INTRODUCTION
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This research work is aimed at the theory of Nation and Nationalism in the light of the Vedic literature, by completion of which it is expected to provoke a new line of thinking regarding Nationalism anew. Dr. T.P. Varma remarked, "India is the oldest country with a continued (sanatana) long living tradition. It has made history since the dawn of the human civilization because it has maintained contacts with other parts of the civilized world and has recorded it."1 This ancient nation was able to establish the theory of Nation and Nationalism.

Selection of the topic

Each planned action possesses its inspiration and motto. In the same way, we also have thought and planned to find out the elements of Nation and Nationalism in the Vedic literature. The facts which inspired us in the research of the above mentioned topic are as follows:

1. Some scholars used to say that India was the nation of philosophers and the national feeling was absent in the Indian people.2

2. The western political thinkers have had a firm belief that Nationalism is very modern.3

3. The studies of such informations led us to think and the following questions jerked our mind:

   (a) We get the term rāstra in the Mantra samhitās frequently.4 Was not the feeling of Nation and Nationalism at that time?

   (b) The AB proclaims about an undivided rāstra surrounded by oceans.5

   (c) The Purāṇas also present the picture of one and undivided nation Bhārata.6 Can we say in such condition that the feelings of Nationalism was not in existence in India?

   (d) The poet Kalidāsa also praises the land existed between the Himalayas and the oceans.7 Was not that the evidence of Nationalism?

These general informations which we get in everyday life led us to think as to why should we not investigate the elements of Nation and Nationalism in the Vedic literature. As a result of that, we entered into the present research.
Sources

Our sources of study may be divided into two: Primary and Secondary sources. Primary Sources include all the Vedic Samhitas namely RV, SV, SYV, TS, AV, all the Brāhmaṇas, with Āraṇyakas and major Upaniṣadas. And the classical works such as Rāma, MBh, and major Pūraṇas, in supports of the Vedic works have been presented. Secondary sources include the modern works of oriental and occidental scholars. Moreover some articles of some scholars in prominent magazines also have been counted and put into account accordingly.

Method followed

In order to deal with the problem we have followed the library method in which we studied original texts, secondary sources and independent articles as well.

1. First of all we searched the four Mantrasamhitas RV, YV (SYV & TS), SV and the AV investigating the word rāstra and found that it was mentioned 141 times in those texts.

2. We tried to define the term rāstra on the basis of the above mantras and the meaning hidden behind them.

3. We have chalked out the definitions of rāstra and Nation from the eastern and western sources which helped us to go forward towards the Vedic interpretation.

4. Next, we started to collect data chapterwise after reading the original sources. Some other informations have been collected from the secondary sources also.

5. These data have been placed orderly so that they can form chapters in several sub-points.

6. At last this arrangement made it easy to write down the chapters orderly.

Chapter Plan

With a view to achieving the goal of compiling the thesis we made a primary chapter plane as follows:

Introduction

1. General view
2. Sources
3. Method followed
4. Hypothesis
Chapter I: In this chapter we have dealt with Nation and its definitions according to western and eastern scholars and the Vedic evidences as well. We have dealt with etymological researches also. We have discussed here the elements of Vedic rastra so as to have the patriotism, motherly feelings to a particular land etc., establishment of a rastra, its evolution and spreading the Vedic concepts outside India.

Chapter II: Types of states such as vairâjya, râjya, sāmrâjya, svârâjya, bhâujya, pâramesâhysâhâ râjya, âdhipatyamaya râjya, samantaparyâyi, jânarâjya, sârvabhuma râjya, etc. have been discussed elaborately. Moreover, kingship and its meaning, origin, characteristics and qualities, coronation ceremony and king's duties are discussed in this chapter.

Chapter III: Sabhâ, samiti and vidatha have been discussed elaborately under the subpoints of types, qualifications of members, topics of discussions, functions, characteristics, origin and history etc.

