

SWAMI VIVEKANAND'S THOUGHT ON NATIONALISM

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Swami Vivekananda

"You have to grow from the inside out.
None can teach you, none can make you spiritual.
There is no other teacher but your own soul."

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INTRODUCTION

Swami Vivekananda (12 January 1863–4 July 1902) played a major role in growing Indian Nationalism in the late 19th and the 20th century, encouraging many Indians with his success and appeal in the west. He introduced the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the status of a major world religion. He is best known for his speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893. His example helped to build pride in India's cultural and religious heritage, and to stand up against the British colonial system. He wrote several books like 'Jnanayoga', 'Bhaktiyoga', 'Rajayoga', 'To the youth of India' etc.



Sri Rabindranath Tagore, says about Swami Vivekananda, “ If you want to know India, study Vivekananda. In him everything is positive and nothing negative.”

Mahatma Gandhi says,
“I have gone through
Vivekananda’s work
very thoroughly, and
after having gone
through them, the love
that I had for my
country became
thousand-fold.”



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S VIEWS ON NATIONALISM

Swami Vivekananda's Nationalism is associated with spiritualism. He linked India's regeneration to her age-old tradition of spiritual goal. He said, "Each nation has a destiny to fulfill, each nation has a message to deliver, each nation has a mission to accomplish. Therefore we must have to understand the mission of our own race, the destiny it has to fulfill, the place it has to occupy in the march of nations, the role which it has to contribute to the harmony of races".

Swami Vivekananda's idea of nationalism is based on the two cardinal features of Indian spiritual culture:-

1. Humanism and
2. Universalism

ENLIGHTENED NATIONALISM

The nature of his nationalism is not materialistic but purely spiritual, which is considered to be the source of all strength of Indian life. Unlike western nationalism which is secular in nature, Swami Vivekananda's nationalism is based on religion which is life blood of the Indian people.

PILLARS OF NATIONALISM

The basis of his Nationalism are-

- Deep concern for masses, freedom and equality through which one expresses self, spiritual integration of the world on the basis of universal brotherhood.
- “Karmyoga” a system of ethics to attain freedom both political and spiritual through selfless service.

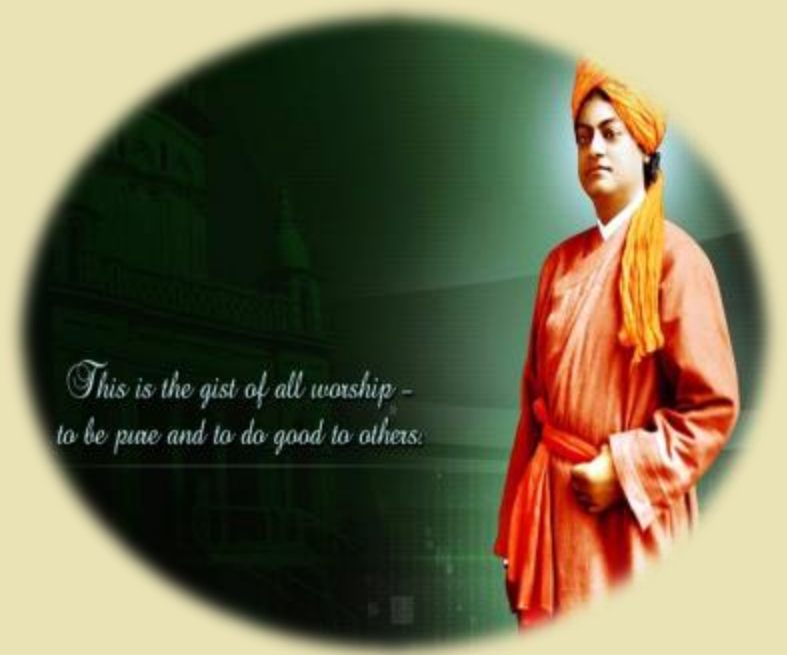
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA ON **RELIGION**

Swami Vivekanand- the forerunner of indian renaissance- interpreted religion as a universal experience of transcendent reality, common to all humanity. It frees religion from the hold of superstitions and dogmatism, and makes religion the highest and noblest pursuit of supreme freedom, supreme Knowledge, supreme happiness that is accomplished by realising one's ATMA as part of PARAMATMA.

RELIGION- A CRUCIAL THEME

Swami Vivekananda believed that there is one all dominating principle manifesting itself in the life of each nation. According to him, religion had been the guiding principle in India's history. He maintained that in each nation as in music there is main note, a central theme, upon which all others turn. Each nation has a theme: everything else is secondary. India's theme is religion. Social reform and everything else are secondary'.

He worked to build the foundations of a religious theory of nationalism because religion, according to him, had to be made the backbone of the national life. He believed that the future greatness of the nation could be built only on the foundations of its past greatness.



PATH TO A BETTER INDIA

He strongly believed that the Indians should be proud of their glowing history, tradition, culture and religion and should try their level best to reform them. The awakening of the spirit of India was the goal for young people. Hence he advised them to 'arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached'.

MESSAGE TO YOUTH

According to Swami Vivekananda, national spirit in India could be developed by young people by devoting their life to social service and national awakening.

It was the duty of the educated Indians to make its knowledge available to the people in their oneness and solidarity. He exhorted Indians not to get involved in the divisive issue of race and language and imbibe the spirit of unity.



Swami Vivekananda said, “My faith is in younger generation, the modern generation. They will work out the whole problem like lions....”

Thank You