

BDCSO Annual Conference Information Paper

Spirit of Liberation War: Fundamental Principles of State Policies

Our spirit of independence is very much connected to our nationalism, long history of struggle for freedom and culture, which also has got connection to our freedom and long history of independence. We consider that this spirit of independence should be the key belief of all our development initiatives and development strategies. What is this spirit then?

According to the definition of the country's Digital Security Act, Act No. XLVI of 2018. An Act to make provisions for ensuring digital security and identification, prevention, suppression and trial of offences committed through digital device and for matters ancillary there to. Which got published on 8 October 2018. It says, the "spirit of liberation war" means the high ideals of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism which inspired our heroic people to dedicate themselves to, and our brave martyrs to sacrifice their lives in, the national liberation struggle. All these sprites of independence will be the fundamental principles of our state policies. According to our constitution, the principles of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism, together with the principles derived from those, shall constitute the fundamental principles of state policy.

Nationalism: according to our constitution, nationalism is 'the unity and solidarity of the Bangalee nation, which, deriving its identity from its language and culture, attained sovereign and independent Bangladesh through a united and determined struggle in the war of independence, shall be the basis of Bangalee nationalism.'

We can get a clear picture of the fundamental principles of state the policies from the speech given by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Gono Porishad (The Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh) on 4 November 1972. There he said, Bangalee people took part in the deadly war imbued with the sprit of nationalism. No nation can prosper without nationalism. He also said, there are lots of definition of nationalism. Lots of philosophers, intellectuals, academics, educationists said number of definitions about nationalism. So, I do not want to add one more.



I am a man of Bangladesh,
I am a nation

Nationalism depends on sensation. Depending on which, Bengali nation outburst with a bloodbath war and became independence, which we gained independence, which we have struggled, we belonged to that sensation, and that's why I say-

I am a Bangalee,
Bangalee is my nationalism.

I could only say, I am a Bangladeshi, I am a nation. The father of the nation also said on that day that whatever we say about the language, education, civilization or culture, there is a thing inbuilt in it-- this is a feeling/sensation. If the sensation is absent, no nation can be prosperous. And, nationalism cannot be flourished. He said, nationalism depends on sensation. Depending on which, Bengali nation outburst with a bloodbath war and became independence, which we gained independence, which we have struggled, we belonged to that sensation, and that's why I say I am Bangalee, Bangalee is my nationalism.

Socialism: Socialism and free from exploitation is one of the main spirit of our independence, one of the main foundation of our state. According to our constitution, a socialist economic system shall be established with a view to ensuring the attainment of a just and egalitarian society, free from the exploitation of man by man. Bangabandhu in his aforementioned speech also said, “we believe in socialism. The meaning of socialism to us is a society free from exploitation.”

Democracy: According to our constitution, ‘The Republic shall be a democracy in which fundamental human rights and freedoms and respect for the dignity and worth of the human person shall be guaranteed.’ Regarding democracy, the father of the nation said, “we believe in democracy. It is that democracy that brings welfare for the ordinary people. There has been a concept among people and we have seen it earlier too- countries, where democracy exists, use it to give protection to the capitalists. We do not believe in such a democracy. We want democracy for the exploited.”

Secularism: secularism should be one of the fundamental principles of our state policies. Citing that our constitution says, the principle of secularism shall be realised by the elimination of- (a) communalism in all its forms; (b) the granting by the State of political status in favour of any religion; (c) the abuse of religion for political purposes; (d) any discrimination against, or persecution of, persons practicing a particular religion.

Bangabandhu also said about secularism in the aforesaid speech. He said, “secularism does not mean absence of religion. The seven and a half crore people in Bangladesh will have the right to practise religion. We don’t want to pass a law to ban religion and we’ll never do that. The Muslims will practise their religion, no one in this country has the power to stop them. The Hindus will practise their religion and no one can prevent them from doing so. The Buddhists will practise their religion; no one can stop them. The Christians will practise their religion, no one can prevent them. Our objection is against the use of these sacred religions as a political weapon.

The meaning of socialism to us is a society free from exploitation.

For 25 years, we have seen how religion was used for fraud; how oppression, betrayal, torture, killing, illicit relationship took place in the name of religion in Bangladesh. Religion is a very sacred thing. The divine religion must not be used as a political weapon. If someone says that their religious right was curbed, I would say- no. We have made arrangements to safeguard the right to religion of seven and a half crore people.”

There has been a concept among people and we have seen it earlier too- countries, where democracy exists, use it to give protection to the capitalists. We do not believe in such a democracy. We want democracy for the exploited.

Bangabandhu, while giving speech at the constituent assembly.

BDCSO believe that civil society can play a vital role implementing the issues that derived from the great spirit of liberation war, the fundamental principles of state policies and the ideology of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman.



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