Preface

Nation-building in India continues to be a matter of conjecture. The dialogues revolve round the different narratives in the fields of polity, economy and culture. At a substantive level, the contents of such dialogues are rooted in the political thinking of those Indian stalwarts, who devoted a substantial part of their thinking regarding the construction of the would-be independent Indian socio-politico-economic fabric, along with fighting against the British colonialism. The most domineering among these stalwarts are Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.

There is a debate, which has not lost its relevance uptill today, whether Gandhian ideas in large part contradict Nehruvian ideas or not and whether it would have been better, if India followed the footsteps of Gandhi rather than Nehru in building up her nation. This research does not offer any normative preference as a solution to this debate. What this thesis attempts instead is an exposition of their thoughts in contrasts and combinations regarding nation-building in India and to locate them in the broader perspective of modernity viz. Nehruvian acceptance of colonial modernity and Gandhian alternative to that colonial modernity.

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Rabindranath Bhattacharyya