

Explain Allama Iqbal's concept of Nationalism

Introduction

"ایک یوں مسلم حرم کی پاسداری کے لئے
یہاں کے ساحل سے لے کر تاجکاب کا مقصد"

"Muslims should be unite to protect
the sanctity of the Holy Kaaba,
from the shores of the Nile to the
lands of Koshgar."

Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877 - 1938)
was a poet, philosopher, and political
thinker who played a key role in awakening
the political consciousness of Muslims in
the Indian subcontinent. Iqbal's concept
of nationalism was different from Western
nationalism.

Evolution of Iqbal's Nationalism

Iqbal's view on nationalism transformed
from territorial patriotism to Islamic nationalism.

Early views on Nationalism

(Pre 1905)

Allama Iqbal believed in territorial nationalism and saw India as a united nation for both Hindus and Muslims.

"سارے جہاں سے انجمن ہندوستان ہمارا"

"ہم بلیں ہیں اس کی یہ گلستان ہمارا"

Translation

The best land in the world is our India,
we are its nightingales, this is our garden.

At this stage Iqbal saw nationalism as a unifying force among the people of India, regardless of religion.

Change in Iqbal's thought

Post 1905

After studying in Europe (1905-1908) Iqbal realized that western nationalism divided people. He saw the failure of nationalism in Balkan wars and the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire. He rejected territorial nationalism and

started advocating for an Islamic
identity based on faith, not geography

چین و عرب ہمارا، سروساں ہمارا

مسلم ہیں ہم وطن ہے سارا جہاں ہمارا

Translation:

China and Arabia are ours, India is
ours we are Muslim the whole world
is our homeland.

Iqbal's Concept of Nationalism in the Allahabad Address (1930)

Allama Iqbal's Allahabad Address
of 1930 was a defining moment in the
history of Muslim nationalism in South
Asia. He rejected the western concept
of nationalism based on territorial
boundaries and instead proposed a
nationalism rooted in Islamic identity
and the unity of the Muslim ummah.
Iqbal envisioned an independent Muslim state

in northwestern India, where Muslims
could live according to Islamic principles

Iqbal's Vision of Nationalism

Iqbal argued that Muslims were a
distinct nation with their own culture,
traditions, laws and civilization. He believed
that western style nationalism divided
the ummah, weakens Muslim unity
and leads to conflicts. He proposed
the creation of a separate Muslim
state, which later became the
foundation for the Pakistan Movement.

ہمیں مقننہ و فطرت ہے، یہی (عز مسلمان)
اخوت کی جہانگیری، محبت کی فراوانی

قوم مزہب سے ہے مزہب جو میں تم ہی میں
جڑ ہم جو میں عقل انجم ہی میں

Translation

This is the purpose of nature, this is the
secret of being Muslim.

To spread the band of brotherhood and

the abundance of love

A nation exists because of religion;
without religion, there is no existence
If unity is absent, even the gathering of
stars is meaningless.

Western Nationalism

Western nationalism emerged in 18th
and 19th century in Europe. French Revolution
(1789) played a crucial role in spreading
nationalism. philosophers like

- Jean Jacques Rousseau
- Johann Gottfried Herder
- Giuseppe Mazzini

Key features

<u>Territorial Identity</u>	<u>Ethnic and linguistic unity</u>	<u>Secularism</u>
A nation is tied to a specific land and its people are united through shared boundaries	A common race language or cultural background from the basis of national identity	Religion is considered a personal matter and is separated from state affairs.

