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Telangana Armed Struggle and Formation of Hyderabad State

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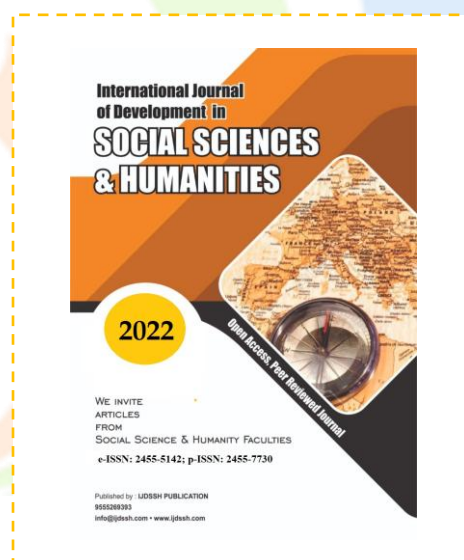
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ABSTRACT

One of the most important factors that led to the establishment of Hyderabad State was the Telangana Armed Struggle, which was a peasant rebellion against the feudal rule of the Nizam. In this research, the causes, course, and repercussions of the fight are investigated. Particular attention is paid to the impact that the conflict had on land reforms, social justice, and the eventual convergence of Hyderabad with India. The purpose of this research is to provide insights into the complex dynamics that led to the formation of Hyderabad State by analyzing the roles that key stakeholders, such as the Communist Party of India and local leaders, played in the process. It was the oppressive reign of the Nizam, feudal exploitation, and poverty that led to the formation of this movement. The primary strategies that have been employed throughout the conflict are guerrilla warfare, armed resistance, and the mobilization of peasants. The results of this campaign led to the implementation of land reforms, the promotion of social justice, and the final consolidation of the Nizam or Hyderabad state with India. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the Telangana Armed Struggle's significance in Indian history, highlighting its role in shaping the country's social, political, and economic landscape.

Keywords: *Armed Struggle; Razaakar terror; formation of state; Hyderabad State*

INTRODUCTION

The Telangana movement (1946-51) was an armed insurrection by peasants, led by the Communist Party of India, against the repressive landlordism endorsed by the dictatorial regime of the Nizam of Hyderabad. This era was crucial in Indian history due to its influence on the future of the communist movement in India and its emphasis on the plight of the Indian peasantry. The Telangana Armed Struggle, which was a peasant rebellion against the Nizam of Hyderabad and local landlords, and the subsequent foundation of Hyderabad State are two events that are linked in the history of Telangana and India. The fight, which was led by the Community Party of India (CPI), had the ultimate goal of integrating Hyderabad into the Indian Union and freeing the peasantry from the repressive customs of feudalism. During the time when the Nizam was in power in Hyderabad State, the Telangana Armed Struggle, which is sometimes referred to as the Telangana Rebellion, was a large peasant rebellion that was directed against the socio-economic inequities

that were widespread in the state. The princely state of Hyderabad was characterized by a feudal system, in which a few numbers of landowners (Jagirdars and Deshmukhs) owned the majority of the land. These landlords exploited the peasantry by charging them enormous rents, forcing them to work (utilizing the Vetti system), and engaging in other acts of abuse. In the beginning, the Andhra Mahasabha was primarily concerned with cultural matters; nevertheless, it eventually evolved into a forum where people could air their complaints against the Nizam's rule and the exploitative tactics of landowners. It was the Communist Party of India (CPI) that was instrumental in organizing and directing the armed struggle, as well as in motivating peasants and workers to fight against the feudal system and the Nizam's despotic rule. As one of the last states to join the Indian Union, the princely state of Hyderabad, which was controlled by the Nizam, was one of the members. The Indian Army initiated "Operation Polo" in September 1948, which ultimately resulted in the annexation of Hyderabad into the Indian Union. This was

due to the fact that discussions proved unsuccessful and the level of unrest continued to rise. After the annexation, the state of Hyderabad was incorporated into the Indian Union. The Telangana region, which had previously been a part of the newly formed state of Andhra Pradesh, eventually became a part of the Andhra Pradesh state in 1956. In 2014, after a long period of agitation for the separation, which may be commonly referred to as the Telangana Movement, Telangana finally broke away from Andhra Pradesh.

BACKGROUND

Social Factors:

Hyderabad state was a princely state that existed inside the borders of British India before to the independence of India. It was composed of three distinct linguistic regions: the Telangana region, which spoke Telugu, and included the capital city of Hyderabad; the Marathwada region, which spoke Marathi; and a minor Kannada-speaking section. Muslims made up the ruling elites, including the Nizam, but the mass of the population adhered to the Hindu religion. One of the most exploitative aspects of the land ownership system in the region was the character of. A total of forty percent of the land was either directly controlled by the Nizam or was handed to elites by the Nizam in the form of jagirs, which are special tenure policies. The remaining sixty percent fall under the jurisdiction of the government's land revenue system, which was dependent on powerful landlords and did not provide the people who actually cultivated the

land with any legal rights or protection against eviction. The prevalence of other exploitative tactics included the following: Vetti, which literally translates to "forced labor," was a system in which lower castes were required to undertake work at the landlord's discretion. As an illustration, any family that was considered to be "untouchable" was obligated to send one man on a daily basis to perform various tasks for the landlord, including household labor and other tasks. The great landowners had seized control of huge swaths of land, either via the use of debt auctions or through the use of forced occupancy.

