

C-4

Communalism

Definition: Using social traditions to mobilise people, generally to satisfy some vested interests.

- 1) India -> Religion
- 2) USA -> Race
- 3) West Asia -> Shia – Sunni (Sectarianism)
- 4) Africa -> Tribal

Bipin Chandra -> 3 types of communalism (Communal communalism),(Extreme Communalism)

- 1) **Liberal** communalism - Similar secular interests, different religions interests
- 2) **Communal** Communalism - Different secular interests, different religions interests
- 3) **Extreme** Communalism - Different secular interests, different religions interests but 2 communities cannot exist together.

Causes:

- 1) Unhealthy Competition for opportunities
- 2) Different perception of history
- 3) Events in past -> Partition
- 4) Vested interests
- 5) Insecurity in religious minorities
- 6) Perception of threat even majority
- 7) International linkages

Consequences:

- 1) Atmosphere of unrest
- 2) Violent clashes
- 3) Loss of life & property
- 4) Hindrance to social change
- 5) Continued distrust
- 6) Forced migration
- 7) Xenophobia
- 8) Ghettoization
- 9) Political Mobilisation

B-6 and C-4

Problems of Religious Minorities

Religious Minorities : Significantly different Identity & in Minority.

Jaganath Pathy: 4 dimensions of Problems related with Religious Minorities

- 1) Subordination (Physical | Economic)
- 2) Deprivation (Material | Empl. | Education)
- 3) Inferiority (majority culture gets celebrated)
- 4) Distinctiveness (manifestly)

Otherwise, various other problems as well:

- 1) Low literacy (ghettoisation, Terrorism)
- 2) Identity (Suspicion, Housing Problems -> Kashmiri Pandit)
- 3) Political representation
- 4) Identity in Transition (eg. – Kashmiri Pandits)
- 5) Ethnocentrism (Shown by majority)
- 6) Problem of preserving culture
- 7) Violence communal Tensions, Riots
- 8) UCC

C-4

Religious fundamentalism

Infallibility of texts + Selective usage of texts

A movement or belief calling for **return to fundamentals or basic texts**. Consider certain original values to be pure

This is in direct contrast to modernism

Can be traced back to Protestantism in 1920s in USA and recently in Islam

Reasons

1. According to Giddens- reasons is high modernity and globalisation
2. Whenever there is a period of drastic social change, which disturbs the order--> leading to loss of identity or rootlessness---> people clutch onto any support available
3. Fundamentalism promises earlier better age (Taliban did so). The psychological appeal is difficult to resist for people
4. Perception of threat
5. Economic deprivation
6. Vested intants
7. Lack of modern education

Means

- To bring back the earlier better age- fundamentalists build rigid belief system and practice--> developing intense commitment among believers
- This belief system is so rigid that non believers are denied their rights
- So very often fundamentalism takes aggressive militant stand, where killing is justified

Challenge lies in the balance

Secularism: 4 basic Tenets

- 1) **Tolerance**
- 2) **Flexibility**
- 3) **Rationality**
- 4) **Coexistence**

D.Smith -> India has strong secular credentials & makes all efforts to establish it.

Desacralisation

Opposite of Sacred

Means supernatural beliefs are no longer seen as controlling the world. Action is no longer controlled by religious belief

Consequences of fundamentalism

Negatives

- Orthodoxy
- Intolerance
- Hinders progressive social change
- Riots, wars
- Perpetuation of social evils (women at greater receiving end)

Positives

- Helps in checking abrupt social change
- Brings solidarity
- Political, social mobility

Clifford Geertz → Ideology based belief system & phenomenon.

Exists at Latent Level but becomes problematic when Manifested.