CHAPTER – I
INTRODUCTION

"Since India has come under the British rule .... the unfortunate Indian people have had their rights of property confiscated, their claims of justice and humanity trampled under foot, their manufactures, towns and agriculturists beggared; their excellent municipal institutions broken up; their judicial authority taken away; their morality corrupted and their religious customs violated, by what are conventionally called the blessings of British Rule"

- John Dickinson

The Muslim rulers, Delhi sultanates or mughals, who had conquered India, made India their home. They recognised themselves as part and parcel of Indian Society. Their collaboration with native Indians resulted in assimilation of Indo-Turkish or Indo-Persian culture. The Muslim rulers, of course, brought several political, administrative, social, cultural and religious elements to India, but they tried to incorporate them with the existing Indian system. Hence the cultural synthesis took place over a period of time, for instance the great Mughal ruler Akbar married Hindu princes participated in Hindu festivals, appointed many Hindus to high posts in military and revenue administration.

Whereas the British rule in India was ‘absentee sovereigntyship’ i.e they ruled India from England thousands of miles away from India. The British rulers never thought of making India their home, never recognised themselves as a part of Indian society. Instead they claimed racially superior than the Indians. They discriminated Indians in every sphere of life, they did not appoint Indians to the high posts in
military and civil administration. Moreover, the striking difference between the Muslim rulers and the British colonial rulers of India was Drain of wealth from India. As the colonial rulers did not recognise India as their home, they took away the wealth in every possible way to their home country. The Muslim rulers too collected various taxes and land revenue, some time half of the produce from the people.\footnote{But that collected revenue was spent in India. While the British colonial rulers searched all possible ways to exploit Indian wealth and took it out of India.}

The theme of “Genesis and Growth of Economic Nationalism in Bombay Karnataka” is an micro study of economic policies of the British rulers and their impact as the background for nourishing nationalist consciousness among the masses in Bombay Karnataka.

**Meaning of Nationalism and Economic Nationalism**

There is no unanimous opinion among the scholars about the meaning of Nationalism, mainly due to different circumstances and changing realities over a period of time in different parts of the world. According to Encyclopedia of Britannica “Nationalism” is the creed of those who believe that fidelity to one’s state is of greater importance than fidelity to international principles or to individual interests\footnote{For Carlton Hayes, the “father” of scholarly American study of nationalism, nationalism was (in 1926 & 1931) “a modern emotional fusion to two very old phenomena nationality and patriotism, as well as “the paramount devotion of human beings to fairly large (Sic) nationalities and the conscious founding of a political ‘nation’ on linguistic and cultural nationality.”}

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According to Louis Snyder, nationalism "a condition of mind, feeling, or sentiment of a group of people living in a well-defined geographical area, speaking a common language, a literature in which the aspirations of the nation have been expressed, attached to common traditions and common customs, venerating its own heroes, and in some cases, having a common religion."\(^4\)

While to a group of English students of the Royal Institute of International Affairs the word described "a consciousness, on the part of individuals or groups, of membership in a nation, or of a desire to forward the strength, liberty, or prosperity of a nation."\(^5\)

These above mentioned definitions, although show the considerable agreement on the meaning of nationalism, there are shortcomings, because they do not adequately consider the elements of growth of nationalism in developing countries such as India in late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Hence let us see the definitions of Encyclopedia of Americana, Hans Kohn and James Coleman, which are more appropriate and seems relevant in the context of Indian nationalism. According to "Encyclopedia of Americana" the term "nationalism" refers to an ideology based on the notion that people who have a sense of homogeneity rooted in a conception of a shared history and a common ethnicity, cultural heritage, language or religion should be united in a single nation state free of 'alien' political, economic or cultural influence or domination. The consciousness of group identity and sense of the alien become Nationalism, an ideology, when they are linked to political aspirations.\(^6\)
Prof. Hans Kohn, a czchoslovakian historian and an expert on the study of nationalism of different countries, defines "Nationalism is a state of mind and an act of consciousness.... a process of integration of masses of the people into a common political form... a product of the growth of social and intellectual factors at a certain stage of history... gains the emotional warmth of concreteness only through the effects of education, economic interdependence and corresponding political and social institutions.... brings about identification of masses with a body far too great for any concrete experience." While according to James coleman, nationalism was, "broadly, a consciousness of belonging to a nation (existent or in the realm of aspiration) or a nationality, and a desire, as manifest in sentiment and activity, to secure or maintain its welfare, prosperity, and integrity, and to maximize its political autonomy."