Political Factors:

The suppression of cultures and languages in the 1920s sparked opposition, which ultimately resulted in broader upheavals. The Andhra Mahasabha (AMS) was established in 1928, and during its 1934 conference, it called for the elimination of vetti, a decrease in land revenue rates, and the use of Telugu in local courts. Communist influence on the AMS started at the start of World War II, and when the Communist Party of India (CPI) was no longer prohibited in 1942, the communists in Hyderabad started to gain ground. Additionally, after 1944, the communists and AMS started to gain ground in a number of regions, particularly among small landowners, impoverished tenants, and agricultural laborers. They also started establishing Sanghams, or committees at the village level.

THE MOVEMENT

The Spark:

When a hereditary tax collector made an attempt to forcibly remove land that belonged to a member of a village sangham, tensions began to rise. In order to forcibly gather the harvest, he dispatched a party consisting of one hundred goons and one hundred servants. Their efforts were met with opposition from the sangham leaders and volunteers of the nearby community. Villagers organized a procession on July 4, 1946, in order to demonstrate their disapproval of the violent and terroristic behavior of the goons working for the landlord. As they got closer to the landlord's house, some of the goons opened fire on the procession, which ultimately resulted in the death of Doddi Komarayya, the leader of the sangham. The death of Komarayya infuriated the populace, which resulted in a great uprising among the Telangana peasantry. People from neighboring villages were seen marching, holding meetings in front of the landlord's house, and proclaiming that "Sangham is organized here." There will be no more evictions, no more illegal exactions, and no more vetti. The movement had extended to approximately 300–400 villages across three districts by the time the month of July came to a close. A series of search operations were carried out by the police, with the assistance of landlords, in response to the situation, which prompted the villages to arm themselves. After the Nizam's administration issued a ban on the AMS in October 1946, there was a surge in the number of arrests and military operations that took place. During this period of

martial law, a number of landlords started coming back to their properties. Consequently, during this initial phase of the movement, the people were able to "put an end to vetti, illegal exactions, and compulsory grain levies and reoccupy the lands that had been seized earlier by the landlords." In addition, they were able to "resist the landlords' armed goondas" and compete with "the armed police and the military forces of the Nizam."

Razzakar Terror:

In the month of August 1947, when India attained its independence, the state of Hyderabad made use of its right to continue to operate independently. A significant portion of the ruling majority, which included the Nizam, members of the nobility, and the Majlis-I-Ittehad (MII), an Islamic organization that adheres to fundamentalist principles within Hyderabad, backed the demand for Azad (which translates to "Free") Hyderabad. It was at this point that the MII began to become more militant, and its paramilitary force, the Razakars, was dispatched in large numbers to put down the peasant uprising. As part of the campaign of punitive measures against the troubled villages all across Hyderabad, but particularly in Telangana, they conducted raids and looted the troubled villages, detained or killed suspected and potential agitators, frightened the innocent, and also kidnapped women. All of these actions were carried out in an effort to punish the troubled villages. In response, the Communist Party of India (CPI) implemented a new policy in February 1948 with the intention of fostering

guerilla offensives. This policy was largely motivated by the success of the Telangana uprising from the previous year. It was the village republics that initiated the process of transferring land to landless agricultural laborers and renters who had been evicted, which contributed to the movement's growing popularity.

Police Action and the Aftermath:

On September 13, 1948, the Indian Army marched into the state of Hyderabad as part of a "police action" that was intended to combat the violence that was occurring in Hyderabad. Within the span of a week, the Nizam, the Razakar teams, and the police all submitted. The Jagir Abolition Regulation was issued in August 1949 by the military administration in an effort to seize the support of the peasantry. Additionally, an Agrarian Enquiry Committee was established in order to make recommendations about comprehensive land reform legislation. During this time period, a discussion took place within the CPI. A number of constituencies held the belief that it was necessary to give up weaponry. There were some groups who were skeptical because they believed that handing up weaponry could result in a loss of gains and give the impression of betraying the local populace. However, by the end of the year 1950, there were only a few isolated guerilla units, there was little coordination among the village republics, and the heavy military repression had taken its toll on the populace, resulting in a significant loss of life, and the movement had become weaker. By the beginning of 1951, the Congress government had

already made a number of attempts to reconcile with the Communist Party of India (CPI). On October 21, 1951, following a number of rounds of negotiations, the CPI officially declared that they had withdrawn from the conflict.

