

- A region is an imagined space with a common language, particular people & their attachment to that space.
- The culture of a region distinguishes it from other forms of spatial & political forms.
- Region is always interpreted on the basis of geography, culture & so on.
- It is also linked to state, political parties, leaders & other institutions.
- The people in a nation state demands recognition for the separate region due to marginalization, feeling of alienation, lack of access to resources, absence of dignity and so on.
- A region is interpreted on the grounds of geographical location, or a historically determined spatial construction.
- The salient features of a region reflect persistence, language, regeneration, re-assertion and so on.
- Therefore, it is theorized as a culturally driven construct.
- It is asserted that region has linkages with the labour of the community, the oral & verbal mosaic related to culture, & so on
- The regionalism means to situate the approach & sentiments towards the particular region.
- Regionalism can be a form of resistance against the imposition of a particular cultural ideology that is linked to the integration of a nation.
- Regionalism is found to have connections with the cultural patterns that exist as a part of the dominant culture.
- Sometimes, it becomes a threat to the nation state by regional groups who struggle for their particular sectional interests.

HISTORY OF REGIONALISM

- Pre-independent India was a land with fragmented regions that possessed autonomy in different degree.
- British colonizers re-structured those regions for colonial exploitation
- Privileged sections responded to British colonialism in two ways
 - 1) They adopted colonial modernity for their upward mobility.
 - 2) They questioned the colonial onslaught on their region.
- Various strata of people in India associated themselves with their regional cultures.
- The regional cultures shape the consciousness of plural & unequal masses that are scattered throughout the country
- Colonial modernity structured the regional cultures in different ways. Missionaries and the British rulers

engaged with the regional knowledge systems in a creative manner.

- They constructed schools & provided social mobility to the women and other marginalized sections.
- They codified the regional & vernacular knowledge for purpose of governance. This helped the codification of the vernacular cultures.
- The interests related to the 'civilizing mission of the orient' are political in nature.
- According to G. Aloysius (2007) India was 'colonized by caste' before the entry of British colonizers.
- However, post-colonial formation of an independent Indian state re-configured new class and caste structures under the form of new sovereignty.
- The existence of relative deprivation is one of the most important aspects in constructing the argument for regionalism.
- If the people from any particular region feel that they are more deprived than others in terms of distribution of resources, infrastructures & so on, then it may create regional affiliation.
- Gorkha Nationalist Liberation Forum (GNLF) started its movement in the Darjeeling.
- This sort of sentiment to have a separate region is often manipulated by the community leaders within the region, political leaders & political parties according to their vested interests & ideological inclinations.
- The second significant factor for the emergence of regionalism is the issue of language & culture.
- Every individual's identity is based on the categories of language & culture which, once politicized, play an important role in the formation of region.
- According to Edward Sapir, language plays a vital role in the creation & determination of a region.
- Thus, the idea of region has to be explored in the context of language debates.
- Language is defined as the "human & non-instinctive modes of communicating ideas, feelings & desires by a system of voluntarily produced symbols" (Sapir, 1921:4).
- Consequently, the need for a region is linked to a population who converse in a particular language.
- This premise of a particular language excludes those communities that do not deploy that language for communication (Aloysius, 2007:11-13)
- After independence, the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru established the State Reorganization Committee which was amended in 1956.
- Paul Brass argues that it was done according to the traditional linguistic regions. For instance, current

states of Gujarat & Maharashtra were formed after the bifurcation of Bombay in 1960(Brass, 1999:169).

- State formation on the basis of language gives rise to some conflicts.
- For instance, the Tamil revolt against the Hindi belt shows the conflict related to languages.

POLITICAL INTEREST

- The higher classes & castes in a particular region subordinate the lower castes/ classes by imposing their pressure on the lower classes/caste.
- This power relationship creates different social and material interests in that region.
- The divisive character of a region as determined by caste /class creates chaos in that region.
- Therefore, it is argued that the concept of region challenges the nation-state
- In the post- independence period, regionalism is linked to the politics of ethnocentrism
- Natives of a particular region foreground their ontological(वस्तुमीमांसा) & epistemological(ज्ञान-मीमांसा) priorities over a particular region.
- Natives presume that they possess the authenticity over the issues & construction of subject related to that region.
- They imagine a sort of body politics that includes themselves and exclude the 'other' as outsiders.
- It is a process of "othering" for outsiders.
- At the same time, it is the return to 'self' for the natives.