If these theories applied in general to India and Bombay Karnataka in particular, during the British colonial rulers some key elements were present, like shared history, cultural heritage, language and religion to some extent, because large number of people were belong to Hindu religion and spoke Hindi, if taken India as whole while in Bombay Karnataka Kannada was the language as the case of Marathi in Maharastra, Punjabi in Punjab, Tamil in Tamilnadu, Telugu in Andrapradesh, Bengali in West Bengal etc. So the element of language for the growth of nationalism was absent before the advent of British. Hence though the elements of nationalism were present, they were not part of the consciousness of the people until the political unification western education and other policies of British colonial rulers provoked the intellectuals to re-discover India's past glory. For instance B.G Tilak took inspiration from the past glory of Indian civilization. As Hans Kohn putforth the
theory of nationalism, it is an act of consciousness on the part of intellectuals in India and that consciousness was the outcome of the effects of several factors. Such as economic, social, educational, political etc. Once intellectuals became conscious they developed the feeling, as James Coleman putforth, of belonging to a nation i.e India. This concept of Indianness united the intellectuals of different parts of India, who unitedly aspired for the welfare, prosperity, integrity and political freedom from the foreign yoke.

Thus the growth of Indian nationalism was unique and distant, which grew partly as a result as a reaction to colonial policies. As Jawaharlal Nehru writes. "Long subjection of a people and the denial of freedom bring many evils, and perhaps the greatest of these lies in the spiritual sphere—demoralization and rapping of the spirit of the people. It is hard to measure this, though it may be obvious..... Nearly all our major problems ...... have grown up during British rule and as a direct result of British policy.... the minority problem; various (vested) interests foreign and Indian; the lack of industry and the neglect of agriculture; the extreme backwardness in the social services, and about all the tragic poverty of the people... The record of British rule in India during the nineteenth century must necessarily depress and agner an Indian" 9

Various factors contributed for the growth of Indian nationalism such as political unification, unified or centralised administration throughout the country. Racial superiority of the British and their practical social exclusiveness Indians were termed as "nigger". Socio - religious reform moment created self confidence and self respect among Indians to their own religion and culture. They also helped to thrive
on the past memories and achievements of the past. The re-discovery of the glorious Indian civilization and culture questioned the hypothesis that Britain represented a higher civilization and that the west had civilising mission in India. Reactionary policies of Lord Lytton such as vernacular press Act, Arms Act. Abolition of import duties on British textile goods etc.

Ilbert Bill controversy, the aim of the bill was to give Indian district magistrate and sessions Judges the right to try European offenders, due to the stiff opposition of British officials the Bill was amended and then passed. Spread of western education was the one of the important factor for the growth of consciousness in India. In 1835 Lord William Bentinek announced English as official language and made the medium of instruction in schools. Thus English became the language of educated class, it facilitated the people of different parts to exchange their views. So the Western education infused a new life into the dead bones of the Indian nation. The role of Christine Missionaries in spreading the education and making Indians familiar with the liberal principles of the west is very significant.

