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HISTORY

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GROWTH OF COMMUNALISH AND PARTITION

Causes for Growth of Communism

Cripps mission 1942-Failure

Wavell plan 1945 -Failure

Simla Conference 1945-Failure

Cabinet Mission 1946

Mountbatten Plan

GROWTH OF COMMUNALISM AND THE PARTITION OF INDIA

One Communalism does not end the other each; feeds on the other and both fattens – Jawahar Lal Nehru.

British used Divide and Rule policy in its Administration in India.

After the revolt of 1857, they viewed Muslim with great distrust as they were the instigators of the revolt as per British.

But their opinion of Muslims took a sudden 'U' turn in 1870's as Hindus started their demand for more share in higher services, political rights, representative government etc., Also Hindu's reformation movement began in early 19th century but Muslim was in the later stage this made Hindus politically, economically and educationally advanced than Muslims then.

Theodore Beck, 1st British principal for newly-started Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College (now Aligarh University, founded in 1875 by Syed Ahmed Khan) played a notable role in mobilizing Muslim opinion and influencing British policy towards the Muslims.

Causes for Growth of Communalism

- * Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's gradual drift from Nationalism to Communalism. In Aug 1888 he started United Indian Patriotic Association to counter Congress.
- * Communal approached to Indian history (Revival/Reformation movements) fostered divisive communal tendencies in Indian politics. Eg: Labelling of ancient India as Hindu period and Medieval India as Muslim Period.
- * Religious and revival movements both Hindu and Muslim of 19th century contained mutually contradictory aspects. Eg: Wahabi's aim to establish world of Islam, Dayanand Saraswathi's Shuddhi movement etc.
- * Militant Nationalists of early 20th century accepted Maharana Pratap, Chatrapathi Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh as National Heroes while Akbar, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb as foreigners.
- * Patronage in government services used to foster communalism.
- * Simla Deputation on Oct 1, 1906 when Aga Khan inspired by Principal Aherbold of MAO college waited in a deputation on

Agha Khan, Syed Ahmed Khan (Nawab of Dacca), Salimulla Khan of Dacca were the pioneers of Muslim League.



Lord Minto. They expressed sentiments of loyalty to the British Empire and asked in return the Muslim reservation. hence Separate Electorates for Muslims was given in Morley-Minto reform 1909.

- * Formation of All-India Muslim league on 30 December 1906. With the following objectives
- * To promote among Indian Muslims feelings of loyalty towards British.
- * To protect political and other rights of Muslims.
- * To promote friendly relations among other communities without prejudice to above objectives.
- * 1920-23 Muslim League's activities remained suspended from its inception till 1947, it was a communal body.
- * 1st Elections to Provincial Legislative councils were held in 1937 under GOI Act 1935, Congress party gained majority in majority in many province and formed government in 1937. This forces Muslim league to become a true communal body in all sense.
- * Muslim League observed Day of Deliverance and Thanks giving when Congress ministers resigned in October 1939 over the WWII issue.
- * Poet and Political thinker Mohammed Iqbal declared at Allahabad session of the All India Muslim League in 1930 for Separate Muslim state.
- * The term Pakistan (Punjab, Afghania, Kashmir, Sindh, and Baluchistan) was coined by Rahmat Ali in 1933.
- * Lahore session in March 1940-Jinnah's declaration for separate nation was made.
- * Formation of All India Mahasabha in 1910 and its political views of Hindu Rashtra where Muslims will be a minority. It hardened Muslim leagues decision of separate nation and fostered Communal separation.

August offer 1940-lord Lillithgow offer of setting up a constitution making body after the war.

Cripps mission 1942-Failure

- * To secure Indian support for World war II.
- * Cripps promised to give dominion status after war as well as elections to be held after the war.
- * Both major parties, the Congress and the League rejected his proposals and the mission proved a failure.

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Wavell plan 1945 -Failure

- * Mr. Amery secretary of state offered to reconstitute the Governor General's Executive council, Except Viceroy all others to be Indians.
- * Hindus and Muslims equal representation (Not acceptable to Hindu Majority)
- * An Interim government of India Act 1935 would be formed
- * Governor General's VETO power only on the advice of Ministers.
- * Negotiations were open for new constitution.

Simla Conference 1945-Failure

- * Lord Wavell called a conference at Simla in June - July 1945 to sort out an agreement between Congress and Muslim league.
- * Wavell- Jinnah- Gandhi.
- * Wavell proclaimed conference was a failure
- * This gave picture that Jinnah had a veto in Indian Affairs.

Cabinet Mission 1946

Headed by Lord Pethick Lawrence (Sec. of State) and assisted by Sir. Stafford Cripps (President of Board of Trade) and Mr. A. V. Alexander (1st Lord of the Admiralty).

Honest Attempt to grant Independence

Causes

- * Pressure from Allies to grant Democracy.
- * Success of Nationalist forces in India and In WW II.
- * After Cripps mission nothing on part of British to give to India except complete Independence.
- * Royal India Navy Mutiny (very foundation of British Indian hold shaken), over INA trails in Red fort.
- * British wanted to have good relations with India, so wanted no more bad name.
- * Even VETO was not offered.

Objective

- * Formation of Interim Government as Constituent Assembly
- * C.A. with responsibility of framing new constitution.
- * Reversed the 2 Nation ideas it grew, Cabinet mission rejected the demand for Pakistan and suggested a central government



- * Jinnah demanded 2 constitution making bodies one for India(Hindustan) one for Pakistan.
- * Congress rejected the demand for full fledged Pakistan and called for a grouping of provinces under British (A- Hindu Majority, B-Muslim Majority, C- Bengal and Assam).
- * Members of constituent assembly to be selected from provincial government.
- * Common centre for Defence, Communication and External Affairs.
- * Provincial autonomy were to be given.
- * Residuary power with provinces not with Centre
- * As for princely states will no longer have any obligations with British Empire.
- * After 1st election their provinces can come out of this group. Interim government to be a part of constituent assembly that was to be formed.

Later Muslim league withdrew its acceptance for Cabinet Mission plan and observed 16 Aug 1946 as **Direct Action day** (remember film Heyram).

Interim government was formed on 2nd September 1946 under Jawahar lal Nehru leadership. Atlee's statement on 20 February 1947 of Divide and Quit Policy (In reality was executed as Quit and Divide as exact partition (location- Radcliff line) was announced after Independence).

Mountbatten Plan

Lord Mountbatten Plan (or June 3 plan or Dickee bird plan)

Lord Mountbatten succeeded Lord Wavell in March 1947 offered a plan(Mountbatten plan) for the partition of India in his 3 June 1947 announcement.

Congress accepts to partition due to Communal Riots.

- * Proposed for Unified India the princely states had no other choice except India or Pakistan. (But let off Kashmir as Raja Hari singh was a friend of Mountbatten !!!).
- * July 1947 States integration began, Jawahar lal Nehru -'Any Princely states which did not join India will be considered Hostile'. Junagarh, Hyderabad and Kashmir stood separate while on Independence.
- * Referendum could be held in Northwest frontier and Sylhet in Bengal (Joined with Pakistan).



Notes

- * Partition committee to be setup; Single member committee under Radcliff (was given just 30 days). But was done as many felt that Partition was temporary.

Indian Independence act passed by the British parliament in July 18 1947 provided for the setting up of 2 independent Dominions of India and Pakistan W.e.f. 15 August 1947. (Pakistan-14, India-15 as Congress did not want a new nation formed out of Independent India on the next day).

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