THE EARLY NATIONALISTs – THE MODERATE PHASE

• NATIONALS MOVEMENT - THREE PHASES
  – 1885-1905 - MODERATE PHASE
  – 1905-1919 – ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM (RADICALS)
  – 1919-1947 – GANDHIAN PHASE
THE EARLY NATIONALISTs – THE MODERATE PHASE

• BACKGROUND OF THE LEADERS
  – FROM EDUCATED UPPER STRATA OF THE SOCIETY
  – PRODUCTS OF WESTERN EDUCATION AND INFLUENCE
  – HAD VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS – LAWYERS, JOURNALISTS, TEACHERS ETC
  – BENGAL – W.C.BANERJEE, SURENDRANATH BANERJEE
  – MADRAS – P.R.NAIDU, SUBRAMANIA IYER
  – NAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT – DADBHAI NAOROJI, GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE, PHEROZSHAH MEHTA
  – U.P – PANDIT MADAN MALAVIYA
  – BRITISH – A.O.HUME
WHY THEY WERE CALLED ‘MODERATES’

• DEMANDS WERE NOT EXTREME BUT OF A MODERATE NATURE

• METHODS OF STRUGGLE WERE NON-VIOLENCE, ADOPTED CONSTITUTIONAL METHODS

• HAD FAITH IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT
BASIC BELIEFS OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

• CONSTITUTIONALISM
• GRADUALISM
• LIBERALISM
BASIC BELIEFS OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

• BELIEVED IN CONSTITUTIONAL AND PEACEFUL MEANS
• DEADLY OPPOSED THE USE OF FORCE AND VIOLENT METHODS
• READY TO WAIT FOR A LONG TIME TO GET THEIR DEMANDS FULFILLED THAN TO ADOPT DRASTIC STEPS
METHODS OF STRUGGLE

The Early Nationalists did not believe in agitation or unconstitutional means. They carried their agitation through

- petitions to high Government officials
- resolutions
- meetings in towns, cities and countryside
- distribution of pamphlets and leaflets
- preparing memorandum for the Government Committees
- delegations of leading politicians to England
PROGRAMME/DEMANDS/OBJECTIVES OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

The Early Nationalists wanted certain political and economic reforms with a view to unify the people of India on the basis of a common economic and political programme.

The moderates did not seek independence from the British rule. They only wanted that the administration should be conducted with greater representation and cooperation of the people.
PROGRAMME/DEMANDS/OBJECTIVES OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

• Abolition of Indian Council which was constituted to advise the Secretary of State for India.

• Demanded expansion of the Legislative Councils created by the Act of 1961. (in the first session of the Congress) Members of the Council to be elected by the people. All legislative measures and financial questions, including budgets to be submitted to these Councils.

• Early in the 20th Century, the Congress Leaders insisted on ‘colonial form of self-government’, i.e, the system of administration to be found in the dominions of Canada and Australia.
After 1857, the British Parliament had taken over the direct control of the Govt. of India. A minister of the British Cabinet, known as the Secretary of State for India, was given charge of all Indian affairs. A Council of India or Indian Council was constituted to advise the Secretary of State. Its members were Englishmen who had served in India earlier. It did not prove effective in controlling the Secretary of State. The moderates felt that it did not represent the interests of Indians. It was finally abolished in 1937.
ECONOMIC REFORMS

The Early Nationalists blamed the British Government for the Economic Backwardness and stagnation of agriculture and industry.
ECONOMIC REFORMS

• They demanded reduction in land revenue and protection of peasants against unjust demands of the zamindars
ECONOMIC REFORMS

• Total abolition of Salt Tax and the duty on sugar because it hit the poor and the lower middle class.

• Industrial growth through trade protection, i.e., a heavy tax on imposed goods and Government loans for the development of iron, coal, paper and sugar industries.
ECONOMIC REFORMS CONTD

• Reduction in expenditure on the army and the money thus saved to be spent on welfare activities such as health and education

• An enquiry into India’s growing poverty and famines

• Availability of cheap credit to peasants through agricultural banks.

• Development of banking, irrigation, medical and health facilities for the people
ADMINISTRATIVE DEMANDS

• Demand for Indianisation of administrative services. They demanded the appointment of the educated Indians to higher posts.
• Repeal of the Arms Act and Licence Act
• Wider employment of Indians in the higher grades of administrative services
• Spread of primary education among the masses
ADMINISTRATIVE DEMANDS contd

- Complete separation of the executive and the judiciary. They made this demand to protect Indians from the arbitrary acts of police and the bureaucracy.