In case of Bombay Karnataka the western education immensly helped for the growth of nationalism. The intellectuals of Bombay Karnataka region went to Poona and Bombay for higher studies, where they came in contact with the Nationalist leaders such as Dadabhai Naoroji, G.K.Gokhale, B.G.Tilak, K.T.Telang, Pherozshah Mehta and others. The ideas of these nationalist leaders inspired these intellectuals of Bombay Karnataka to take the task of awakening the spirit of nationalism among the people of Bombay Karnataka.
Apart from the above mentioned factors, Economic factors was the most important factor for the growth of nationalism in India. Many intellectuals or educated middle class were in favour of British rule for its initial impact on India. The centralised administration, maintenance of law and order, spread of western education, introduction of railways, telegraph, postal system, modern roads etc. But this belief did not last long as they quickly understood the true nature of British rule, for most of the nationalist leaders deteriorating economic situation of the country opened the eyes. As B.G Tilak wrote in 1983 “How the people were dazzled at first by the discipline of the British, railways, telegraph, Roads, Bridges and schools bewildered the people. Riottes ceased and people could enjoy peace and calm, people began to say that even a blind person can safely travel from Benaras to Rameshwar with gold tied to a stick, But as the influence of the wine does not last long this illusion arising out of the revolution did not last long. The blind man may travel with gold tied to his stick but day-by-day people realised that gold was getting scarce”.

Thus the growing poverty and its impact, agriculture policies and high land revenue rack rented the peasantry, de-industrialisation i.e. Indian handicraft industries were ruined and modern industries were deliberately discouraged, food supply of the country was exported, which resulted in starvation deaths during famines, and Indian labour was enslaved in plantations of commercial crops, railways extended in neglect of irrigation, ultimately the Indian wealth was drained. The economic evils were the consequences of British economic policies. These evils convinced the nationalist leaders that the British rule was economically injurious to India and it is perhaps deliberately designed policy of Britian. Hence, the economic
grievance played a significant part in fostering anti-British feeling, because Indian nationalist leaders like G.K Gokhale, G.V.Joshi, D.E Wacha, Surendranath Banerjee, R.C.Dutt, Dadabhai Naoraji, B.G.Tilak, M.G. Ranade etc. convinced that the colonial rule transformed the Indian economy to subserve the British economy and thought of resisting these evil policies of the government. So that they began to awaken the masses to unite against the alien rule to get economic independence first, they were of the opinion that if they were given the option to choose between political and economic swaraj they would certainly choose economic swaraj.

The thesis “Genesis and Growth of Economic Nationalism in Bombay Karnataka” is an attempt to study these economic evils as the base for nourishing nationalism at micro level in Bombay Karnataka. Hence to conclude, the concept of nationalism and Economic nationalism are interlinked and the broader meaning of nationalism is a national spirit or aspiration to the interests of one’s own nation or the supreme loyalty of the overwhelming majority of the people, who share the same race, culture, language, common interest etc to form an independent country. While economic nationalism is the tendency to take all kinds of measures to promote the economic self-sufficiency of a nation or in other words. Economic Nationalism is the aspiration of people to be free economically from alien domination and maintain ones own country’s welfare, prosperity and so on.

Objectives of the Study

1) To know the Economic policies introduced by the British colonial rulers in Bombay Karnataka.

2) To know why the idea of Economic Nationalism developed in India in general and Bombay Karnataka in particular.
3) To bring out the role of economic factor in nourishing national consciousness and to discuss the contradiction that emerged in agrarian and commercial policies of the colonial rulers.

4) To know the role and impact of Nationalist leaders in the freedom struggle of Bombay Karnataka.

5) To bring out the role of local leaders in the growth of economic nationalism in Bombay Karnataka and the political significance in the freedom struggle of Bombay Karnataka.

6) To Assess the response of Educated intellectuals, students, women, peasants and masses.

7) To know the reaction of the colonial government towards the struggle for independence in Bombay Karnataka.

