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SPIRITUAL NATIONALISM AND POLITICAL AWAKENING IN SRI AUROBINDO'S *BANDE MATARAM*

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Abstract:

This paper explores the intersection of spiritual nationalism and political awakening in early 20th-century India through the political writings and speeches of Sri Aurobindo, as compiled in Bande Mataram. Analyzing the socio-political context following the 1905 Partition of Bengal, this study demonstrates how Sri Aurobindo combined Vedic spiritual philosophy with anti-colonial activism to redefine Indian nationalism as a divine imperative—Sanatan Dharma—rather than a mere secular political campaign. Through an examination of key essays such as "New Lamps for Old" and "The Doctrine of Passive Resistance," the research evaluates Aurobindo's critique of the Indian National Congress's moderate tactics and highlights his advocacy for

complete self-rule (Swaraj), passive resistance, and economic boycotts (Swadeshi). The paper contextualizes Aurobindo's thought alongside contemporary leaders like Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Rabindranath Tagore, and M.K. Gandhi. Ultimately, the study illustrates how Aurobindo's conceptualization of the motherland as a living deity transformed the freedom struggle, mobilizing public consciousness and establishing a foundation for modern democratic nationalism.

Keywords: Sri Aurobindo, Bande Mataram, Spiritual Nationalism, Political Awakening, Swaraj, Swadeshi, Passive Resistance, Indian Freedom Struggle.