FORMATION OF JHARKHAND

- It was demanded by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.
- All the political parties have played an active role in it.
- Area is rich in minerals such as iron ore, coal, copper ore, mica, bauxite, graphite, limestone, and uranium.
- Jharkhand state was formed on 15th November, 2000 which is the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.
- Earlier it consisted of eighteen districts of Bihar and currently has twenty four districts.
- Some of the tribal dominated districts of Jharkhand are Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh and so on.
- It is believed that the people from Jharkhand took inspiration from Birsa Munda based on his strong identity as a Jharkhandi.
- They also claimed relative deprivation as they were socially disadvantaged
- The reason was that the political leaders in Bihar allocated the resources to particular areas, alienating the other areas within Bihar.
- The rationale for creating this state is also based on the uniqueness of its tribal cultural heritage.
- The distribution of resources and the politics of development remain significant in the socio-economic structures in Jharkhand due to the continuing construction as relatively deprived and backward.

- Whenever any state formulation happens with the people's struggle, it has certain aspirations & demands, which may not be satisfied by state formation

TELANGANA MOVEMENT

- The separate Telangana movement started in 1969, based on the viewpoints of the State Reorganization Commission, which drew boundaries based on linguistic background.
- Interestingly, Telangana region is a part of Andhra Pradesh having a common language.
- The people of Telangana have a concern that the region has an underdeveloped economy as compared to other parts of Andhra Pradesh.
- In 1969, the govt was perceived as failing to fulfill its promises to the student groups of Telangana.
- It is argued that while deciding policies for distribution of water, budget allocations, and jobs, the political parties and leaders neglected the region of Telangana.
- The allocation of the budget for other regions of Andhra was always higher than for Telangana.
- Students groups in Osmania University in Hyderabad began the agitation for a separate region.
- The Telangana Congress party leader Chenna Reddy established the Telangana Praja Samithi which was a political party.
- In the May 1971 parliamentary elections, Samithi won 10 seats out of the 14 in the parliament.
- These issues of separate state were coopted by the politician from TPS and some of the leaders from the other parties also took up this question of a separate state.
- In 1972, the Jai Andhra movement was initiated.
- The movement demanded that those who stayed for more than 15 years in Hyderabad, under regimes of Mulki, should be considered eligible to apply for govt posts.
- In this case in 1972 the Supreme Court upheld the Mulki rules. Thus, the Jai Andhra movement again demanded a separate state.
- Political stability was brought by Govt of India with a Six-Point Formula.
- It was agreed upon by the two regions' leaders to stop such an agitation in future.
- In 1997, the Bharatiya Janata Party passed a resolution seeking a separate Telangana.
- It was the same party which has created the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand in 2000.
- Failure to create a separate Telangana state continued because of lack of consensus with the Telugu Desam Party.
- It leads to formation of the new party called Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) in 2001, whose leader was Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao, with the agenda to have a separate Telangana.

- Congress party & TRS declared an electoral alliance during 2004 Assembly & parliament elections.
- TRS included the demand for Telangana state within the common minimum programme during the coalition government of Congress.
- Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy disagreed for the separate state so TRS withdrew their support from the coalition government in September, 2006.
- TRS won the election to the Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency in December, 2006.
- During 2008 most of the TRS legislators deployed resignation as a part of their resistance. 4 MPs, 16 MLAs and 3 MLCs from TRS resigned.
- The election for these seats were again held on 29, May 2008.
- But, the referendum of TRS during by-election on Telangana was dismissed by the Congress and TDP.
- But, TRS secured only 7 out of 16 MLA seats. They secured 2 out of 4 seats for MPs.
- The struggle for Telangana created repercussions in other parties as well.
- Tulla Devender Goud, a politburo member & Deputy Leader of the Telugu Desam Party argued that he would be committed to the cause of Telangana. He resigned from the party in June, 2008
- Leaders like Peddi Reddy and Goud formed a new party called New Telangana Praja Party in July 2008.
- Paradoxically, TDP also declared its support for Telangana on 9th October 2008.
- Most of the parties responded to the cause of Telangana Party during 2009 general elections.
- Parties such as BJP asserted that they would be instrumental in the creation of two states such as Telangana and Gorkhaland as a condition for their victory in the election.
- Congress Party agreed to the cause of Telangana but the Muslims showed opposition against it.
- Minority parties were anxious whether the new state will affect the demands of minorities and potential of Urdu language.
- TRS declared its alliance with TDP to oppose the anti-Telangana position of Congress.
- Srikrishna Committee on Telangana submitted a report to Home Ministry of India on 30th December 2010.

