



## **Foreigners as Helper in the National Movement of India**

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### **Abstract –**

It is often seen that the Indian look at the foreigners from the point of view that they are the ones who give a lot of problems and suppress we Indian, but this is not true. Many foreigners have made an indelible contribution to our freedom struggle. After a series of British victories, the British gained control over India's political, economic, and social sphere. Such colonization destroyed the indigenous culture and tradition of India. In protest against them, Indians sacrificed everything and fought with them for their rights, fought for their motherland. At that time the condition of Indians was very pathetic, but for the positive upliftment of humanity. Even after accepting the opposition of our people, many foreigners fought and paved the way for our welfare. Many foreigners have significantly contributed to India's freedom struggle.

Here we would like to describe those who fought together with us Indians for the economic, political and spiritual freedom of Indians.

- *Sir Henry John Stedman Cotton*

He was one of the three civil servants of British India who identified India's emerging nationalism at an early stage, he worked only for the betterment of Indians as a civil servant, along with this he also supported the Indian National Movement. He said that there is no conflict between his official duty as a civil servant and his desire to do good to the people of the country. He supported Indian independence and in 1885 published a book, *New India, or India in Transition*, that was broadly critical of British rule and supported the Indian nationalist movement. Because of which he had to face opposition from his own people. He also presided over the session of the Indian National Congress held in Bombay in 1904. He also opposed Lord Curzon's policies like invasion of Tibet and partition of Bengal. After returning to England, Cotton also became a member of the British Parliament from the Liberal Party, where he founded the Radical Pro Indian Parliament Group and condemned the expansion being done by his own government in India. He was defeated in the election of 1910 and died in his home in St John Wood Park, London, on the 22 October 1915.

- *Annie Besant*

Annie Besant was born in London on 1st, Oct 1847. Who does not know the name of Annie Besant, she joined the Theosophical Society for the attainment of spirituality, and gradually she got attracted towards Hindu religion and its means of attainment of spirituality. In 1893, she came to India to propagate the ideas of the Theosophical Society, but a few years later coming to India, she was inspired by the Indian freedom struggle against the British and decided to be a part of the Indian freedom struggle. The establishment of the Home Rule League was Besant's most vital contribution to the Indian independence movement in 1916. Besant and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak continued the historical movement that marked a turning point in India's long-standing struggle for independence. The movement lasted for two years, and the Home Rule League activities played an important role in intensifying the freedom struggle. Annie Besant also became the first woman president of the Indian national congress. She presided over the Calcutta session of 1917.

- *Allan Octavian Hume*

A.O. Hume was a civil servant, political reformer, an amateur ornithologist and horticulturist. Along with this he was also associated with the Theosophical Society. His most important contribution to the freedom movement was to help establish the Indian National Congress. In 1885, a retired British officer, Alan Octavian Hume (A.O.Hume) played an important role in its establishment. The purpose of the establishment was that the fight for the voice and rights of the educated people of India could reach the British rulers. Along with this, AO Hume was also critical of the land revenue policy of the British. He said that the land revenue policy is the main reason for the poverty of the people of India. In 1879, he wrote a book on India's agricultural reform and he wrote a letter to the graduates of the University of Calcutta and told them to start a national political movement. Whenever he felt that any policy of the British Government was not in the interest of the Indians, he used to oppose it, he had to pay the price many times like Lord Lytton removed him from the secretary.

- ***George Yule***

On the request of Byomesh Chandra Banerjee, he presided over the Allahabad Congress session of 1888. He was known for his liberal views. He showed sympathy towards the aspirations of common Indians, he helped the Congress to reach people of British about the political condition of India and other problems. He also served as the President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce. He continued to support the cause of Indian National Congress as a member of the British Committee in England. He spoke over the reforms in the legislative council and the admission of people of various interests in it.

- ***William Wedderburn***

Along with A.O. Hume, he was the founder of the Indian National Movement. He Worked as the President of Congress in Bombay session of 1889 and Allahabad session of 1910. In 1895 Wedderburn represented India as the Welby Commission on Indian Expenditure. He helped Indians during the famine in India from 1899 to 1900. He remained the chairman of the British Committee of the Congress from July 1889 till his death. Due to his liberal views, he emphasized on self-government for the Indians. Wedderburn contribution was to awaken national consciousness in the minds of Indian through the Indian reform movement.

