

**THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE ON BRITISH
COLONIAL POLICY IN INDIA**

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Abstract: This article examines the representation of political instability and anti-colonial movements in British-ruled India during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with a focus on the years 1907–1909, through the lens of local and international press sources. Drawing on articles from English, Russian, German, and Indian newspapers, the study explores how colonial policy, public discontent, the rise of national consciousness, and geopolitical rivalries were portrayed in the media. Special attention is given to the psychological impact of Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War, which fueled anti-colonial sentiment in India. The article also analyzes the divergent responses to unrest - from radical revolutionary tactics to moderate reformist appeals - and assesses how the press both reflected and shaped public opinion. The findings reveal the press's dual role as a historical source and as an active participant in political discourse, highlighting the complex interplay between colonial authority, local resistance, and global power dynamics.

Keywords: British colonialism in India, Political instability, Anti-colonial movements, Indian press, Russo-Japanese War, Geopolitical rivalry, Revolutionary resistance, Media and colonial policy, Indian National Congress, Great Game.

Introduction

The geopolitical transformations, international relations, and the intensification of colonial policies on a global scale at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century opened up a new field of analysis and evaluation for the world press. During this period, the repressive nature of British colonial policy in India, the growing discontent among the masses, and the state of political instability were widely covered not only in local but also in international media.

This article analyzes reports related to political instability in India published in both local and international press during the years 1908–1909. The research is based on press sources in English and Russian, which serve as a lens through which to examine the content of colonial policy in India, the attitudes of local communities and the media towards it, and the contradictions between radical and reformist perspectives.

The main objective of this study is to conduct a historical-critical analysis of the political situation in India at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, using media-based assessments as examples, and to highlight the internal and external causes of colonial policy.

The sources of the study consist of articles published in Russian, English, German, and Indian press. Among them, publications such as “Peterburgskaya Novosti,” “The Times,” “Rossiya,” “Yugantar,” “Turkestanskije Vedomosti,” and “Modern Review” are of particular importance. Methodologically, the research employs historical-comparative, source-critical, and content analysis methods.

The analyses carried out within the scope of this topic contribute not only to a deeper understanding of colonial policies and their consequences, but also to an objective assessment of the role of the press in historical processes. In this respect, the scientific and practical significance of the study is considered to be high.

In periodical publications featuring articles about foreign countries, various factors contributing to the political crisis, instability, public discontent, social injustice, colonial policy, and popular resistance in India were widely covered. Notably, an article titled “The Current State of India”,

published in issue No. 23 of *Turkestanische Vedomosti* on the 23rd of 1909, analyzes the factors behind growing political instability and public dissatisfaction in British-ruled India. The author links the roots of contemporary socio-political movements in India to the impact of the Russo-Japanese War. It is noted that Japan's victory sparked a psychological awakening among the peoples of Asia, including the Indian population, fueling anti-colonial sentiment. This success particularly reinforced hopes and ideas among Indians such as: "If the Japanese defeated the Russians, then Indians too can successfully resist the British." This contributed not only to the intensification of political movements but also compelled the British administration to implement political reforms on a scale previously unimaginable.

Moreover, the article connects the political stance of Afghan Amir Habibullah Khan - his reserved relations with the British and his attempts to pursue an independent foreign policy - with the growing instability in India. The article underscores how past mistakes in British colonial governance had become direct causes of the current political crisis. Thus, the publication reflects the emergence of a national awakening in India, the influence of external political factors, and the geopolitical tensions between colonial powers.

In another article titled "Contemporary Movements in India", published in issue No. 176 of *Turkestanische Vedomosti* in 1907, the reasons behind the political instability and public unrest in India are also examined. It reiterates that Japan's victory over Russia catalyzed an anti-colonial awakening within Indian society. The injustice of the taxation system and the economic exploitation of the local population are cited as major drivers behind the intensification of resistance movements. Furthermore, the article analyzes the role of the local press in disseminating sentiments of dissent and the censorship measures enforced by the British government in response.

The article titled "The Times on the Current Situation in India", published by *The Times* in 1908, reflects a sharp commentary on the political situation in India. The crisis in India is compared to the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857; however, this time it is emphasized that it is not the military but the civilian population demanding reforms. The article insists that the Anglo-Indian government must not show weakness, but instead implement firm and even harshly repressive measures. It specifically advocates for the censorship of the press, exile of those who dare to express dissent, and closure of schools that spread "harmful ideas."