REGIONALISM & WOMEN

- The role of women in relationship to region and regionalism remains invisible.
- For instance, the formations of separate states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh & Jharkhand have had various political wings of women.
- In the recent Telangana movement in which women are protesting for a separate Telangana, the participation of women is often ignored.
- Role of women in Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha shows the role played by women in the context of region and regionalism.

- The movement began under the banner of Chhattisgarh Mines Shramik Sangh (CMSS) which was a trade union of manual mine workers.
- However, this movement was conceived during the emergency period in 1977.
- Trade unions emerged in Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills at Rajnandgaon.
- There were other upsurges of trade unions during the same period i.e. 1984-1987.
- They approached this union, known as 'Lal Hara' (Red Green), which comes under Rajnandgaon Mazdoor Sangh.
- Industrial units at Jamul(Bhilai), Urala and Siltara(Raipur), Sarkanda(Bilaspur), Tedesara (Rajnandgaon) which was part of Raipur Industrial Development (RIDA) were already appropriated into this region.
- Consequently, it became part of M.P. Industrial Development Corporation or Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam(AKVN)
- This industrial growth was related to the incentives that were provided to Raipur Industrial Development Area.
- The major part of industrialization happened in privatized fields except public sector Bhilai Steel Plant.
- Industrialization accelerated the profit and pauperized the workers & resources.
- More workers got affiliated to the Lal Hara trade union & it resulted in increase in its membership.
- The Lal Hara trade union has different offshoots such as Pragatisheel Engineering Shramik Sangh (PESS), Chhattisgarh Mill Mazdoor Sangh & Chhattisgarh Shramik Sangh.
- Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha was an organization related to rural assertions in its earlier phase.

MAHILA MUKTI MORCHA

- Women's engagement has always been the main aspect of Chhattisgarh Mine Shramik Sangh.
- In the Dalli Rajhara, where the CMSS has its origin, women formed half the workforce.
- CMSS participated in the united struggle, the first strike of which was held in 1977.
- Working women lived under gruesome conditions in Dalli Rajhara, faced sexual harassment.
- Women who were part of CMSS Regions & Regionalism pursued legal action against CISF jawans who raped a tribal girl.
- It is argued that Mahila Mukti Morcha emerged during this period (1980-81).
- It addressed the problems which women faced such as wife-beating, problems related to marriage, sexual harassment of women & so on.
- Women achieved a separate platform to raise different forms of marginalities faced by them.
- Mahila Mukti Morcha operated in the informal living places of the contractual workers & unorganized workers at Dalli Rajhara.

- Women also demanded their rights from the administration.
- They demanded separate toilets for women.
- They also urged the authorities to take action against the recalcitrant men who harass women in the cinema halls.
- Activists of Mahila Mukti Morcha created consciousness among women at large. Thus, they mobilized many women and empowered them.
- Women started participating in demonstrations due to constant efforts of those activists.
- They conducted elections, public programmes which attracted most of the women.
- Large membership was a salient feature of the Mahila Mukti Morcha.
- They also engaged in conceptual and praxis oriented debates with the other activists who visited them.

IMPACT OF REGION ON WOMEN

- The social development of a particular region affects the gender relations of that region.
- For instance, women are socially mobile in places such as Kerala.
- Development in Kerala is linked to the history of the social movements.
- On the other hand, states such as Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh are backward in terms of development.
- Muslim women from Kashmir who demand a separate Kashmir are mobilized by the sub-regionalist/extremist politics which acts as a threat to the Indian nation.
- Women have raised their voice against the military apparatus as well as the impact of militancy on their lives, For instance the rape of women that took place at Shopian shows the brutal oppression.



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