Scope of the Study

The third Anglo Maratha war in 1818 ended the Maratha rule over southern Maratha county i.e Bombay Karnataka. The scope of the study is confined to Bombay Karnataka. The four districts of colonial period viz. Belgaum, Dharwar, Karwar and Bijapur except the princely states of Ramadurga, Jamakhandi etc. These four districts were under Bombay Presidency during the British colonial rule. The establishment of Indian National congress in 1885 opened a new era in the sphere of national movement. The activities of nationalist leaders of Bombay Presidency like Dadabhai Navroji, M.G. Ranade, G.K.Gokhale, Ferozshah Mehta, B.G.Tilak etc. Their ideas and its impact on the local leaders of Bombay Karnataka particularly choosen for study.

In this work the main emphasis is given to examine the role of press, Kannada and Marathi along with Anglo vernacular paper of the region, which played a significant role in awakening the national spirit among the people. The vernacular
press exposed the true nature of colonial rule and economic exploitation. So in this study an attempt has been made to examine the impact of Nationalist leaders of Bombay Presidency and response of local leaders as well as the role of vernacular press in the growth of Economic Nationalism in Bombay Karnataka.

**Aim of the study**

The principal aim of the study is a critical appraisal of the economic policies of the British colonial rulers in Bombay Karnataka. How these economic exploitative policies of colonial rulers became the nourishing factor for the growth of nationalism in Bombay Karnataka which have not received adequate treatement in the works done so far.

**Research Methodology**

A careful investigation of primary and secondary sources is essential for the research. This study is based on Archival Sources available at National Archives of India, Maharashtra state archives Mumbai and its branch at Poona and Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi.

In this study the proceedings of Indian National Congress, Provincial conferences of congress, Legislative Councils, Speeches and Writings of Nationalist Leaders, vernacular papers, Journals, Periodicals, Biographies of eminent leaders, Gazetteers, Annual Industrial conference reports, Government files of Revenue, Commerce, Agriculture, Education Departments etc. have been utilized.

We have mainly utilised the Reports on the Native News Papers of Bombay Karnataka, which were a weekly official summary of the editorial and articles on the
burning issues of those days. In fact the articles written in the local language papers were translated into English and reproduced. They were rendered into English by confidential persons under the strict supervision. Only the officers of the rank of Divisional commissioner and above had access to these Reports. We have used these reports extensively for the research. They were immense helpful mainly for the article appeared in marathi and Kannada News Papers of Bombay Karnataka regarding the burning economic issues during colonial rule.

The research included following methodology, firstly, collection of data from various repositories, secondly, systematic organization of the data, thirdly, analysis and criticism, fourthly concluding and reconstructing the findings.

Review of Literature

Literature is required for research for understanding deeply in solving the problems of the study.

Bipan Chandra’s book The Rise and Growth of Economic Nationalism in India 1880-1905, presented a graphic views of Economic Nationalism in ndia, he extensively used the archival sources, where he discussed various economic issues and ideas of Nationalist leaders on them. Our research comes very close to it. Ch.M. Naidu’s Nationalism in South India – Its economic and social background 1885-1918, is a study of socio-economic aspects of South India i.e., Madras presidency under colonial rule. It emphasizes the economic aspects like agriculture, land revenue, forest, salt etc. and social aspects responsible for the growth of nationalism. R.C. Dutt’s Economic History of India (2 Vol.) is a lucid History of industries, trade and manufactures and, land settlement of India under colonial rule.
R.D. Choksey's *Economic history of Bombay Karnataka 1818-1939* throws light on economic conditions of Bombay Karnataka like agriculture, land revenue, forest, irrigation, famines etc. Ajit Dasgupta’s – *A History of Indian Economic thought* London 1993, dealt with famine policy, drain theory of Dadabhai Naoroji, ideas of Ranade and Gandhiji on Indian conditions of India under British rule. A.R. Desai’s – *Social Background of Indian Nationalism* in this book effort was made to give a composite picture of the complex and variegated process of the rise of Indian Nationalism and its various manifestations.