In addition, the article discusses the relocation of the Viceroy of India, Lord Minto, to Calcutta and the difficult responsibilities awaiting the new Governor of Bengal, Sir Ernest Baker. The article concludes by urging the government to begin reforms without delay, while maintaining its dignity, and encourages collaboration with local princes.

The article titled "The Fate of India", published in *Peterburgskie Novosti*, covers the political instability that emerged in India and the divergent views forming within British official circles regarding the situation. John Morley, a representative of the British government, emphasizes the necessity of adapting reforms in accordance with local conditions in India and warns of the dangers of applying a uniform policy across all colonies. He also evaluates the situation in India as not outright unstable, but requiring a cautious and measured approach.

Keir Hardie, a representative of the Social Democratic Party, although acknowledging the absence of overt rebellion in India, warns that imposing full police surveillance over public meetings could potentially trigger major protest movements. He expresses hope that the new law on public assemblies will not be enforced. This article reflects the delicate balance between colonial policy and public dissent in India, and illustrates the British government's indecision between implementing reforms and resorting to repression.

In *Rossiyskaya Novosty* newspaper, an article titled "Terror in India" was published, which provides detailed information about a bomb depot discovered by the police in the city of Calcutta. Referring to the

May 2, 1908 issue of the Pall Mall Gazette, it is noted that large stockpiles of dynamite, picric acid, and explosive mercury compounds were found in two houses. The discovery of this depot is linked to an attempted assassination plot against the prominent judge Kingsford in Bengal, who had been responsible for sentencing students involved in previous unrests.

It was revealed that the assassination attempt had been misdirected, yet the incident uncovered the existence of a large-scale conspiracy and a covert network. During a search conducted in a local shop, a powerful bomb, cartridges, ammunition, and an article from The Illustrated London News about the assassination of the King of Portugal and his son were discovered. This article confirms the colonial government's serious concern, indicating the radicalization of protest movements in India and the emergence of revolutionary groups operating through interconnected networks.

In issue No. 710 of the same newspaper, an article bearing the same title was published, covering the major terrorist conspiracy that emerged in Bengal in 1908 and the socio-political environment behind it. Through the discovery of a bomb-manufacturing facility in Calcutta, the police uncovered mass arrests, assassination plans targeting high-ranking British officials, and the activities of revolutionary groups. Notable Bengalis, including the prominent agitator Virendranath Chattopadhyaya (alias Ghose), were implicated in the conspiracy. In his testimony, Ghose admitted the ineffectiveness of violent tactics and publicly advocated for the preservation of innocent lives.

The article also reports on the widespread atmosphere of discontent in India, noting that agitation was being carried out in train cars, streets, and public spaces, and that the situation had become especially severe in southern India. It highlights the spread of violent ideologies through schools, local newspapers, and public speeches, and notes that in certain areas, boycotts and acts of violence against the British had taken place. This article demonstrates that revolutionary movements in India had deep roots and a broad geographical scope, and that the British colonial system was facing increasingly serious challenges.

In addition to the above, articles titled “Tense Situation in Indo-China,” “The Local Press in India,” “Local Disturbances in Calcutta,” and “Coloured and White” explore the political instability that developed in India during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These pieces examine public discontent, the role of the press, and the global dimension of racial tensions.

For example, the article “Local Disturbances in Calcutta” provides a detailed account of the 1907 massacre and police violence in Calcutta. The local press rejected the version presented by British authorities and exposed the violence perpetrated against ordinary citizens, particularly students.

In “Coloured and White,” the protests in Calcutta are examined within the broader context of global racial conflict. The article analyzes the socio-political confrontations between people of color and white populations in India, America, and North Africa. The author warns of an impending wave of global discontent rooted in racial injustice and the ideology of colonial supremacy.

The article “Tense Situation in Indo-China” analyzes the political and military factors underlying instability in the Indo-China region, particularly in the context of the threatening rivalry between the French and British empires, and its negative impact on regional balance. The article “The Local Press in India” reveals how the growth of Indian journalism intensified anti-colonial sentiments. Despite censorship and pressure during the 1880s–1890s, the Indian press played a significant role in shaping national consciousness and acted as a driver of political movements and instability among the emerging class of young intellectuals.

The four articles referenced above reflect the multilayered causes of internal instability in India, including the local press, the movement for political independence, police violence, and racial

injustice. Notably, they highlight the interaction between the press and popular movements, as well as the economic and moral pressures that led to radicalization. These articles expose not just the instability in India, but also the fragile foundations of the colonial world as a whole.

