

# NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, BIDHU BHUSHAN RAY AND “SCIENCE AND CULTURE” – HISTORY OF SCIENCE VS. POLITICAL HISTORY

RAJINDER SINGH\*

---

*Every Indian knows the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose— one of the most celebrated Indian freedom fighters. His patriotism made him a hero and earned the name ‘Netaji’. In contrast, Bidhu Bhushan Ray, a Physics Professor at the University of Calcutta, and one of the Founder Editors of “Science and Culture”, is almost unknown even among the physicists. The present communication explores the interaction between the two men; and the probable role B.B. Ray played in establishing contact between Netaji and the German dictator Adolf Hitler.*

---

## **Introduction**

**B**idhu Bhushan Ray (also written as Bidhubhusan Ray or Bidhu Bhusan Ray or B.B. Ray or B.B. Roy, Figure 1) is one of the founders of the X-ray spectroscopy in India.<sup>1</sup> Almost nothing is known about his interest in politics, his political views and activities. The present article intends to fulfil the gap.

## **B.B. Ray’s Political Views – The Early Phase**

In the beginning of the 1920s, M.K. Gandhi was the President of the Indian National Congress. In view of his strong individuality, he had complete control over the Congress, one of the newspapers even published an article entitled “Mahatma—the Dictator” (Figure 2).

Gandhi promised to achieve India’s independence within a year first in the meeting of National Congress in Kolkata in September 1920 while moving a resolution of Non-cooperation movement and reiterated couple of times later. His “non-cooperation” and “non-violent” movement did not produce any tangible result. The expert of the Peace Nobel Prize Committee, Jacob S. Worm-Müller, a historian and politician, who wrote report on Gandhi’s achievements



**Figure 1:** B.B. Ray (Credit: “Science and Culture.”).

stated that many had predicted the publicly distorted picture of Gandhi’s ideals would cause problems. The Indian Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, among others was one of

---

\* Research Group - Didactic and History of Science, Institute of Physics, University of Oldenburg, P.O. Box 2503, 26111 Oldenburg, Germany