

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SHYAM LAL COLLEGE

Programme organized by the Department of History (2017-2018)

ACADEMIC YEAR (2017-2018)

Lecture on “Why Britain Won” by Dr. Devesh Vijay on 25 April, 2018

History Department, Shyam Lal College organized a departmental lecture on 25th April, 2018 a part of farewell function to the final year students. Dr. Devesh Vijay, Associate Prof., Department of History, Zakir Hussain College was invited to deliver lecture to history honours students on the occasion. The aim of the lecture was to aid the students to understand aspects of British History from expert on the subject. Dr. Devesh Vijay was welcomed by the Techer-In-Charge, Dr. Jaya Kakkar and the Principal, SLC Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar. There were 100 participants in the seminar. In his extremely knowledgeable lecture on the topic: “Why Britain Won” Dr. Devesh Vijay dwelt on a number of factors why British liberal democracy and British imperialism fared better than French, German and Italian varieties of socialism, nazism and fascism. He emphasized upon some of key aspects of British liberal democracy such as the rule of law that limited the powers of monarchical, feudal and clerical powers, elected legislature that protected and not only ensured individuals rights and freedoms but also provided protection from the state. He further emphasized the historical process of evolution of British state in which state system was strengthened inspite of its small military and bureaucracy. The rulers depended upon landed gentry for internal and national defence, Bill of Rights etc which became the basis of British nationalism that also provided basis for early and continuous growth of constitutional rights, democracy and welfare. All these factors that underlie British democracy and subsequently were incorporated in some fair measure in British imperialism in India and elsewhere. Thus, in comparison British imperialism had more humane and benevolent outlook which provided it basis to compete better than other existing models. The lucid style in which the speaker delivered his viewpoint was highly appreciated by the students and elicited a number of queries from them. The vote of thanks was delivered by the seniormost faculty Dr. Alka Sharma.