The political instability and popular discontent that emerged in India at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century were widely covered in various sources, including Russian and British press. Based on an analysis of these sources, it becomes evident that this instability was not the result of a single factor, but rather the outcome of a complex interplay of political, social, economic, and moral factors.

Among the most important reasons were, first and foremost, the repressive nature of British colonial policy, injustices in the taxation and financial systems, and the legal disenfranchisement of the local population. Particularly, peasants, teachers, and students were among the most vocal and active groups expressing dissatisfaction. These dynamics are thoroughly analyzed in the articles “The Current State of India” and “Contemporary Movements in India.”

Secondly, the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) had a profound psychological impact on the peoples of Asia, intensifying anti-colonial sentiment. This event also encouraged the spread of independence ideas among the Indian population.

Thirdly, the role of the local press in shaping national consciousness deserves special attention. The articles “The Local Press in India” and “Local Uprisings in Calcutta” emphasize how, despite censorship, the Indian press played a critical role in awakening the masses.

Fourthly, racial inequality, discriminatory policies, and the British government's duplicitous stance triggered deep discontent among the people. This in turn contributed to the rise of radical groups that resorted to violent methods¹.

Fifthly, even British publications such as *The Times* acknowledged the gravity of the situation in India. However, rather than proposing reforms, they advocated for the intensification of repressive measures - thus exposing the internal contradictions of British colonial policy.

In conclusion, the political instability that emerged in India was not merely a reaction to economic hardship, but rather a complex socio-political process shaped by the awakening of political consciousness, the influence of the national press, and external geopolitical factors. These developments played a crucial role in the formation and growth of the Indian national liberation movement.

One of the central issues frequently addressed in press publications was the administrative structure, domestic policy, and political reforms implemented by the British colonial empire to consolidate its rule in the colonies. The newspapers mentioned above repeatedly returned to the subject of British colonial policy in India. In particular, the article by T.G. Thornton titled “Baluchistan and the New Indian Province” analyzes the process of establishing a new administrative province in the region of Baluchistan by the British Empire, emphasizing its political and strategic significance. According to Thornton, although Baluchistan appeared nominally independent, in reality, it was under the complete control of the British administration. The article provides extensive coverage of issues such as the territorial scope of the new province, its administrative structure, financial provisioning, and transport infrastructure. It also highlights that the British authorities were carrying out “reforms in agreement with local tribal leaders,” aiming to ensure security in the region and to gain strategic advantage in border disputes with Russia. Through its focus on political and military operations in Baluchistan, the article reveals the practical implementation of British colonial policy across its territories.

Another article titled “Lesseps' Railway Project from Orenburg to India and ‘The Times’ Opinion on It” discusses the proposed railway project by the renowned engineer F. de Lesseps,

¹ Terror v Indii // Russiya. – 1908. – № 710.; TS. №493. – 159 str.

aimed at connecting Orenburg to India. The author suggests that this railway could reduce the travel time between London and Calcutta by one week and potentially ease geopolitical tensions between Britain and Russia.

According to the project plan, Russia was to construct the railway from Orenburg to Samarkand (approximately 2,700 versts), while Britain would undertake the construction from Samarkand to Peshawar (about 1,000 versts). While The Times acknowledges the project's feasibility on paper, it expresses cautious skepticism regarding its practical implementation. The article assesses the project not only as a potential revolution in transportation infrastructure, but also as a measure capable of altering the geostrategic balance during the era of the "Great Game." Furthermore, the article includes technical specifications, cost estimates, and comparative analysis with other infrastructure initiatives.

The previously mentioned article titled "The Current State of India" also addresses the issue of colonial policy. The article draws attention to the intensification of political activity in India and the acceleration of local movements as a direct result of the Russo-Japanese War. While Japan's successful military campaign against Russia was met with celebration among the British, it also strengthened the confidence of colonized peoples in their own struggles for freedom. In India, in particular, this victory stirred a popular sentiment that even "Great Britain can be defeated." The article further notes that the British government was compelled to introduce reforms that had previously been unimaginable.

The policy of maintaining a distance from Britain pursued by the Amir of Afghanistan, Habibullah Khan, in the context of the Anglo-Russian Agreement, revealed certain weaknesses in British colonial policy. This indicates that Britain had begun to feel the consequences of its missteps regarding regional security and its prior support for Japan.

