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Q1(d)

Anti-Brahmanical movements during the colonial period

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Impact of colonial rule on Indian society

Impact of colonial rule on Indian society: Social background of Indian nationalism; Modernization of Indian tradition; Protests and movements during the colonial period; Social reforms.

Core demand of the question

- Anti-Brahmanical movements during the colonial period
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Colonial anti-Brahmanical movements targeted priestly monopoly of ritual and office.

Phule linked that monopoly to agrarian extraction.

South Indian non-Brahman and **Self-Respect** politics attacked Brahman public power.

Ambedkar made annihilation the deepest programme.

They used colonial public institutions against Sanskrit rank.

Introduction

Colonial-period anti-Brahmanical movements attacked priestly monopoly over knowledge, ritual, and honour. They were regional, often non-Brahman and Dalit, and they used print, census, and the new public.

Body**Main streams**

- Jyotirao **Phule**'s Satyashodhak work in Maharashtra named Brahman-landlord extraction of the bahun tiller.
- The **Justice Party** and **Self-Respect** in the Tamil south attacked Brahman office and ritual, a path toward later Dravidian politics.
- Sri **Narayana Guru** in the south-west combined temple and equality against caste honour.
- **Ambedkar**'s colonial-era movement made annihilation, not only anti-priest satire, the programme.

Features

- They used colonial courts, education, and representation while rejecting Sanskrit rank.
- They were not always anti-Hindu in a census sense; they were anti-Brahmanical order.

Flow diagram

Phule Satyashodhak -> Anti-Brahmanical

Self-Respect Justice -> Anti-Brahmanical

Ambedkar -> Anti-Brahmanical

Conclusion

Anti-Brahmanical movements in the colonial period turned caste from a sacred given into a public enemy. **Phule**, **Periyar**'s milieu, and **Ambedkar** remain the sociological archive.

Facts & figures

Satyashodhak Samaj

Phule's organisation of truth-seeking against Brahmanical domination.

Justice Party

Non-Brahman political vehicle in the Madras Presidency.

Self-Respect

Movement for dignity and against ritual Brahmanism in the Tamil country.

Narayana Guru

Reformer who challenged caste in worship and social honour.