- ***Charles Freer Andrews***

He was a man who fought for India's Justice till his last breath. He was an Anglican priest and had a fascination for India from his childhood. He was born in England in 1871. He was a teacher, social reformer. After coming to India, he started teaching at St. Stephen's College, Delhi. At the same time, he came in contact with India's social reformer and leading leaders of Freedom Movement like Dadabhai Naoroji, Lala Lajpat Rai, Gopalkrishna Gokhale and Rabindranath Tagore. He was a fast friend of Gandhiji, The depth of his friendship is known from the fact that he used to call Gandhiji as Mohan. C.F. Andrews merged with the Indian culture and supported the Indian independence movement. He blames the British government for the Jallianwala bagh massacre and calls Michael O Dwyer's misdeeds cruelty. He spent much time in Shanti Niketan. He participated in many movements run by Indians, such as the strike by cotton weavers in Madras in 1918, relief work for unemployed tea garden workers in Chandpur in 1919, and the strike of railway workers in Tundla from 1921 to 1922, etc. He joined the famous Vaikom Satyagraha in 1919, and in 1933 he helped B.R. Ambedkar in formulating Dalit claims. Due to his contribution to India's struggle, he was referred to as Dinabandhu. He also openly supported the rights and demands of Indian living in abroad, He traveled to Africa many times and raised voice against the inequality and unjust treatment being done by British Imperialism.

- ***Margaret Elizabeth Noble***

She was an Irish woman, After coming to India, she contributed in the India's struggle for freedom. Margaret Elizabeth Noble was a follower of Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekananda administered her vow of celibacy in 1898 and named her Sister Nivedita which means devoted to God. After coming to India, he contributed to the national freedom movement. Sister Nivedita was a close companion of Annie Besant and Aurobindo. She played a leading role in the education of women, gave many lectures on Indian culture and promoted the spirit of nationalism among the youth, and promoted nationalism feelings among the people and played a pioneering role in swadeshi movement.

- ***Madeleine Slade***

She was popularly known as Mirabehn. She was a British supporter of the Indian independence movement, in the biography of Gandhi written by French novelist Romain Rolland, described Gandhi as one of the greatest figures of the 20th century, Slade's life changed completely after reading this biography. Gandhi's principles of non-violence attracted him and Slade requested Gandhiji to stay in Gandhiji's Sabarmati Ashram. Slade came to India in 1925 and remained in India for the next 34 years. Gradually she He became one of Gandhi's confidants and an ardent international defender of India's independence from British rule and accompanied Gandhi at the 1931 London Round Table Conference. She was arrested several times, during the period 1932-1933 for passing information about the condition in India to Europe and America. In 1942, he was imprisoned in the Aga Khan Palace of Pune along with Gandhiji and Kasturba Gandhiji, in view of his contribution, in 1981, he was awarded India's second highest civilian honor Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India.

- ***Samuel Evans Stokes***

Samuel Evans Stokes, who later became Satyananda Stokes, was the only American who came in contact with Mahatma Gandhi, wore khadi for life, brought apples to the economy of the mountains of India, learned the local dialect and Sanskrit. The one who came to India in his youth to preach Christianity but himself started following Sanatan Dharma. In Punjab, he worked with Lala Lajpat Rai, in the year 1921 he was arrested and sent to jail for six months for inciting rebellion against the British government and participating in the Indian freedom struggle.

- ***Edith Ellen Gray***

Edith Ellen Gray (Nellie senGupta) was born in 1886 in Cambridge city of England, Jatindra Mohan SenGupta, a resident of Chittagong, went to England for his studies, and from there he got married. After marriage Nellie came to India with her husband. After the participation of her husband in the non-

cooperation movement of the year 1921, she decided to leave her comfortable life and participate in the national movement. During the non-cooperation movement, he broke the British ban imposed on selling Khadi, after which he was arrested and put in jail. Nellie was jailed for four months for speaking illegally in the Delhi Assembly. . During this, he came to know about the ill-treatment of Indian people in British jails. Due to this, the feeling of rebellion became stronger in his mind. Nellie Sengupta presided over the Calcutta session of Congress in absence of Madan Mohan Malviy in 1933. She was elected unchallenged to the Bengal Assembly in 1940 and 1946. India got independence in the year 1947 and At the time of partition, Nellie decided to remain in her husband's native village, Chittagong (then East Pakistan). Nelly came to India in the year 1972. In the year 1973, the Government of India honored him with 'Padma Vibhushan' and he breathed his last on October 23 of the same year.

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## Conclusion

Studying about some of the above foreigners, it can be concluded that apart from Indians, they also contributed to India's independence, who were not Indians by birth, but they devoted a significant part of their life to India's independence and social reform. Seeing his dedication and work towards India, it can be said that he was no less than an Indian, not by birth but by body and mind.

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