

## 9. Moderate Phase (1885-1905)

The leaders of this period were DadabhaiNaraji, MahadevGovindaRanade, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, W.C. Banerjee, S.N. Banerjee, Pheroz Shah Mehta etc

### ▪ Moderates and their critique of British in the economic sphere:

They raised basic questions regarding the nature and purpose of British rule & clearly understood the fact that the essence of British imperialism lay in the subordination of the Indian economy to the British economy

### They did economic critique using following arguments:

1. Drain Theory
2. Critique of Railways
3. Deindustrialization of India

### Some Leaders behind Economic Critique

Leaders	Work
<b>Romesh Chandra Dutt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Retired ICS officer, published <b>The Economic History of India</b> at the beginning of the 20th century in which he examined in minute detail the entire economic record of colonial rule since 1757.</li></ul>
<b>Justice MG Ranade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Taught an entire generation of Indians the value of modern industrial development and said that if India is poor today it is because of economic policies of British.</li></ul>
<b>Dadabhai</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>He was also called the Grand old man of India</li><li>Gokhale called him Gladstone of India</li><li>Main proponent of Drain Theory</li><li>Wrote book titled – <b>Poverty &amp; un-British Rule in India</b></li></ul>

### ▪ Moderates and their Modus Operandi:

The moderates only followed the method of prayer, petition, representation, deputation and persuasion for which their approach was criticized as “political mendicancy”.

### Achievements of the Moderates:

- Economic critique of British Imperialism.
- Constitutional reforms and propaganda in legislature-Indian Councils Act of 1892, which increased the size of the legislative councils and also increased the proportion of non-officials in them.
- They were able to sow the seeds of nationalism in the people.
- They popularised ideals like democracy, liberty and equality.
- Leaders like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and M G Ranade were social reformers too and opposed child marriage and imposed widowhood.

### Limitations of Moderates:

- Exclusion of masses from the freedom struggle.
- They did not believe that India needed complete independence from Britain.
- Heavily inspired by western mode of political thinking.
- They were utilitarian in nature who believe that constitution is an unviable document
- Further they have a strong faith in British government and there right to rule.
- They equated liberty with class privileges and wanted gradual or piecemeal reforms.
- Their complaint was only about the un-British rule.