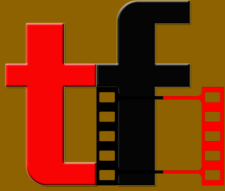


Concept of Nationalism



The term nationalism is viewed in different ways across the world.

In general it can be termed as the trait to be respected in a particular state, which should generate a psychological feel of oneness and work for the overall development of the state in which every person of that soil should contribute.

In the recent past of early 19th century we have seen many revolutionary movements of nation building. Most of the European states were formed based on ethnic, religious & linguistic entities. Many revolutionary movements (French revolution, Nazi-Germany etc.) have slaughtered the lives of innocents in the name of state formation.

Marxists conceptualize nationalism as bourgeois ideology (operational view, economic determination) whereas John Gottfried Herder defines nationalism based on cultural identity.

In India nation building is convergence of various cultural, religious, linguistic, ethnic etc. diversities. The amazing integration of such diversities, acceptance & tolerance is the great strength & beauty of this soil. This civilization existed in India before it was a British colony.

Even after independence the constitutional framers ensured the ideas of liberty equality & fraternity (influenced by the French), political & economic justice (influenced by the Russian) in the preamble. Also fundamental rights - Articles 14 to 32 in general, Right to freedom (Articles 19-22) & Right to freedom of religion (Articles 25-28) in particular upheld the respect to pluralist society, which is the true celebration of democracy.

However during the times of national threat such as external war, terrorism etc. these rights will be subjected to reasonable restrictions.

Mere opposition to the policies/decisions of the established government shall never become an antinationalist move & also opposition to the policies without rational analysis is not the nationalist identity.

Thus the nationalism should not divide the people into different views but should integrate for economic, cultural, socialist etc. development of the state to build an incredible nation.

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