These scholars have studied economic Nationalism or economic aspects on all India level, though there are reference of regional level but no in depth study has done so far on this topic and area with a economic nationalism as base, hence, it is essential to study this aspect in detail.

**Chapterisation**

This study is organised into 10 chapters. The FIRST CHAPTER covers Introduction, Summary of the thesis Meaning of Economic Nationalism, Objectives of the Study, Scope of the study, aims of the Study, Review of Literature and Research Methodology.

In the SECOND CHAPTER the Geographical and Historical background of Bombay Karnataka has been covered. The four districts viz. Belgaum, Dharwar, Karwar (North Canara) and Bijapur were part of Bombay Presidency during British rule. The Bombay Karnataka roughly covered 54,491 sq.km area and lies between $13^0 53' \text{ North}$ to $17^0 26' \text{ North}$ latitude and $74^0 21' \text{ East}$ to $76^0 35' \text{ East}$ longitude.
Historically many dynasties ruled over Bombay Karnataka starting from Mauryas, the Kadambas, the Chalukyas, the Rasthrakutes, the Vijayanagara, the Adilshahis of Bijapur, the Mughals, the Marathas. After the fall of the Mughal empire, Marathas brought the whole of Northern Karnataka under their sway, which then popularly called as southern maratha country. With the fall of maratha’s in 1818 A.D this area was transferred to Bombay Presidency. In the beginning Dharwad was made the headquarter, but later on collectors were appointed in all these four districts.

The THIRD CHAPTER deals with ideology of Nationalist Leaders and Growth of Economic Nationalism in India. The policies of the early nationalist leaders of India and Bombay Presidency particularly and its impact on the local leaders of Bombay Karnataka who visited Bombay and Poona for the purpose of higher education will be studied. The nationalist leaders of Bombay Presidency. Here on attempt will be made to see the perculation of these ideas in Bombay Karnataka.

In the FOURTH CHAPTER aspects relating to Agriculture & Irrigation will be discussed. Agriculture in Bombay Karnataka, although the region was more fertile, was backward, mainly because of the negligence on the part of British rulers. The districts of Dharwar and Belgaum had a good quality black soil, which was suited for the cultivation of cotton. It was here the American cotton was experimented and grown, which supplied raw cotton to the factories of England during American civil war. The government policies on agriculture were in the interest of Britian. The interest and aspirations of Indian people were completely neglected.
Though there are many rivers in the Bombay Karnataka region. Such as Krishna, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Doni, Kali etc. People faced the problem of scarcity of water because of the negligence of the government. Even to repair the existing tank like Dambal tank (Gadag Tq) and, Gadikeri tank the government considered it as a public charge and the beneficiaries were asked to contribute in equal proportion. The attempt to build Gokak canal etc. will be covered.

The FIFTH CHAPTER deals with Land Revenue System in Bombay Karnataka. Broadly speaking British Government introduced three kinds of revenue settlement in India viz permanent land revenue system, Ryotwari and Mahalwari settlement. Thomas Munro who was the commissioner of Bombay Karnataka from 1818 to 1826 and Reed recommended the introduction of Ryotwari settlement in Bombay Presidency. The most severe defect of the land revenue system in Bombay Presidency was the heavy assessment, which was continuously increased at every revised settlement. So the land revenue policy of the government was one of the most oppressive weapon. This oppression provoked the peasantry and the spirit of nationalism awakened among the masses by nationalist leaders.

The SIXTH CHAPTER deals with forests the government policy on forest was very rigid one. Under the colonial rule more than 80% of land in North Canara and western part of Belgaum and Dharwad were under forest. Since this region falls under western ghats it possesses evergreen forest, it is known for quality wood like rose wood, teak wood, honne, matti, nandi, sandal wood etc. Bomboo is also abundantly grown in this area. Which helped for the growth of paper industries at Dandeli in Uttar Kannada. About 5% of the total area under forest was useful for
commercial exploitation in Bombay Presidency. But 50% of the total forest Bombay Karnataka region was exploited for commercial purpose. The timber was largely used for railways. The Forest Act of 1878 prevented the people to get neither fodder (grass, leaves, etc.,) nor fire wood from the reserved forest. The dissatisfaction of the public especially against the forest Act united the local leaders who formed Kannada Vanadukkha Nivarani Sabha in 1886 at Sirsi.

