

Ques- Was Congress a Safety Valve ?

Ans- The formation of Indian National Congress was the first organized expression of the ~~first organized~~ expression of the Indian nationalism on all India scale.

founded in 1885 by A.O. Hume, a retired civil servant.

Some historians believed that the Congress was formed under a British viceroy to act as a safety valve against popular discontent.

According to Safety Valve Theory, A.O. Hume formed the Congress as a safety valve and the growing discontent of the Indians. So, Lord Dufferin not to obstruct the formation of INC.

So that growing discontent of Indians could be released and there is no repeat of 1857 like conditions.

Lala Lajpat Rai was a believer of this theory.

This Theory is disputed by the Modern Indian Historians who believed that INC was formed as the political and national consciousness was growing, amidst the educated Indians. They wanted to set up a national body to express the political and economic demands of the Indians.

As per this theory, if Indians themselves had convened the meeting there would not have been immense pressure by the government and Lord Dufferin would not have allowed such organizations to form.

So, Indians used A.O. Hume as the Lightning Conductor.

But, neither Dufferin and his fellow-liberal Governors of Bombay and Madras were sympathetic to the Congress.

So, we can say that the foundation of the Congress was a natural culmination of the political works in the previous years.

and a result of growing national; consciousness amongst the educated Indians.

- Sakshi Mishra (170 words)

Nice answer.  
Marks: 9/20