



Mains Practice Question

Q. Analyse the impact of the Russian Revolution of 1917 on India's nationalist movement. How did it influence Indian political thought? **(250 words)**

30 Sep, 2024 GS Paper 1 History

Approach

- Introduce the answer by giving a brief overview of the Russian Revolution.
- Give impact of the Russian Revolution of 1917 on India's nationalist movement with greater emphasis on political thought.
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

The **Russian Revolution of 1917**, a pivotal event in global history, had a profound influence on India's nationalist movement.

- The overthrow of the **Tsarist regime** and the establishment of a **socialist state in Russia** **provided Indian nationalists with new ideas, inspiration, and strategies** to challenge British colonial rule.

Body

Impact of the Russian Revolution of 1917 on India's Nationalist Movement:

- **Inspiration for Anti-Imperialist Struggle:** The Russian Revolution demonstrated that it was possible to overthrow an oppressive regime, inspiring Indian nationalists in their fight against British colonial rule.
 - **As Jawaharlal Nehru** noted: "The **Soviet Revolution** had **advanced human society by a great leap** and *had lit a bright flame which could not be smothered and that it laid the foundation for a new civilization toward which the world could advance*"
- **Introduction of Socialist and Communist Ideas:** The revolution introduced socialist and communist ideologies to Indian political discourse, influencing the direction of the independence movement.
 - Formation of the **Communist Party of India in 1920**. **M.N. Roy**, an Indian revolutionary, played a significant role in it.
- **Workers' and Peasants' Rights:** The revolution highlighted the importance of workers' and peasants' rights, leading to increased focus on these groups in India's freedom struggle.
 - Formation of the **All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in 1920**.
 - Increased emphasis on peasant movements, such as the **Champaran Satyagraha led by Gandhi in 1917**.
- **Challenge to Capitalist and Feudal Systems:** The revolution questioned the existing economic and social structures, encouraging Indian leaders to envision alternative systems for an independent India.
 - The concept of "**complete independence**" (**Purna Swaraj**) adopted by the Indian

National Congress in 1929, moving beyond the earlier demand for dominion status.

- **Influence on Revolutionary Movements:** The success of the **Bolsheviks** inspired more radical, revolutionary approaches within the Indian independence movement.
- **International Solidarity:** The revolution promoted the idea of international solidarity among oppressed peoples, **influencing Indian nationalists to seek support beyond national boundaries.**
 - Indian nationalists' participation in the **League Against Imperialism**, founded in **Brussels in 1927.**
- **Reimagining Social Structures:** The revolution's focus on equality inspired Indian thinkers to challenge traditional social hierarchies, including the caste system.
 - **B.R. Ambedkar's advocacy for Dalit rights** and social reform.

Conclusion

The **Russian Revolution of 1917** had a profound and multifaceted impact on India's nationalist movement and political thought. It introduced **new ideologies, challenged existing systems, inspired revolutionary zeal, and influenced economic and social thinking.**

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