MODULE-4 CHANGING WORLD TOPIC-NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN EGYPT

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National Movement in Egypt

- Egypt was under the control of Britain since 1882.
- Anti colonial feeling reached its peak during 1919 and manifested in the form of an unsuccessful revolution of 1919.
- The revolution was mainly against the wartime deprivation imposed by the British in Egypt.
- Before 1919, Egyptian national movement consisted of a small group of educated elites.
- But during first world war, middle class and other sections of society became the part of movement.

- Some of the leaders of the Egyptian national movement went to the 1919 Paris Peace conference to put their demand for self rule. But they were prevented from doing so
- When they failed to get their demands, the people rose in revolt.
- The revolt was easily suppressed by British forces.
- Though the revolt was suppressed, political turmoil continued in the country.
- After three years of continuous agitation and suppression, British government unilaterally declared the independence of Egypt in 1922.

- But British controlled important departments such as defense and external affairs.
- Soon British had reinstated monarchy in the country
- The King was to rule the country under British control and supervision.
- Main focus of British was economic exploitation-control over Suez Canal.
- The king of Egypt acted as a tool in the hands of the British to suppress the growing momentum of the Arab nationalism.

- In 1936 Britain agreed to be content with the right to garrison in the Suez Canal area and withdrew its forces from Egypt.
- Now the control of Britain remained only at Suez Canal.
- But the Revolution of 1952 overthrew the Monarchy in Egypt and established a republican form of government under the leadership of Gamal Abdul Nasser.
- He became leader and advocate of Arab nationalism.
- In 1956, Nasser announced complete independence of Egypt from Britain by nationalizing the Suez Canal.