along with the fundamental rights. The real challenge was to develop democratic practices in accordance with the constitution.
- **Development and well being:** The third and important challenge was to provide for development and well being of all sections rather than a few. Principal of equality to all with special protection to socially, economically, culturally disadvantaged groups. The real challenge was to remove poverty and unemployment.

Nehru's approach to nation building:

Nation building as a multi-dimensional process required a new approach. The first need was to develop a sense of collective consciousness among people so that the nation recovering from the pit falls of partition and refugee migration could give social security to its citizens.

After independence India started the task of nation building under the guidance of first PM Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru got an opportunity to translate his social and political ideas into practice with the help of state power.

He adopted good features from both ideologies of socialism and capitalism in economic development of the country. Nehru was clear in his mind that only industrialization would liberate the Indian Masses from poverty. His introduction of planned economy initiating rapid and large scale industrialization, development of science and technology and strengthening of parliamentary democracy based on the ideals of secularism and socialism. Democratic parliament and economic planning were the main pillars of Nehru's efforts at nation building. He adopted a centralized, political, administrative and judicial system. He adopted non alignment as one of the basic features of foreign policy of India.

Factors that led to partition or causes of partition:

By the time 1947 partition of India, Hindu Muslim relations had already been deteriorated significantly making the partition inevitable. British Raj policy aimed at dividing Hindus and Muslims to further their interests. It can be said that the seeds of the partition of the India were sowed in the partition of Bengal (1905) when the provinces was divided on religious bases. The main causes of the partition are as under:

- **Jinnah's attitude:** - Adamant attitude of Muhammad Ali Jinnah was also responsible for the partition of India. He refused to listen to the nationalist appeals short of the creation of Pakistan. He launched "Direct Action" for the achievement of Pakistan.
- **British Policy:** - The political competition between congress and Muslim league and the British Policy of divide and rule led to the partition of India and creation of Pakistan.
- **Communal Riots and Disorder:** - Communal Riots and disorder was one of the big factors for partition. There occurred killings in Calcutta, Bihar etc. this led to the congress to the conclusion that the partition was better than the killings of innocent citizens.
- **Influence of Lord Mountbatten:** - The lord Mountbatten, the last British Governor general was to a great extent responsible because he moulded the congress leaders like Nehru and Sardar Patel for partition.
- **Failure of the Interim Government:** - The Interim Government could not control the law and order situation, this was a big factor which changed the nationalist outlook on the partition of India.

Consequences of the partition of India or Legacy of partition of India:

Unfortunately the reality of partition "14-15 August" and the mass migration that came with it was nothing like they had imagined , millions of Muslims were living in India and Millions of Hindus and Sikhs found themselves in the land of newly created Pakistan and they would have to move. This movement along religious lines, creating overwhelmed refugee crises on the newly constituted dominions. Following are the main consequences of the partition of India.

1 Transfer of population: - The first legacy was the tragic transfer of population. The lacks of people were forced to leave their homes and move across the borders. They were attacked, killed and looted. In the name of religion people of one community killed the people of other community.

2 Problem of Refugees: - The people who crossed the border found that they had no home. It was a serious problem. It was estimated that about 10-12 million people were forced to migrate across the borders. The government took many years to solve it.

3 Problem of minorities: - even after migration about 12% Muslims lived in India. The biggest problem before Indian government was how to deal with Muslim minorities and other religious minorities.

4 Division of properties and financial assets: Partition doesn't only mean the divisions of lands but also the division of properties and financial assets. The partition also saw the division of the British Indian army, the Indian civil services, the railways and central treasury.

5 Problem of the Princely States: - There were as many as 565 princely states at the time of independence; they had an option to join either India or Pakistan or to remain independent. Most of the princes were willing to remain independent, it was the biggest problem before the Indian leadership.

Factors which determine nation building

Nation building is a multi-dimensional concept and involves the active participation of its citizens in various walks of life. Nation building aims at the unification of the people with the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run. A strong and powerful nation is built on dedication and hard work of citizens and some amount of smart planning on the part of the government.

According to Pye, "Nation building refers to the processes where by people transfer their commitment and loyalty from smaller tribes, villages or party Principalities to the large central political system".

