

Welcome students. Course title for today is Resistance to Colonial Hegemony in Goa.

Module 2 that is Mateus de Castro.

Outcomes for this topic are early life of Mateus de Castro, Castro's visits to Rome, letters to the Goan, and later activities and his death.

Learning outcomes for this summarise the early life of

Mateus de Castro, enumerate the efforts made by Mateus de Castro in challenging the Portuguese policy of religious discrimination. Mateus de Castro, he was born in 1594 in Divar in a Brahmin family, but he became orphan at a very early age and was raised by Friars Franciscan at their College of Reis Magos, he used to work as a kitchen hand and devoted his spare time to the Scholastic pursuit. This, he continued for five years and then he presented himself to the Archbishop of Goa D Christovao de Sa e Lisboa for ordination, but only to his disappointment. The archbishop was very determined not to ordain any Goan. Christian converts were informed that both Pope and the Portuguese King were against the induction of Goans into the clergy.

Castro addressed a letter to the Goan and accused Portuguese of supplying false information regarding the process of Ordination. Mateus de Castro proceeded to Rome in 1621 to accomplish his goal. He reached the eternal City in 1625, and he enjoyed the patronage of Secretary of the Congregation, Cardinal Francesco Ingoli. He pursued higher studies at the Collegium Urbanum. He was the first Indian to obtain Doctorate.

Castro was ordained in 1630. From there he left for Goa in 1633 with the title Protontorio, Apostolico, or Apostolic Protonotary. He was warmly welcomed by his compatriots, but his credential was questioned by the Vicar capitular Bishop Joao de Rocha.

On the other hand, Vatican's accepted him without any testimonials because of his academic talents, though he said that he lost his documents on his journey. He was also rewarded with deserving ecclesiastical post. Goans under Portuguese tutelage refused to accept his ordination and appointment.

Mateus de Castro returned to Rome dejected over the racial prejudice in Goa from Portuguese. He denounced working of the Padroado in India and launched a campaign to read the flaws ecclesiastical setup of Goa. He sent memory memorials to the propaganda fide where he highlighted that the doors of religious orders were close to Goans and access to Priestly colleges and church offices were denied to them.

The Congregation for the propagation of faith was founded, and this gave hope to the Christians. And soon they received complaints from the Goan Christians moment.

Memorandums were sent to the King in 1646 by the Goan Brahmins related to grievances against Jesuits. The Padroado under the Archbishop Aleixo de Memezes followed very strict policy with regard to the ordination of Goan as priest.

Mateus de castro proved Portuguese officials wrong, both in words and action as he was well versed in many languages like that of Latin, Armenian, Persian, etc. He also completed his education in Rome. Goans were denied priesthood on the basis of their skin that they were considered brown skin and Portuguese were also afraid that if they recruit large number of Goans in this field, then they will replace them as a leader of the people. Brahmin Christians saw the opportunity to occupy the once lost social Pedestal they saw Castro s truly dedicated champion.

Portuguese authorities in Goa were very ignorant about the local language there was persecution besides this, they used to use interpreters to hear the confessions. In 1656, father Pedro Borges exposed the working of Padroado to propaganda fide.

Mateus de castro again wrote a open letter to Goa and he attacked religions and temporal authorities of Portuguese in India for their behaviour.

Mateus de castro was sent to Goa as Vicar Apostolic and Inquisitor General of Bijapur there he established headquarters across Adil Shahi borders with Portuguese at Bicholi, and he also tried to found Oratory of Goan Clerics and tried to ordain some Goans, but he soon got suspended for ordaining Goans at Bicholim without permission of Portuguese.

Regarding Mateus de castro letters of criticism were sent to Rome. In 1677 D Louis de Souza, made a representation to Pope Innocent XI criticizing Mateus de Castro. But Rome absolved and ratified Castors Ordination performed in Bicholim.

Mateus de Castro believed that with the Portuguese dominating political scenario, Christianity will never have a firm root in Goa and he was also of the belief that irrespective of how intelligent and capable a Brahmin is, Padroado would never allow him to occupy upper echelons of the church organization.

In 1653, Mateus de Castro returned to Goa from his third visit to Rome. He was more determined to liberate Goa. He wrote a letter to Brahmins which entitled O Espelho dos Brahmins which means mirror of the Brahmins.

After this he tried to win allies like that of local potentate. The Adil Shah of Bijapur and the Dutch East India Company to seek help from Adil Shah he very often visited his court so that they will help him against the Portuguese. Adil Shah of Bijapur, waiting for this opportunity agreed to help him, and they were inclined to help Dutch in the capture of Ceylon in exchange for the support of the Goan affairs.

Castro claimed that Adil Shah promised to permit liberated Goa to be governed by its own council, and no Muslim Hindu administrators will be on local people there they will not erect any mosque and temples in Goa and they will reduce the tax by half.

Failure of the attack

All the efforts of Mateus de Castro failed due to various reasons. One of the reason is he was cheated when he wrote a letter to Balthazar Mascarenhas. He turned out to be the traitor and he revealed this to the Portuguese officials. Portuguese also learned about the attack of Bijapur through their person Goncalo Martins. Adil Shah of Bijapur signed treaty with Portuguese for hostility. In 1658, very disappointed Mateus de castro again left for Rome and there he died in 1677.

As a concluding part, it was the racist policy of Portuguese which prompted Mateus de Castro to protest. He visited Rome to accomplish his goal. He wrote many provoking letters to Brahmins, and Christians. Took help from Adil Shah, but he failed in his him aims due to certain reasons. And ultimately returned to Rome and died.

These are some of the references you may go through it.

Thank you.