

Science, Technology and Development- Making of a Post-Colonial Nation

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Science and technology was a crucial aspect of discussions about development in the late-colonial, pre-independent India (1900-1950). The inextricable link modern science and technology shared with colonialism made the process quite problematic in the context of massive national movement for political independence. However, the independent national government embraced modern science and technology towards the path of industrialization, mostly negating the other alternative proposals. Nevertheless, the pre-independence era constituted a vibrant spectrum of development and technology debates, where fundamental issues of democracy and justice were discussed. At least, some of them have cropped up during a later phase to legitimize the simmering discontent of the prevailing modernist technological paradigm.

This presentation would look into the earlier debates about science, technology and development in the Indian sub-continent. It is essential to explore this phase in order to contextualize the post-independence modernist development phase and the subsequent changes with the introduction of new technologies, though the later phase happens to be the focal point of my study during here.