

Vivekanand on Nationalism

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Abstract

Since ancient times India has been a center of spiritualism. Many saints took birth in India time to time to destroy evils and give new direction to the society with their spiritual knowledge. Swami Vivekanand's name is included in India's leading generation of saints and social reformers. Vivekanand tried to remove social inertia and religious conservatism in the same way as it is done to clean the rotten water of a pond. His presentation of Indian culture to world was so vivid and logical that no one before or after him has been able to do so till the present time. His nationalism is spiritual and not extreme as it was not based on hatred for any other nation. Vivekanand was an internationalist for he supported world brotherhood at international level. This paper is a modest attempt to traverse Vivekanand's conception of nationalism. It includes an in-depth analysis of his views on spiritual aspect of nationalism.

Key Words: Swamiji, Vivekanand, Spiritual, Nationalism, Nation, Unity,

Introduction

Swami Vivekananda, the renowned Indian Hindu monk and philosopher, had significant thoughts on nationalism. His notion of nationalism can be understood through various speeches and writings. The base of Vivekanand's nationalism is spiritual. In reality Vivekananda's concept of spiritual nationalism went beyond conventional political nationalism. It sought to elevate the consciousness of the people, infusing them with a sense of higher purpose, moral values, and a vision for the betterment of humanity. His teachings on spiritual nationalism continue to inspire individuals and remain relevant in discussions about the role of spirituality in national and global affairs. Some key aspects of his perspective on nationalism are being discussed here in this paper.

Vivekanand had talked about a spiritual basis of nationalism. Swami Vivekananda's concept of "Spiritual Nationalism" was a unique and profound perspective on the role of spirituality in the context of nationalism. He believed that true and enduring nationalism could be achieved by infusing the spirit of spirituality into the life of a nation. He emphasized that the greatness of a nation lies not just in its material progress but in its spiritual heritage and

cultural values. He encouraged his fellow Indians to take pride in their ancient spiritual wisdom and traditions while embracing the best aspects of modernity.

The ultimate goal of Vivekanand's Nationalism was the well-being and upliftment of all mankind. For him, nationalism was not merely about promoting one's country at the expense of others. He saw nationalism as a means to serve humanity as a whole. He believed that India's spiritual insights had the potential to benefit all of humanity, and he envisioned a broader, universal nationalism that would work for the betterment of the world. He believed that a spiritually awakened nation would work not just for its own progress but for the welfare of the world.

One of the central theme of Swamiji's conception of nationalism was the idea of unity in diversity. He saw India as a land of diverse cultures, languages and religions. He was convinced that the feelings of nationalism can unite Indians, transcending their diversities and promoting a sense of common identity.

Vivekananda advocated for the unity of the Indian people, transcending regional, linguistic and religious differences. He believed that India's diversity should be celebrated, and the various cultural and religious traditions should coexist in harmony. He famously said, "We believe not only in universal toleration but we accept all religions as true." Vivekananda believed that the true strength of a nation lay in the character of its people. He emphasized character building and ethical conduct as essential

The idea of nationalism presented by Swami Vivekanand was a practical one. He emphasized the practical aspects of nationalism. He encouraged people to work for the welfare and progress of the country. He believed that true nationalism was characterized by constructive action and service. While being a nationalist, Vivekananda had a global vision. He traveled extensively and represented India at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893. He emphasized the importance of understanding and appreciating different cultures and religions while staying rooted in one's own heritage. He sought to bridge the gap between East and West through the exchange of spiritual and cultural ideas.

Moreover, Vivekananda strongly stressed the importance of education in nurturing strong and capable citizens. He believed that an educated and enlightened population was vital for the progress of the nation. He encouraged people to be self-reliant and industrious while maintaining their cultural identity.

Conclusion:

In the end it can be concluded that Vivekananda's nationalism was not narrow or exclusive; rather, it was inclusive and aimed at fostering the overall well-being of humanity. His views on nationalism were deeply influenced by his spiritual and philosophical beliefs, and he saw nationalism as a means to achieve higher spiritual and moral ideals. His teachings on nationalism continue to inspire people to this day and have left a lasting impact on India's cultural and philosophical landscape.

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