



Naxalbari Movement in the Socio-Political Perspective

Babai Singh

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, North Bengal University, Darjeeling-734013

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ABSTRACT

During the decades of 1960, the Naxalbari movement was considered one of the most important movements in India. The Naxalbari movement was a peasant uprising that took place in 1967 in the Naxalbari village of West Bengal, India. The movement was led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), (CPI-ML) and was marked by violent clashes between the peasants and the police. The movement was a significant event in Indian history and had far-reaching consequences for the country's politics and society. The present paper tries to explore Naxalbari Movement in Socio-Political perspective

I. Introduction

The Naxalbari movement was the culmination of a long process of peasant mobilization and radicalization in West Bengal. In the 1950s and 1960s, the state was experiencing significant social and economic changes, including the introduction of new agricultural technologies and the growth of a wealthy landowning class. However, these changes also led to increase poverty and inequality among the peasant population.

II. Causes of the Movement:

The Naxalbari movement was caused by a combination of factors, including:

i.Landlessness: Many peasants in Naxalbari were landless and were forced to work as labourers on the land of wealthy landlords.



ii. Poverty: The peasants of Naxalbari were extremely poor and were struggling to survive on meagre incomes.

iii. Exploitation: The peasants were exploited by wealthy landlords who charged them high rents and interest rates.

iv. Lack of access to education and healthcare: The peasants of Naxalbari had limited access to education and healthcare, which further exacerbated their poverty and exploitation.

III. Key issues of the Movement:

The Naxalbari movement was marked by several key events, including:

i. The peasant uprising: On May 25, 1967, a group of peasants in Naxalbari rose up in revolt against the wealthy landlords and the police.

ii. The formation of the CPI-ML: The CPI-ML was formed in 1969 by a group of radical communist leaders, including Charu Majumdar and Kanu Sanyal.

iii. The Srikakulam movement: In 1969, the CPI-ML led a peasant uprising in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, which was brutally suppressed by the police.

IV. Relevance and Impact of the Movement:

The Naxalbari movement, which began in 1967 in West Bengal, India, was a significant incident in Indian history. Here are some of the key significances of the Naxalbari movement:

Social and Economic Significance:

i. Highlighting peasant exploitation: The movement highlighted the exploitation of peasants by wealthy landlords and the need for land reform.

ii. Empowerment of marginalized communities: The movement empowered marginalized communities, including peasants, workers, and tribal people, to assert their rights and challenge the existing power structure.

iii. Focus on social and economic inequality: The movement drew attention to the social and economic inequality in India and the need for a more equitable distribution of resources.



V. Political Significance:

i. Radicalization of Indian politics: The Naxalbari movement contributed to the radicalization of Indian politics, with many politicians and activists embracing radical left ideologies.

ii. Emergence of Maoist movement: The movement marked the emergence of the Maoist movement in India, which has continued to influence Indian politics and society.

iii. Challenge to the Indian state: The movement posed a significant challenge to the Indian state, highlighting the need for more effective governance and accountability.

VI. Ideological Significance:

i. Influence of Maoist ideology: The movement was influenced by Maoist ideology, which emphasized the importance of peasant-led revolution and the need for a more equitable distribution of resources.

ii. Critique of Indian democracy: The movement offered a critique of Indian democracy, highlighting its limitations and the need for more radical change.

iii. Alternative vision of development: The movement offered an alternative vision of

development, emphasizing the importance of social and economic equality and the need for a more sustainable and equitable model of development.

VII. Legacy:

i. Inspiration for future movements: The Naxalbari movement has inspired future movements, including the Maoist movement, which continues to influence Indian politics and society.

ii. Continued relevance: The movement's emphasis on social and economic inequality, exploitation, and the need for more radical change continues to be relevant today.

iii. Remembered as a symbol of resistance: The Naxalbari movement is remembered as a symbol of resistance against oppression and exploitation, inspiring future generations to continue the struggle for social and economic justice.



VIII. Conclusion:

The Naxalbari movement was a significant event in Indian history that highlighted the poverty, exploitation, and inequality faced by the country's peasant population. The movement inspired the growth of radical left movements across India and contributed to the radicalization of Indian Politics.

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