Factors responsible for nation building:

- ❖ **Unity and Integrity:** The unity and Integrity are contributing in a combined manner to the nation building. Both Unity and national Integration play a vital role for solid foundation of nationalism, secularism, socialism and democracy.
- ❖ **Spread of Education:** education is a vital component for nation building. Education is path way for nation building. Education gives the people skills they need to help themselves out of poverty.
- ❖ **Mass Media:** Mass Media plays an important role in nation building. The Media has a distinctive role to play in bringing communal harmony which in turn will preserve the secular fabric of a democratic country.
- ❖ **Good Leadership:** Committed, dedicated and devoted leadership is also responsible for nation building.

Challenge of Refugees and Resettlement

The partition of India on the basis of religion led to the crises of resettlement of refugees. There was tragic transfer of population. The lakhs of people were forced to leave their homes and move across borders. Over five million Hindus and Sikhs left west and East Pakistan to India, while six million Muslims went to Pakistan. The people who crossed the borders found that they had no home. For lakhs of people independence means life in **refugee camps**. They travelled to the side of new borders by all sorts of means, often by foot. Even during their journey they were often attacked and killed. The refugees had left behind their assets and needed help to rehabilitate and resettle. The costs of human suffering were enormous. The political leadership had never expected that partition would result in such a massive population exodus. The state made large scale efforts to support and rehabilitate these migrants. Refugee's problem was so serious that the government took many years to solve it. On the

eastern side of the border, refugee migration was for labour and took place much later. It was complete exchange of minorities which cast dark shadow on the joy of independence.

Nation and Nation State

A Nation is a group of people who share the same culture, history, language or ethnicity. The word nation is derived from the Latin word **Natio** which means Birth or Race. Therefore nation means a group of people having common origin, language, culture and territory. According to Leacock, "A Nation is a union of men having racial or Ethnographic significance". A **Nation state** is a system of organization in which people with common Identity live inside a country with firm borders and a single government. A nation state is a sovereign state of which most of its subjects are united also by factors which defined a nation such as language or common descent.

Integration of Princely States:

The first challenge India faced after independence was the integration of princely states. India had 565 princely states. Sardar Patil the iron man of India negotiated with the princes. Since these states were spread throughout India, it was not easy task to take them in good faith and accede. Sardar Patil used the patriotic fervor of the princes to get their instrument of accession signed. However the integration was not as smooth as it had been expected. The Maharaja of Kashmir joined when Pakistani forces attacked Kashmir. Nawab of Junagarh and Hyderabad joined after the use of force. Similarly threats were used to free Goa and Pondicherry.

- **Accession of Hyderabad:** The Muslim ruler of Hyderabad titled Nizam was unwilling to accede to India. Nizam wanted an Independent state for Hyderabad. Hyderabad had a substantial fighting force called Razakars and the Nizam also expected the British help through Pakistan. But India was also determined to seek its accession to India. India did not agree that Hyderabad may remain as a separate Independent state within the boundaries of India. The government of India took place action against Hyderabad on Sep.13.1948. The forces of Hyderabad surrendered on 17 Sep.1948. Subsequently the Nizam signed an instrument of accession, joining India.
- **Accession of Junagarh:** Junagarh was a princely State of British India, located in what is now Gujarat. The people of Junagarh revolted against the Nawab who was conspiring with Pakistan against India and forced him to flee to Karachi and the Muslim dewan Shah Nawaz Bhutto was left with no alternative except invite government of India to look after the administration of that state on 10th Nov.1949. After this government of India Plebiscite on 20th Feb.1948 and majority of the people voted for India, as a result it became part of India 20th Feb.1948.
- **Accession of Kashmir to India:** Kashmir was a princely state. On August 15.1947, the ruler of J&K Maharaja Hari Singh did not join any of the new dominions India and Pakistan. To delay the accession was with a view to realize the dream of an independent Kashmir. On 20th Oct.1947, the tribesmen from Pakistan advanced towards the summer capital of the state. To save his life Maharaja Hari Singh left the valley on 25th Oct. 1947 and went to Jammu. He appointed Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah emergency administrator. On 26th Oct.1947, the Maharaja Hari Singh sent an **Instrument of accession** signed by him for the acceptance by the government of India and thus J&K became part of India. The accession was on three subjects' defense, external affairs and communication. This relation was governed by Article 370 which was giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir. On 5th Aug.2019, the government of India revoked the special status, granted under Article 370 of the Indian constitution to Jammu and Kashmir.