Formation of Hyderabad State:

Following the incorporation of Hyderabad into India on September 17, 1948, a period of military governance commenced, led by JN Chaudary. The advancements that transpired during the period of military governance, which had an impact on the Mulki matter, were:

The designation of English as the official language of the State resulted in the recruitment of only those individuals educated in English into the public sector. The Hyderabad State exhibited a notably low literacy rate, with a minimal proportion of the literate population proficient in English. This circumstance led to the recruitment of non-mulkis into government services.

On November 1, 1949, the JN Chaudary administration promulgated a directive known as The Hyderabad Civil Services Regulation 1949. This regulation represented a revised iteration of the 1919 'firmana' and meticulously outlined the definition of Mulki along with the procedure for acquiring a Mulki Certificate.

The cessation of the Military government's rule occurred on December 1, 1949, following the recommendations put forth by the Pandit Sunderlal Committee, which was established by the Central government to examine the

communal violence directed at Muslims during the period of military governance.

After dissolving the Military government, the Government of India appointed civilian government headed by MK Vellodi on January 26, 1950, to govern the Hyderabad State until the first general elections held in 1952. The changes made by the Vellodi Government that had an impact on the Mulki issue were:

Mother tongue was introduced as a medium of instruction in schools as a consequence of which, in order to teach in Telugu, many people from the Madras State were employed as teachers

In order to obtain fake Mulki certificates, government offices were bribed by the non-Mulkis as a consequence of which even qualified Mulkis could not find employment. Elections were held in the Hyderabad State in February 1952 and Burgula Ramakrishna Rao was sworn in as the Chief Minister on March 6, 1952.

The same year, the Hyderabad State witnessed a massive revolt against the non-Mulkis, famously known as the 1952 Mulki agitation.

The 1952 Mulki Agitation:

Even before the State of Vishalaandhra was formed, the Hyderabad State witnessed a massive movement against the non-Mulkis. This movement is significant as it highlighted the antagonism of Telangana people towards the Andhra people.

The most important situations that lead to the agitation were:

Post Telangana armed struggle, people of Telangana had great expectations from the succeeding governments, especially in matters of employment. The three succeeding governments, including the popular government led by Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, failed in changing situation in matters of employment in favour of Mulkis.

Migration of people from different parts of India to the Hyderabad State was common since the medieval period. Most of these migrants were from North and Northwest. They mingled well with the locals and became an integral part of the Hyderabad society. Migration of Telugu-speaking people from the Madras State increased drastically after integration of the Hyderabad State into the Indian Union. These people were preferred in public employment. Unlike the other migrants, these people were very dominating and abused the local culture and Telangana dialect hurting the sentiment of the local people. They also dominated administration.

From the beginning of the 20th Century, the idea of Vishalaandhra State combining Telangana and Andhra was proposed at every important public gathering in the Andhra region. Post-Independence, propagation of the idea of formation of Vishalaandhra escalated to great heights as it became the main point of discussion in every public gathering in Telangana as well. The people of Telangana were not in favour of the formation of Vishalaandhra because of the bitter experiences they had with the Andhra

people. The opponents to Vishalaandhra supported the 1952 agitation.

CONCLUSION

The Telangana movement signifies the apex of endeavour's undertaken by communist and socialist factions during the initial decades of the communist movement. The relentless endeavours to organize and galvanize the peasantry in the face of significant injustices marked a departure from the historically more temperate reformist movements among the peasant class. While the precise importance and worth of the Telangana movement remain subjects of intense discussion, it is undeniable that the movement has played a crucial role in foregrounding the issues faced by the peasantry within the communist movement; in mobilizing individuals against caste-based injustices; and in fundamentally reshaping the necessity for a robust organizational framework, which was instrumental in the movement's expansion.

In 1956, during the Reorganization of Indian States based on linguistic criteria, the Hyderabad state was partitioned into Andhra Pradesh, Bombay state (subsequently divided into Maharashtra and Gujarat in 1960, with the original segments of Hyderabad becoming part of Maharashtra), and Karnataka. In December 1953, the States Reorganization Commission was established to facilitate the formation of states based on linguistic criteria. The commission, in response to public demand, advised the breakup of Hyderabad state and the incorporation of the Marathi-speaking territory, Maratwada, into

Bombay state, as well as the integration of the Kannada-speaking region into Mysore state. The Telugu-speaking Telangana portion of the Hyderabad state, together with the Andhra state. The issue of Hindu-Muslim equilibrium within the bureaucracy was a delicate matter. Muslims had controlled the executive, police, and administrative sectors. Prior to the invasion, the Indian Cabinet, under Nehru's leadership, resolved to implement minimal modifications. Patel, noted for his prominent rivalry with Nehru, managed his Ministry with minimal engagement with the Indian Cabinet. The original plans were disregarded following the invasion, mainly due to divergent perspectives at multiple administrative tiers. More than a hundred officers were dismissed on an ethnic basis from various levels, and other local cops were apprehended for their involvement in the violence. This trend was observed in recent recruitment as well.

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