- Improvement of the police system to make it honest, efficient and popular.

- An increase in the powers of the local (municipal) bodies and reducing official control over them.

- Holding of simultaneous examinations both in England and India for recruitment to the Indian Civil Service.
SAFEGUARDING OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS

• They demanded the right to freedom of speech, thoughts and the freedom of the press. (opposed vernacular press act )

• Restoration of right to assemble and to form associations

• Abolition of Preventive Detention Act and restoration of individual liberties.
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

• THEY CONSTANTLY WORKED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE FEELINGS OF NATIONAL UNITY AMONG THE INDIANS.

• THEY CREATED NATIONAL A WAKENING AMONG THE PEOPLE THAT THEY BELONGED TO ONE COMMON COUNTRY – INDIA

• THEY TRAINED PEOPLE IN POLITICS BY POPULARISING THE IDEAS OF DEMOCRACY, CIVIL LIBERTIES, SECULARISM AND NATIONALISM

• THEY DID PIONEERING WORK BY EXPOSING THE TRUE NATURE OF THE BRITISH RULE IN INDIA. THEY MADE THE ECONOMIC CONTENT AND CHARACTER OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM.
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

• THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES ESTABLISHED THE TRUTH THAT INDIA MUST BE RULED IN THE INTEREST OF THE INDIANS

• THE EFFORTS OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS LED TO THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

  – THE APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN 1886

  – A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS (1893) FOR SIMULTANEOUS EXAMINATION FOR THE I.C.S IN LONDON AND INDIA

  – THE INDIAN COUNCILS ACT OF 1892 [Indian Councils Act 1892 was passed by the British Parliament to increase in the size of the legislative councils. This act marks the beginning of representative form of Government in India.]
FAILURE OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

• They believed the British and felt that sooner or later they would agree to establish representative institutions in India.

• They failed to realise that British and Indian interests clashed with each other.

• They did not have mass following.

• Their methods of passing resolutions and sending petitions were criticised as inadequate.
THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

Radicals

Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal (Lal-Bal-Pal) were important leaders of the Radical group.
CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

• FAILURE OF THE EARLY NATIONALISTS

— ONE GROUP OF CONGRESS MEN WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE METHODS OF EARLY NATIONALISTS.

— THEY STRONGLY CRITICISED THE METHODS OF PEACEFUL CONSTITUTIONAL AGITATION

— EARLY NATIONALISTS FAILED TO GET ANYTHING SUBSTANTIAL FROM THE BRITISH.

— LED TO MORE VIGOROUS POLITICAL ACTION USING A RADICAL APPROACH
CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

• Famine and Plague and the Continued Apathy of the Government
CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

• Silver Jubilee Celebration of Queen Victoria’s accession

• Tilak attacked the policy of the Government in the ‘Kesari’; sentenced to 18 months of jail.
CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

• Repressive Policies of Lord Curzon
  – refused to recognise India as a nation
  – Not in favour of giving freedom to India
  – Took Repressive measures
    • Calcutta Corporation Act 1899 – reduced the number of elected members from India (Giving British a majority role)
    • Indian Universities Act 1904 – imposed strict official control – considered universities as centres of nationalism.
    • Official Secrets Act – even leakage of ordinary information regarding civil administration was considered illegal
CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

• Ill treatment of the Indian in Africa
  – Indians rendered services to the British in development of their colonies in Africa
  – But Indians were humiliated, ill-treated and abused.
  – Various restriction imposed on them
    – denied right to vote, could not enter the buses or railway coaches reserved for the Whites
CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

• Influence of International Events
  – Japan defeated Russia (1904-05), Italy defeated Ethiopia
  – In Ireland people were waging a full-scale Home Rule agitation
  – these events exploded the myth of European superiority and encouraged the Indians
CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF ASSERTIVE NATIONALISM

• Effect of the Revolutionary Principles of the West
  – Spread of Western Education
  – Ill treatment of Educated Indian
  – Exposure to ideas of democracy, nationalism, liberty, equality and fraternity
  – Realised freedom from foreign domination can be achieved through revolutionary means and not through constitutional methods