


: I N T R O D U C T I O N :

Rabindra Nath Tagore was one of the greatest Indian thinkers of this century who developed his own original ideas about politics and nationalism. The 19th Century witnessed a Penetration of Western ideas in the traditional society like India. The advent of the Western ideas created a great stir in the Indian society and some Western political concepts and ideals were blindly accepted by the Indians. Nationalism, as the political ideal, was worshipped in India because it was considered to be a magical wand.

But there were some voices of dissent against this type of political modernization that accepted the western ideals without hesitation. Tagore was an important voice as he attempted to study ancient Indian ideals in the light of new situation and modern political ideals in the light of ancient Indian political wisdom. He was a very conscious observer of the modernization of Indian society. He made a critical study of the western concept of nationalism and pointed out inherent weaknesses and dangers in the idealisation of nationalism at the cost of

internationalism. He raised some very important points against the concept of nationalism and other western values that were accepted without any critical outlook.

Tagore's ideas on nationalism are mainly expressed in his book on ' Nationalism '. In the present thesis, his ideas on nationalism are coherently and systematically presented and critically analysed,. This research work is in fact the fruition of able guidance and supervision of my research guide Dr. Ashok S. Chousalkar, Reader of Political Science, Shivaji University, who spent his valueable time in supervising this work and I shall remain ever grateful to him for this benevolent act. I shall be thankful to Dr. K. K. Kavlekar, Professor & Head of the Department of Political Science, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for imparting the original ideas about Indian renaissance. I shall also be thankful to Professor G. N. Guru for his valuable suggestions and encouragement in my work. I thank Mr. Anupchanda sending me important original material from Calcutta. I am grateful to the Librarian Barr. Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. I also thank Shri. Subhash Toraskar for typing the thesis.


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