

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2017 · 10 marks

Differentiate Moderate Nationalism from Extremist/Militant Nationalism in terms of their objectives and means.

FLOW SNAPSHOT — how the answer moves

Intro routes R1 both Congress phases after 1885, anti-colonial → diverge on objectives (what to demand) + means (how)

R2 shared nationalist goal → split over scope of demand and method, not over patriotism

Body flow Objectives — Moderates → gradual reform inside the colonial frame (representation, councils, rule of law, Home Rule) → trust in British liberalism (**Naoroji**: justice-loving British, reasonableness of demands) → Extremists reject the faith → Swaraj + national self-respect (**Tilak**: "Swaraj is my birthright"). Means — Moderates → petitions, prayers, memorials, constitutional agitation → Extremists → boycott, Swadeshi, national education, passive resistance + cultural / festival energy (**Aurobindo**: "political mendicancy")

Counter-view **Bipan Chandra** → Moderate method not mere submissiveness → both phases predecessors of Gandhi's struggle

Conclusion routes R1 parting at the Surat Split, 1907 → over method and pace, not the goal
R2 two complementary stages → together built the ground for Gandhian mass politics

Moderate and Extremist nationalism formed two phases of the Congress after 1885. Both opposed colonial subordination, but they differed sharply on what to demand and how.

In their objectives, the Moderates sought gradual reform within the colonial frame. The reforms included greater Indian representation, expansion of councils, rule of law & Home Rule. They trusted British liberalism. Dadabhai Naoroji held that the British were a justice-loving people who needed to be shown the reasonableness of Indian demands.

The extremists rejected this faith and demanded Swaraj and national self-respect outright. Bal Gangadhar Tilak declared, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it." Their means differed too. Moderates used petitions, prayers, memorials and constitutional agitation.

Extremists turned to boycott, Swadeshi, national education & passive resistance, drawing on cultural and festival energy. Sri Aurobindo dismissed moderate politics as "political mendicancy."

According to Bipin Chandra the Moderate method was not mere submissiveness and both phases prepared Gandhi's struggle. They parted at the Surat split, 1907 over method and pace but not the goal.