Political Sovereignty

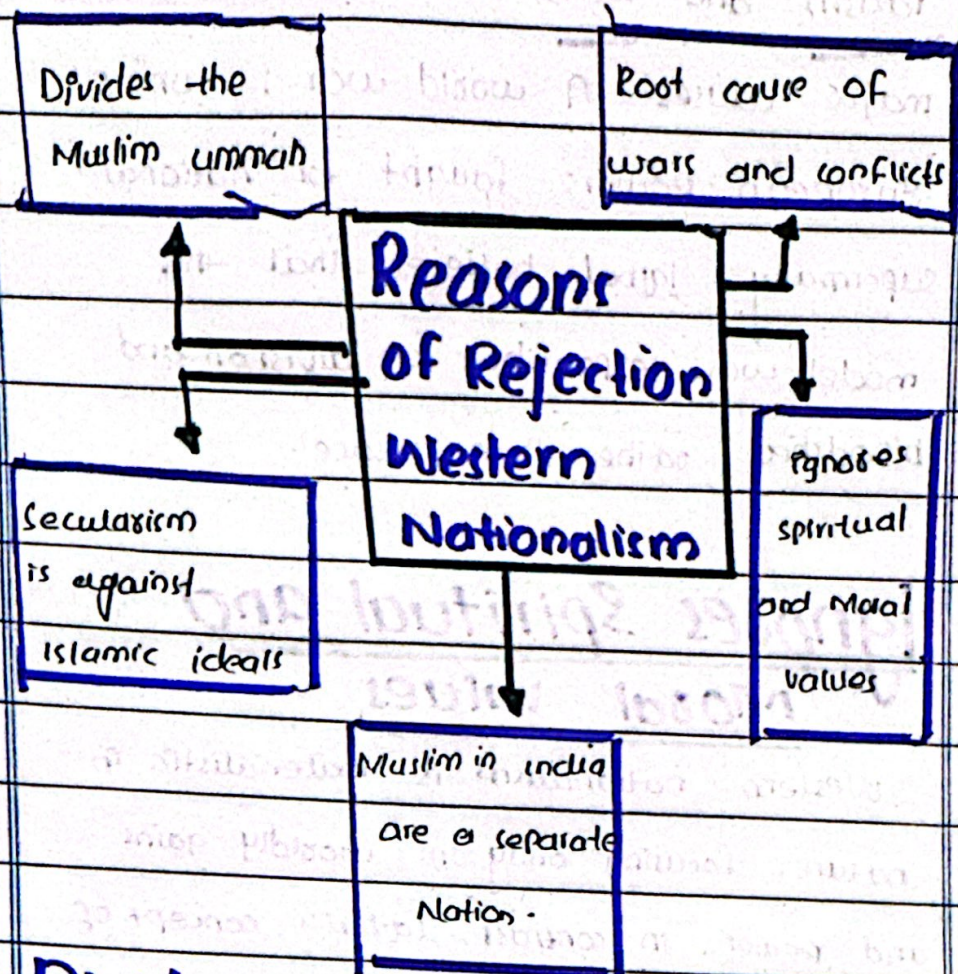
A nation should be self governed without interference from external forces.

Western nationalism played a significant role in colonial expansion, revolution and wars shaping modern political thought. However it also led to ethnic conflicts, racism and territorial disputes as seen in the two world wars.

Iqbal Rejects Western

Nationalism:

Iqbal strongly opposed western nationalism because he believed it was incompatible with Islamic principles. His rejection was based on several reasons:



Divides the Muslim Ummah-

western nationalism separates people based on territory, whereas Islam unites Muslims under a single religious identity. Iqbal argued that Muslims belong to the same ummah regardless of where they live.

Root Cause of wars and conflicts-

Western nationalism fueled imperialism

racism and wars. It was one of the major causes of world war I, where European powers fought for national supremacy. Iqbal believed that this model was responsible for division and bloodshed, rather than peace.

Ignores Spiritual and Moral values

Western nationalism is materialistic in nature, focusing only on worldly gains and power. In contrast, Iqbal's concept of nationalism was based on Islamic teachings, morality and spiritual progress.

Secularism is Against Islamic Ideals

Western nationalism separates religion from politics, which contradicts the Islamic belief that religion and governance should be interlinked. Islam provides a complete code of life.

Iqbal's Concept of Millat:

Iqbal's concept of Millat refers to the global unity of Muslims based on Islam rather than race or geography. Western nationalism divides people based on territory, while Millat unites Muslims across borders.

Purpose: Iqbal wanted Muslims to rise as one ummah, following Islamic principles in politics, economy and society. He saw early Islamic caliphate as the ideal system for Muslim unity.

فرد قائم رہتا ہے ملت سے ہے اس کا کچھ نہیں
صوبہ ہے دریا میں، بیرون دریا کچھ نہیں

Translation

An individual exists only through the bond of the Millat. Alone, he is nothing. A wave exists in the river outside the river, it is nothing.

Iqbal's Concept of Pan-Islamism

Iqbal Pan-Islamism is the belief that all Muslims should be politically, economically and culturally united to regain their strength.

Against Imperialism: He opposed colonial powers that divided the Muslim world.

Practical Approach

unlike idealists, Iqbal did not demand a single global state, but called for cooperation among Muslim nations.

ایک بیوں مسلم حرم کی یاسبانی کے لیے
نیل کے ساحل سے لے کر تاخجاک کا شہر

Translation

Muslim should be unite to guard the sacred land, from the shores of the Nile to the lands of Kashghar.

Conclusion :

Iqbal's nationalism was based on Muslim unity rather than Territorial or ethnic identity. Initially, he viewed nationalism positively, but later rejected western nationalism as divisive. In his Allahabad Address (1930), he proposed a separate Muslim state, emphasizing Millat and Pan-Islamism over territorial nationalism. His vision laid the ideological foundation for Pakistan, promoting Islamic unity and justice instead of western nationalistic divisions.
