

The National Movement under Extremist Leadership -

After 1905, the Extremists acquired a dominant influence once over the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal due to following reasons -

- The Moderate-led movement had failed to yield results.
- The divisive tactics of the governments of both the Bengals had embittered the nationalists.
- Restriction on public meetings, prosecution and long imprisonment of Swadeshi workers.

The militant nationalists tried to transform the anti-partition and Swadeshi Movement into a mass struggle and gave the slogan of India, ⁸ independence from foreign rule.

"Political freedom is the lifebreath of a nation" declared Aurobindo. Lala Lajpat Rai thundered "No nation is worthy of any political status if it can not distinguish between begging rights and claiming them. He further argued that sovereignty exists with the people, the state exists for them and rules in their name."

Another leading extremist leader Bal Gangadhar Tilak was quick to set the political goal of India - Swaraj or self-government instead of reform in administration. He showed great confidence and ability, when he declared, "Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it. The use of religious symbols and festivals by Tilak and Lajpat Rai was intended to unite India both politically and culturally.