



**NOTES**

# **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**(POLITICAL SCIENCE)**

## **POPULAR STRUGGLES AND MOVEMENTS**



**REVISION NOTES  
CHAPTERWISE &  
TOPICWISE**

## Chapter 5: Popular Struggles and Movements

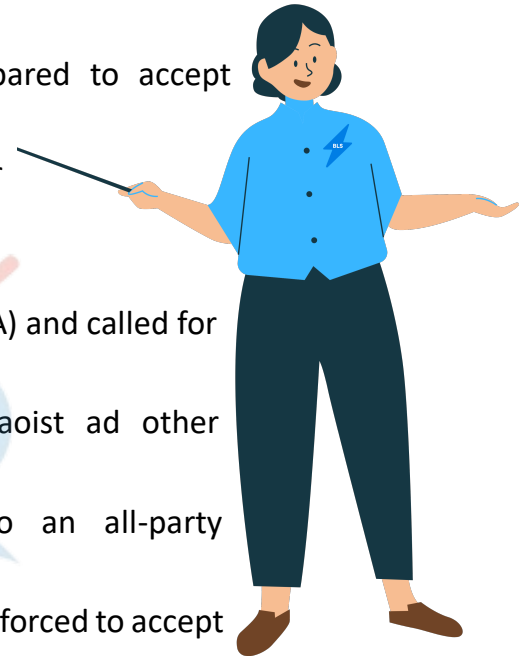
### Concepts Covered:

1. **Popular struggles in Nepal and Bolivia**
    - Movement for democracy in Nepal
    - Bolivia's Water War
    - Democracy and popular struggles
  2. **Mobilisation and Organisation**
    - Who joined Struggle in Nepal?
    - Who joined Struggle in Bolivia?
  3. **Pressure groups and Movements**
    - Sectional interest groups
    - Public interest groups
    - Movement groups
    - NAPM
    - Relationship between pressure groups and political parties
    - Influence of pressure groups and movements on politics
      - Positive
      - Negative
  4. **Mind Map**  
(Colourful & Interactive/ Complete All Concept Covered)
- Practice Questions (All Topics Available)**

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**POPULAR STRUGGLES AND MOVEMENTS****POPULAR STRUGGLES IN NEPAL AND BOLIVIA****POPULAR STRUGGLES IN NEPAL AND BOLIVIA****Movement for democracy in Nepal**

- Nepal won democracy in 1990.
- King Birendra, who has accepted constitutional monarchy, was killed in a mysterious massacre of the royal family in 2001.
- King Gyanendra, the new king of Nepal, was not prepared to accept democratic rule.
- In February 2005, the king dismissed the then Prime Minister and dissolved the elected Parliament.
- The movement of 2006 started to regain democracy.
- All major political parties formed a Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and called for a 'four-day strike' in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.
- The protest turned into indefinite strike joined by Maoist and other organisations also.
- They demanded restoration of parliament, power to an all-party government and a new constituent assembly.
- On 24 April 2006, the last day of the ultimatum, the king was forced to accept all the three demands.
- Girija Prasad Koirala became the new Prime Minister of the interim government as chosen by SPA.
- The Maoists and SPA agreed to have a new Constituent Assembly.
- This struggle came to be known as Nepal's second movement for democracy.

**Bolivia's Water War**

Bolivia is a poor country in Latin America.

- The World Bank forced the government to give up its control of municipal water supply and sold these rights for the city of Cochabamba to a multi-national company (MNC).
- After controlling water supply, the company increased the price by four times.
- This led to a spontaneous popular protest.
- In January 2000, a new alliance of labour, human rights and community leaders called FEDECOR organised a successful four-day general strike in the city.
- The government agreed to negotiate, and the strike ended but nothing changed.
- The protest started again in February and police used brutal methods to control it.
- Another strike followed in April and the government imposed martial law.

**POPULAR STRUGGLES AND MOVEMENTS****POPULAR STRUGGLES IN NEPAL AND BOLIVIA**

- But the power of the people forced the officials of the MNC to flee the city and made government accept all their demands.
- The contract with the MNC was cancelled and water supply was restored to the municipality at old rates.
- This came to be known as Bolivia's water war.

