

PREFACE

Indian freedom movement began to gradually assume character of a mass movement in Gandhian era. Mahatma Gandhi appeared on the political scene of India around the year 1917 with his novel techniques of struggle. He had evolved those techniques in South Africa. He launched in all three great agitations for winning national independence of India. Civil Disobedience movement (1930 to 1934) has its own significance. Civil Disobedience movement of 1930 possessed many outstanding features. It was perhaps the first political movement to reach the rural parts and different sections of the society and to become a mass movement in true sense of the term. So far scholars have studied the Civil Disobedience movement in only general terms and at the national level. Efforts are now being made to carefully study the regional varieties of Civil Disobedience movement with the help of available sources in regional languages.

In the case of Maharashtra no scholar has thoroughly studied the history of Civil Disobedience movement. It was only Shankarrao Dev who wrote a book on the history of this movement in Maharashtra long ago. So, I decided to study the important aspects and outstanding features of Civil Disobedience movement in Maharashtra. For the purpose of this study the term Maharashtra means and includes the present State of Maharashtra. For the preparation of this work, published primary and secondary sources pertaining to the

topic of research available both in English and Marathi, have been utilised. The primary sources include the Bombay Police Daily Reports, the Bombay Presidency Police Abstracts and Intelligence Reports, the Central Provincial Police Abstracts and Intelligence Reports, etc.. They are mostly of confidential nature. Government of Maharashtra has recently published a big volume containing those sources. Besides, a number of standard works related to the topic of research have also been used for the production of this work.

This dissertation has been divided into four major chapters. In the first chapter background of the Civil Disobedience movement has been carefully analysed. In this chapter one gets the clear picture of important factors that were responsible for the movement. The second chapter deals with an important phase of Salt Satyagraha. A series of Salt Satyagrahas that took place in Maharashtra have been discussed in detail in this chapter. In the third chapter the famous Forest Satyagrahas have been highlighted. Chapter Four has been devoted to the study of boycott of foreign goods and picketing. In this chapter the case of martyrdom of Babu Genu and Sholapur Martial Law have been specially studied. This chapter is followed by the last chapter that contains major research findings. A bibliography of the work is appended at the end.

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