- **Accession of Manipur:** The ruler of Manipur namely Maharaja Bodhachandra signed and instrument of accession with Indian government on the assurance that internal autonomy of Manipur would be maintained. The elections in Manipur were held in June 1948, Manipur became a constitutional Monarchy. Besides Congress, all parties were opposed to merger with India, this created lot of differences in the legislative assembly. The Indian government without consulting the legislative assembly persuaded the Maharaja to sign the Instrument of Accession in 1949, which caused lot of resentment in Manipur, which is still alive in the state.

The States Reorganization commission

After independence, political movements for the creation of new linguistic based states developed. In 29 Dec.1953, Jawaharlal Nehru appointed the states reorganization commission. The commission was headed by the retired chief justice, Fazal Ali. The Commission in its report accepted that the boundaries of the states should reflect the boundaries of different languages. On the basis of its report the states reorganization act was passed on 31st Aug.1956, and came into effect 01 Nov.1956, which led to the creation of 14 states and 06 union territories. Each states has its regional languages as its official language.

Recommendations

- Proper attention should be given to cultural and communicative needs of the other communities speaking different languages.
- Linguistic minorities should be well protected.
- Attention should be paid to the development of other regional languages besides Hindi.
- English should be the medium of instructions in universities and higher training institutions.
- The idea of one language, one province should not be promoted.

Jammu & Kashmir reorganization act 2019

The Jammu & Kashmir reorganization act 2019 is an act of parliament of India. It contains provisions to reconstitute the Indian administrated state of Jammu & Kashmir into two Indian-administered union territories, one to be called Jammu and Kashmir and other Ladakh on 31st Oct.2019. The bill for the act was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 5th Aug.2019. The bill was passed Rajya Sabha the same day and was passed by the Lokh Sabha on 6th Aug.2019. It received the president's assent on 9th Aug.2019.

Political conflicts over language

Independence brought linguistic divisions and regionalism in Indian politics. Linguistic agitation for creation of states started with **Telangana** movement in 1953. **Potti Sreeramula** took a fast unto death demanding for creation of an Andhra state. After his death Telugu speaking districts of Madras were separated to create the state of Andhra Pradesh. Pt.Nehru In 1953 appointed the states reorganizations commission for the reorganization of states on linguistic lines. Thus in 1956, 14 states and 06 union territories had been formed on the bases of language. On 1st May 1960, Bombay was divided into Gujarat (Gujrati) and Maharashtra (Marathi). The demand for Punjabi Sabah in 1966 led to the division of Punjab into parts Punjab (Punjabi) and Haryana (Hindi). Factor of violence throughout India forcing the central government to continue English, Hindi and other 22 regional languages recognized by schedule-VIII as official language.

Learning Outcomes

After learning the chapter you should be able to answer the following questions:

- ✓ Describe Nehru's approach to nation building?
- ✓ Discuss the causes of Partition?
- ✓ What are the factors that led to the Partition of India?
- ✓ What were the consequences of the Partition of India?
- ✓ Describe the legacy of Partition?
- ✓ What were the major challenges India faced at the time of Partition/Independence?
- ✓ What are the factors which determine nation building?
- ✓ Write note on integration of states?
- ✓ How was Hyderabad integrated into India?
- ✓ How did Manipur integrate with India?
- ✓ Describe the accession of Kashmir with the union of India?
- ✓ How was Junagarh integrated into India?
- ✓ Write note on states reorganization commission and its recommendations?
- ✓ How did language evolve into a political controversy?
- ✓ What is J&K reorganization act 2019?

Objective Questions:

- ✓ Nation building is a:
Ans: Multi Dimensional Concept
- ✓ Who was the founding father of Non-Alignment:
Ans: J.L Nehru
- ✓ When was states reorganization commission formed:
Ans: 1953
- ✓ When did states reorganization commission came into effect:
Ans: 01.Nov.1956
- ✓ Who signed the instrument of accession and when:
Ans: Maharaja Hari Sing on 26th Oct.1947
- ✓ Who played a prominent role in the integration of princely states:
Ans: Sardar Patel
- ✓ Which state was the first created on the bases of language:
Ans: Andhra