In the SEVENTH CHAPTER aspects related to Famines are covered. Famine occur due to the failure of rainfall, failure of crops or insufficient production of food grains, which were beyond human control. But, Famines were recurrent phenomena during the British rule. Mainly because of lapse on the side of the government.

Recurrent famine became the common feature and the colonial government did very little to eradicate these problems, it escaped by saying it is an act of god and human cannot do anything.

It was only after the nationalist leaders pressed the government to take some measure, the government took some steps like storage of food grain and fodder import, extension of communication, advancement of loans etc. Thus the grievance of famine proved as a powerful source for the nationalist leaders to build and spread the spirit of nationalism among the mass.

The EIGHT CHAPTER deals with Railway, Industry and Swadeshi. The British Government crushed Indian handicraft industries and brought misery to India by converting it into merely an agricultural country producing raw material to feed the industries in England. Before the advent of British, India was exporting high
quality cotton and silk manufactures, but the British industrial policy converted it in a few years time into a country importing cotton manufactures from England and exporting raw cotton to England. Even though the government policies destroyed the Indian handicraft industries and made large number of these artisans and dependent people unemployed, the government neither took any step to open the new industries nor provided employment to these dependent population. Due to the growth of nationalism and pressure from intellectual nationalist leaders, the government took few initiatives after 1885. To note few of them, The Gokak Water Power and Manufacturing Company was established in 1887 at Gokak falls, for converting cotton into yarn. Few wood based industries were opened in Uttar Kannada district like Kannigeri Saw Mill in 1875 and opened few cotton ginning and pressing factories.

The motive behind the introduction of railways was commercial gain of the company. Though the government argument was that railways could provide better security and communication. But the reality was it wanted to deploy its imported goods to the interiors of villages. The government spent huge amount on the construction of railways. The important railway line introduced by the British were, the Londa- Vasco line which was commissioned in 1888. The railway line connecting Pune and Harihara via Belgaum and Dharwad had began in 1889. Later on this line extended to Mysore via Bangalore. It included East Deccan or (Hutgi - Gadag) the South Deccan (Bellary Marmgoa), West Deccan (Pune-Londa by Miraj - Belgaum).

Nevertheless the construction of railways immensely helped for the growth nationalism as else in India in Bombay Karnataka also. The industrial policy of government provoked the nationalist, who responded in the form of swadeshi.
The NINTH CHAPTER deals with the Growth of Economic Nationalism under Gandhian Phase. In this chapter the economic ideas of Mahatma Gandhi like boycott of foreign goods, promotion of indigenous industries, popularisation of Swadeshi and Khadi by reviving hand spinning and hand weaving will be studied.

Here an attempt will be made to analyse Gandhiji’s Eleven point ultimatum before the launch of civil disobedience movement, khadi movement, salt satyagraha, forest satyagraha and no-tax campaign taken place during Gandhian period and attracted people towards Gandhiji in Bombay Karnataka to fight against the colonial exploitation.

The TENTH CHAPTER deals with the conclusion i.e the outcome of the study. This study hopes to make a tentative beginning in the direction of understanding some of the issues that attracted the intellectuals, who in turn popularised those issues to awaken the spirit of nationalism among the peasantry women, educated class and masses.

References and Notes

1. Alauddin Khalji collected half of the produce as land revenue to maintain regulate market system.
4. Quoted in Boyd C. Shafer, op.cit., p. 4
7. Quoted in Ch.M. Naidu, Nationalism in South India, Mittal Publication, Delhi, 1988, p. 1