In issue No. 33 of Peterburgskaya Novosti, published in 1907, the article "The Fate of India" analyzes a political speech delivered by the British Secretary of State for India, John Morley, on October 21, 1907, in Arbroath. In his address, Morley emphasized the need for a distinct approach to Indian governance, asserting that equating India with Britain or other territories would be a political mistake. He advocated for a cautious implementation of liberal reforms - not under the influence of excessive idealists or strict authoritarians, but rather through balanced and thoughtful measures. During his speech, Morley stated that the situation in India was not dangerous, but that it required constant attention and vigilance. Additionally, Keir Hardie, leader of the Socialist Party and a visitor to India, acknowledged the absence of outright rebellion, but warned that a new law increasing police surveillance over public meetings could act as a "dangerous spark," potentially igniting unrest. This article outlines the core principles of the British administration's cautious yet reform-oriented policy in India.

Among the articles reviewed, some focus on the construction of telegraph lines intended to strengthen British colonial exploitation in India and facilitate communication across the empire. One such article discusses the construction of a 300-verst military telegraph line built during the 1895 Chitral Expedition conducted by the British army. Under the leadership of engineer Dempster, a telegraph line was constructed from Goti-Mardan (near Peshawar) to Chitral within 54 days, connecting 30 stations. The construction took place under extreme conditions - across mountainous, roadless terrain and in varying climates, both hot and cold. Equipment, tools, and materials were transported using mules and camels. Steel pipe poles, insulators, and Minotto batteries formed the core of the telegraph system. The article details 91 instances of communication breakdowns caused by enemy attacks, climate conditions, and animals. Over 31,000 messages were transmitted through this line, underlining its strategic importance. The article highlights the complexity and resilience of British military and engineering operations.

A publication in the *Russkiy Invalid* newspaper in 1889 discusses the centralized yet locally disconnected nature of British colonial governance. The article analyzes the formation and structure of the British administrative system in India. Before 1858, India had been governed by the East India Company; however, following the Sepoy Mutiny, the Government of India Act transferred control directly to the British Crown. The Secretary of State for India and the India Council became the principal decision-making bodies, approving all laws and financial matters. The Governor-General served as the representative of the British monarch in India, exercising both executive and partial legislative authority. Although local legislative councils included Indian members, they were in the minority and thus had negligible real influence.

The section "Turkestan and British India" from M.D. Skobelev's *Posthumous Papers* examines the imperial rivalry between the Russian and British empires in Asia. The author discusses the geopolitical balance between Turkestan and India, offering a critical view of British military, economic, and political policies in the region. The article argues that reforms implemented by the British in their colonies were superficial and primarily aimed at military control. It also analyzes tensions within the framework of the "Great Game," including diplomatic positions and the potential threat posed by Russia to India via Turkestan.

Historical sources and press materials analyzed indicate that the British administrative system in India was inherently centralized and based on strict control. Although the East India Company's powers were abolished after 1858, the British government established a more systematic but authoritarian colonial rule through new institutions. The Governor-General, as the representative of the British Emperor, exercised both executive and legislative powers, while the Secretary of State for India held authority to approve all political decisions in London. Although local legislative councils existed, they held no real power.

Many articles emphasize that reforms served primarily as a superficial means of maintaining static order and imperial security. Press censorship and legal restrictions such as the *Acte-Bailon* were used to suppress socio-political activism. Any critical expression in the press was equated with rebellion.

Skobelev's writings further illustrate that British policy was heavily militarized and rooted in economic interests. The documents underscore the importance of evaluating British actions within the broader context of imperial geopolitics and competition with Russia. The Chitral Expedition and the development of military-telecommunication infrastructure symbolized the technocratic and militarized foundations of British dominance.

In conclusion, the political reforms carried out by Britain in India did not represent genuine democratic change, but rather a reconfiguration of control mechanisms aimed at preserving existing authority.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, the awakening of political consciousness in Indian colonial society became particularly evident in the activities of the Indian National Congress. Initially aimed at achieving compromise with the British administration through reforms, this political organization gradually turned into a field of internal contradictions. By the early 20th century, tensions between the two main factions within the Congress - **the Moderates** and **the Radicals (or Nationalists)** - had significantly intensified. The Radicals advocated for increasing political activism among the masses and initiating direct action against the British administration, while the Moderates preferred a gradual, legal path to reform within the existing legislative framework. The 1905 partition of Bengal deepened these disagreements, leading to widespread public protests and a surge in socio-political discourse in the press across several provinces.

Articles published in various Russian newspapers covered these internal disputes, public discontent, and the British administration's responses, providing a means to analyze the complex political landscape of India during that period.

