



ROLE OF EARLY NATIONALISTS IN INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

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The **Early Nationalists**,^[3] also known as the **Moderates**,^[4] were a group of political leaders in India active between 1885 and 1905. Their emergence marked the beginning of the organised national movement in India.^[5] With members of the group drawn from educated middle-class professionals including lawyers, teachers and government officials, many of them were educated in England. They have become known as "Early Nationalists" because they believed in demanding reforms while adopting constitutional and peaceful means to achieve their aims.^{[6][7]} The Early Nationalists had full faith in the British sense of justice, fair play, honesty, and integrity while they believed that British rule was a boon for India.^[8] The Early Nationalists were staunch believers in open-minded and moderate politics.^{[9][10]}



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Their successors, the "Assertives", existed from 1905 to 1919 and were followed by nationalists of the Gandhian era, which existed from 1919 until Indian Independence in 1947.

Origins of the name "Moderates"



The first session of the Early Nationalists of India in 1885

Focusing on demands for reform, the Early Nationalists adopted a constitutional and peaceful approach to achieve their objectives. They remained friendly towards the then British rulers but believed that Indians should have a proper and legitimate role in the government of the country. Although they asked for constitutional and other reforms within the framework of British rule,

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