**Democracy and popular struggles**

Both the cases of Nepal and Bolivia are important demonstrations of the people's power in a democracy. They show that people can change the course of a country's popularity. The highlights of the struggles discussed above can be summarised as the following:

People's power is the evolution of democracy. In both cases, we see that the country's ordinary people joined in a wider struggle against the authority in power, whether a democracy or a monarchy. The struggle can introduce, expand, and deepen democracy.

The only way to resolve these struggles is by mass mobilization. The existing judicial authorities can help resolve the struggles; however, sometimes, these authorities are themselves involved in the struggle. These conflicts are based on new political organizations and can be mobilized by these organizations.

*Future's Key*

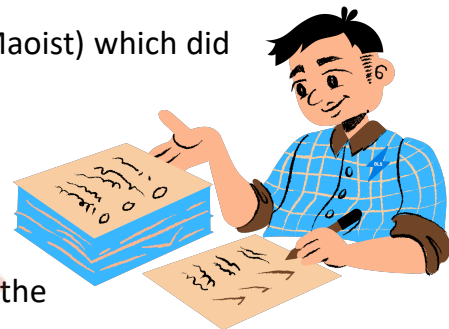
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## MOBILISATION AND ORGANISATION

### Who joined struggle in Nepal?

- SPA or the Seven Party Alliance in Nepal which included some big parties that had some members in the Parliament.
- The protest was joined by the Nepalese Communist Party (Maoist) which did not believe in parliamentary democracy.
- Other than political parties, all the major labour unions and their federations joined this movement.
- The organisation of the indigenous people, teachers, lawyers, and human rights groups also extended support to the movement.



### Who joined struggle in Bolivia?

The protest against water privatisation in Bolivia was led by an organisation called FEDECOR.

This organisation comprised local professionals, including engineers and environmentalists which were supported by a federation of farmers, the confederation of factory workers' unions, middle class students from The University of Cochabamba and the city's growing population of homeless street children.

Later, the movement was supported by the Socialist Party. In 2006, this party came to power in Bolivia.



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## POPULAR STRUGGLES AND MOVEMENTS

## PRESSURE GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS

PRESSURE GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS

## Sectional interest groups

- They seek to promote the interests of a particular section or group of society such as workers, employees, businesspersons, industrialists etc.

**Example:** are Trade unions, business associations.

- Their main concern is the betterment and well-being of their members, not society in general.
- However, sometimes they represent some common or general interest that needs to be defended.

## Public interest groups

- Also called promotional groups as they promote collective rather than selective good.
- They aim to help groups other than their own members.

**Example:** A group fighting bonded labour fights for everyone who is suffering under such bondage.

- In some cases, the members of a public interest group may undertake activity that benefits them as well as others too.

## Movement groups

- Movement Groups are of two types: Issue specific and Generic Movements.
- Most of the movements are of these types that seek to achieve a single objective within a limited time frame.

**Example:** Nepalese movement for democracy arose with the specific objective of reversing the king's orders that led to suspension of democracy.

## NAPM

NAPM stands for National Alliance for Peoples' Movements. It is association of organisations which coordinates the activities of a large number of peoples' movements in India.

## Relationship between pressure groups and political parties

- In some instances, the pressure groups are either formed or led by the leaders of political parties.

**POPULAR STRUGGLES AND MOVEMENTS****PRESSURE GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS**

**Example:** most trade unions and students' organisations in India are either established by or affiliated to a political party.

- Sometimes political parties grow out of movements. Example: Asom Gana Parishad in Assam, DMK and the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu.
- In most cases, parties and interest or movement groups are opposed to each other, yet they are in dialogue and negotiation.
- Most of the new leadership of political parties comes from interest or movement groups.

**Influence of pressure groups and movements on politics****Positive**

- Pressure groups and movements have deepened democracy.
- Governments can often come under undue pressure from a small group of rich and powerful people. Public interest groups and movements perform a useful role of countering this undue influence and reminding the government of the needs and concerns of ordinary citizens.

**Negative**

- Sometimes, pressure groups with small public support but lots of money can hijack public discussion in favour of their narrow agenda.
- These groups exercise power without responsibility.
- When one group starts dominating and dictating the government, other pressure groups have to bring counter pressure.

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## POPULAR STRUGGLES AND MOVEMENTS

## MIND MAP

