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EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED PERIYAR E.V.RAMASAMI

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The paper attempts to highlight some of the external factors which greatly influenced the life of Periyar and his activities. In this regard, there are two types of factor that were functioning in the career of Periyar. The first type of factor is called external factor that influenced his public life and the second type of factor which is called internal factors that moulded his personal life personality.

Periyar's life is a pilgrimage from east to west, from faith to reason, from inequality to equality, from subordination to challenge, from slavery to liberty, from a businessman to a powerful leader, from orthodoxy to heterodoxy, from Temple administrator to idol breaker, from Brahmin protagonist to Brahmin antagonist, from blind belief to enlightened path, from an uneducated man to mass educator, from Gandhi devotion to Gandhi opposition, from a champion of Congress party to founder of self-respect party, from resigner and refuser of government posts to the position of king maker in Tamilnadu, from saintly inclination to scientific inclination, from divinity to humanity and from sympathiser for justice party to leader of justice party. It is a march towards modernized, globalised and humanized, rationalized and scientific world. It is a quite and unshakable march against ignorance, superstitions, slavery and subordination. It was a brave and glorious march for the sake of his race to liberate themselves from the imperialism of British and Brahmins.

External Factors

The external factors which pushed him to the battle front of the public life are three, namely:

- i) High standard of living of people in advanced countries.
- ii) Advantageous position of Brahmins.
- iii) Disadvantageous condition of non-Brahmins or Dravidians.

i) High Standard of Living in Advanced Countries

He showed extra ordinary admiration for the west thus : "All our services are not to enslave others or to rule over other nations except that our people should live freely with humanism and rights like other

nations people"¹ "Englishman's research throbs to what changes to be brought next year. Our research is being motivated to keep us as we were 2000 years ago, doing Tholkappiyar research. So English man's Horse moves forward, our horse going backwards"² "It is needless to say that Turkey has progressed so much after throwing the religions and the scriptures bundled. Today the world is competitively progressing discovering miraculous wonders. But our country's people are living without any growth, attaching too much to god and religion"³

"This is called revolutionary age and scientific age. It is in the position to change the old to bring comforts to the human society by doing research and distinguishing between the Good and the Bad. English people surpassed us. How worst we became to learn lessons from them for everything. We are not able to even imagine the wonderful things they discover. To say in general, all the nations have progressed like this except ours"⁴ "Today's world population is 350 crores. In this 120 crore people don't have any faith in God. There is no God in the communists countries like Russia, China, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia"⁵ Further, there are so many association like **Rationalists Association, Thinkers Association, Progressive Peoples Association, Truth Seekers Association**. There are lakhs of people in this association"⁶

"There is no end for the foreigners research in using electricity, steam and petrol. They are progressing in every branch, everyday. They are trying to resurrect the dead man. They are trying to go to the stars. They are flying 500 miles per hour. They are going to foreign countries thousands of miles away; they are knowing the news that is happening thousands of miles away. They have discovered methods of killing thousands of people through one shot of cannon during wars. They are producing electricity from waterfalls and sun-light, they are trying to run machines and vehicles with cutting-edge technologies."⁷

"Other nations are educating 100 out of 100 people in their countries enabling their people to earn more. Thus they have abolished beggary in their countries. They are bringing the wealth of all

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