For instance, issue No. 506 (1907) of the newspaper *Golos Pravdy* featured an article titled "Disorders in India," which detailed the mass protests that occurred in India in 1907 and the British colonial authorities' reaction. It reports that public gatherings were banned in districts stretching from Dacca to Bakerganj, a nationalist newspaper editor was arrested, and censorship over editorial offices was intensified. These disorders occurred against the backdrop of the 50th anniversary of the 1857 revolt, prompting the British government to take harsher measures.

The article also notes that both the liberal and conservative factions of the British press supported this policy, reflecting a certain degree of political unity within the metropole. In conclusion, the article states that while revolutionary movements in the Indian colony had been suppressed, critical remarks were raised regarding the extent of force used by the government.

Local publications also drew significant attention to the activities of newly emerging movements in India, offering in-depth analyses of the causes behind the political instability, social discontent, and the rise of Indian national awakening in the early 20th century. These articles examined the direct consequences of colonial agricultural policies under British rule - particularly the strict enforcement of tax collection and the resulting dispossession of landowners from their properties. Additionally, they discussed the colonial infrastructure in Punjab, including canalization policies, the role of the nationalist press under editorial oversight, the intensification of religious and ethnic tensions, and the repressive measures employed by the colonial government - such as the Regulation of 1818, press censorship, and arbitrary arrests. The authors advocated for greater inclusion of local elites in governance, the opening of higher administrative positions to Indians, and the establishment of advisory institutions. The articles clearly identified the social, economic, and political factors contributing to the intensification of the Indian national movement.

Newspaper pages from this period also frequently featured articles aimed at uncovering the political roots of the growing wave of terrorism in India. In documents from 1908, the expansion of terrorist activities in colonial India, their scope, and political motivations are widely covered. Reports included the discovery of bomb depots in Calcutta, toxic chemicals, assassination plots targeting high-ranking British officials, revolutionary calls to sabotage railway infrastructure, and the growing popularity of boycott campaigns among the population.

Terrorist actions were interpreted as a radicalized form of anti-colonial resistance. The conspiracies were portrayed as especially dangerous not only because they targeted specific individuals, but also because they aimed to incite a broader popular uprising. Factors such as mass illiteracy, radical propaganda in local newspapers, and deepening religious and ethnic divisions were seen as intensifying these developments.

These materials reflect the transformation of Indian national consciousness and demonstrate how the lack of meaningful reforms and the persistence of colonial policies led to sharp opposition. The articles also interpret the outcomes of the Russo-Japanese War as a source of inspiration for anti-colonial movements across Asia, especially in India. In particular, Japan's victory over Russia sparked a psychological awakening among the Indian people and compelled the British administration to implement unforeseen political reforms.

Another source discusses the activities of political groups in India that were organizing their movements through widespread "volunteer societies" and employing terrorist methods. According to official reports, these societies had around 15,000 members and operated under the guise of "protecting" meetings and assisting pilgrims, while in fact promoting indigenous goods, organizing boycotts, and using intimidation tactics.

In response, the British government adopted a special legislative measure that bypassed the jurisdiction of the High Court and provided for strict punitive actions. While such socio-political measures were ostensibly aimed at eliminating the roots of rebellion, they were criticized for failing to address the underlying causes of public discontent.

These articles offer an analysis of the political tensions in India, the roots of anti-colonial popular movements, and the British administration's countermeasures. They shed light on the political climate of the time, showing how reforms were introduced under mounting pressure, and they provide a deeper understanding of the evolving dynamics of discontent and resistance within Indian society.

Analyses in the European press widely covered the colonial administration in India and the public's response to it. In *The Times*, it was emphasized that the growing public discontent was directly linked to British administrative policy, particularly due to imbalances and injustices across various Indian states. Journalistic observations noted that issues such as unemployment, the tax burden, and religious tensions were reaching dangerous levels.

At the same time, the article titled "Coloured and White" revealed the dual attitudes within European society towards colonialism. The article pointed out that Japan's recent political and military successes had sparked a noticeable shift in attitudes towards Asian peoples, and that the unequal status between whites and people of color was increasingly being discussed critically in the Western press. These analyses indicate that skepticism towards British policy was growing within international media discourse.

Russian press sources concerning military and security issues in India provided insight into how the British colonial administration was responding to both internal and external threats. The article "Fighting the Uprisings in India" discussed the military measures introduced by British authorities in response to protests and rebellions in Bengal and other regions. It described efforts to stabilize the situation through increased military oversight, restrictions on civilian activities, and harsh punitive measures.