Chapter IV: The meaning of the varna and âsrama vyavastha, universality of the
varṇavyavasthā, varṇas on the basis of function and genealogical order, the four castes, their importance, rights of a purohita and his functions duties of those castes, national importance of caste system etc., have been discussed under varṇa vyavasthā. On the other hand, the āśrama vyavasthā comprises of its meaning, duration, characteristics, their life, duties, etc. The earlier conducted the society and the later led the individual life to make them run smoothly

**Chapter V**: We have discussed here the topics of puruṣārtha and trivarga and their national importance at first. Secondly, the Vedic conception of all round development of a rāṣṭra is presented. Motherly feelings to a particular land, importance of kārṣṭra and brāhmateja in nation building are discussed in the first part of this chapter. The second part comprises of the educational system of the Vedic period where we have mentioned the explanations of the term, courses, teachers, students, uniforms, types of students, teaching methods, medium of teaching, teacher-student relationship, female education and convocations etc.

**Chapter VI**: We have discussed the following topics under socio-cultural aspects; In the first part of the chapter, we have discussed the Vedic view towards women. The second part includes the marriage institutions, selection of brides and bridegrooms, types of marriage festivities and the rituals etc. where the peculiarity of the Vedic system of marriage has been presented.

**Chapter VII**: Vedic view on the economic theories such as price, demand, supply, population, resources, production, consumption, exchange and formulation of prices, distribution, taxes, market competition, and five foot economy are in the first part of the chapter. In the second, third and the fourth part of the chapter we have discussed on agriculture, industries, and trade and commerce.

**Chapter VIII**: The first part of this chapter comprises of essential and secondary needs Food, dresses and houses are included in primary needs where the problem of meat eating and soma juice have been tackled out. Several types of buildings have clearly been discussed The second part of this chapter includes secondary needs where we have dealt with physiology. Moreover we have discussed on music dance and jewellery as well.

**Chapter IX**: This chapter deals with religion and philosophy of the Vedas. In the first part we have discussed about upāsanā, conception of God and Vedic prayers etc. On the other hand, the second part comprises of yagñas and it's types, detail about agnyādhanā, pūrṇāhuti,
cāturmāṣya, agniṣṭoma, political yāgnas such as rājasīya, vājapeya and asvamedha sacrifices along with other general yāgnas. The third part includes philosophy where we discussed about cosmogony, creation and transmigration or rebirth.

Chapter X: This chapter deals with the military aspects in which we have included army troops, types of wars, weapons, charioteering, chariots and elephants in the wars, cavalry, infantry, several types of forts and fortifications.

Chapter XI: This chapter contains such topics which do not come under the purview of the abovementioned chapters. Those have been treated in the chapter 'Miscellaneous'. This chapter has taken such topics as science in the Vedas, existence of lipi, knowledge of geography in Vedic India and the theory of ārya as depicted in the Vedic literature.

We hope that it will not be too extravagant claim to say that the thesis is an original one because of it's presentation and expression. We think and believe that this type of research has not been made for which we have chosen such topic for research.

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NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Indian Conception of History Writing Dr. T.P. Varma Research paper presented in the seminar 'Sonitpur through ages' Tezpur 1998.

2. APHAIR p 1.

3. Essay of Nationalism by Heys Curlton p 29

4. We get the term ṛṣṭra in the Vedas as follows:

(a) RV 4/42/1; 7/34/11, 84/2; 10/109/3; 124/4&5; 174/1&5; 174/1,2&5 (11 times in 11 rks)

(b) SYV 9/23; 10/2; 10/3; 10/4; 20/8&10; 22/22 (71 times in 7 mantras)

(c) AV 1/29/1,4&6; 3/4/1&2; 3/5/2; 3/8/1; 3/19/2&5; 4/1/2; 28/4; 5/17/3,4,12&17; 5/19/4,6,7,8&10; 6/39/2; 54/2; 78/2; 87/1&2, 88/2; 124/1, 134/1, 7/35/1; 8/9/13; 10/3/12&16; 10/8; 11/7/11&17; 12/1/8; 3/10; 5/8, 13/1/8&9, 13/1/34&35; 15/10/2; 19/24/1; 30/3; 41/1; 20/27/1&10 (59 times in 51 mantras)


6. VP 2/3/1.


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