In the article "Construction of the Military Telegraph Line during the 1895 Chitral Expedition," the British Army's implementation of infrastructure projects in strategic northern regions of India is explored. The telegraph lines built during the Chitral Expedition were presented not only as military communication tools but also as instruments for expanding political influence.

Furthermore, the article "Local Tribes within the Sphere of Russian and British Influence in Asia" analyzed how local tribal communities were navigating the geopolitical rivalry between the Russian and British empires. It highlighted how tribal leaders often pledged loyalty to both sides and how they were utilized as instruments of political pressure.

The article "Expedition to Northern India" focused on the objectives of British military expeditions in the north, which included securing strategic points and ensuring regional stability. It demonstrated the extent of British military preparedness to counter internal threats.

Together, these four sources reveal that the security situation in India was shaped not only by internal unrest but also by the influence of external geopolitical forces, as well as infrastructure and military fortification efforts by the British Empire.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, the geopolitical confrontation between the Russian and British Empires came to be known as the "Great Game," one of whose central dimensions was the strategic control of Asia through India. The articles analyzed above reveal various aspects of this rivalry.

In the article dedicated to the political legacy of M.D. Skobelev, it is shown that the idea of accessing India through the Turkestan region was seriously considered within Russian military and political circles. The suggestion was to counter British imperialism, strengthen Russian influence in Central Asia, and view India as a strategic point of geopolitical pressure. Through

Skobelev's vision, the author discloses Russia's long-term strategic objectives, placing India at the center of imperial rivalry.

An article about the 1888 expedition describes Russian military-research operations aimed at exploring northern India. These movements sought to study British defense systems, transport infrastructure, and local conditions. The article interprets the expedition as practical reconnaissance, revealing that Russia's military and political strategies were being carefully planned. In turn, Britain viewed these actions as a threat and responded by tightening its defensive and surveillance measures.

An article from 1885 discussing local tribes highlights the geopolitical importance of communities located along the borders of Russian and British spheres of influence. Both empires sought to bring these tribes under their control, mobilizing them militarily and politically. The article also analyzes how these tribal populations were used to exert pressure within the broader imperial competition.

Overall, these articles demonstrate that the so-called "Great Indian Route" functioned not only as a military pathway but also as a means of strategic-political and cultural influence. Russian policy towards India was cautious, but clearly oriented toward long-term strategic goals. Britain, for its part, perceived this as a direct threat to its colonial system and closely monitored every move in the region.

Russian-language publications - both local and metropolitan - at the turn of the 20th century widely covered British colonial policies in India. The analyzed materials are notable not only as sources of information but also as a cultural-intellectual lens through which complex geopolitical processes were interpreted.

Firstly, these newspapers regularly reported on political unrest and public dissatisfaction in India, connecting popular discontent to national, social, and economic factors. Britain's highly centralized administrative system, restrictions on civil liberties, and injustices in economic governance were identified as primary causes.

Secondly, the coverage of British administration and reform policy reflected varying perspectives. On the one hand, the efficiency and decisiveness of British governance were praised; on the other, critiques emerged regarding its unreliability, indifference to the needs of the local population, and fundamentally coercive character.

Thirdly, the divisions and competing agendas within the Indian National Congress were examined in a more analytical tone in Russian media. Articles highlighted the internal conflicts between reformists advocating for "universal rights" and radicals demanding complete independence. This approach facilitated a deeper understanding of the internal complexities of India's political movements.

Fourthly, the issue of terrorism and security threats was widely covered. Acts of political violence committed by Indian activists were analyzed, but their root causes - especially the role of British repression - were also acknowledged. At the same time, detailed reports were given on regional security, military expeditions, and British military responses.

Fifthly, European press assessments and external influences - particularly the role of Japan - were given special attention. Publications like *The Times* expressed growing skepticism towards British policies and raised concerns about the destructive outcomes of colonialism. Russian newspapers reported on these commentaries, offering a critical and realistic perspective to local audiences.

Ultimately, the analyses surrounding Anglo-Russian relations and the "Great Indian Route" centered on strategic rivalry, military-political ambition, and diplomatic equilibrium. Russian publications offered deeper geopolitical insights, foreign policy speculations, and reports on military expeditions and preparations.

In conclusion, the reviewed articles reflect the complex and multifaceted nature of British rule in India. The information they provide is interwoven with political analysis, geopolitical reflection, and a sense of humanitarian solidarity. The Russian press, in this regard, served not only as a channel of information, but also as an influential platform for stimulating anti-colonial thought and public consciousness.

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