



CAUSES OF CREATION OF MUSLIM LEAGUE: HISTORY AND IT'S BACKGROUND

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Abstract

The history of origin and growth of political parties in India can be traced from the days of freedom movement of India. The Indian National Congress and Muslim league both are important political parties. It was a sad inevitable fact and truth that partitions happened due to the split in the Indian National Congress and difference between the Hindu and Muslim. Muslim communities feel that they are neglected and poorly represented in comparison to majority. Hence it was the same feeling and ideology that led to the formation of Muslim league with the support of British government. The British had always been accepting, fanning and supporting such Muslim demands that divide the Indian people. However, the support of the British government to the political Islamists in their non secular intention as well as contemptuous attitude towards majority rule helped the league to become the sole representative body of Indian Muslims. Jinnah who played an important role during that period. Jinnah and Muslim league led the struggle for the partition of British India in to separate Hindu and Muslim states, and after the partition of Pakistan in 1947 the league became Pakistan's dominant political party. It had a mass-based pressure group in British India, and hence it gradually declined in popularity and cohesion.

Keywords: *Muslim league, British Government, Indian National Congress, deputation*

Introduction

The formation of All India Muslim League was a major landmark in the history of modern India. It was founded in the early twentieth century. Muslim league deemed as a communal party and its membership was restricted to Muslims only. The Prominent leaders that helped form the Muslim league for example leaders like Sir Salimullah who initially sketch a plan for all India Muslim League organization, which was seconded by Hakim Ajmal Khan and Sir Syed and other Muslim leaders. To Confront the challenge of modern political system, the All India Muslim League successfully achieved a status of separate electorates for the Muslims within three years of its formation. It was the big first achievements of the party. Lucknow Pact 1916 put official seal the separate identity of Muslims. In 1920 league supported the Congress program of civil disobedience. In 1927 there was a split in the Muslim League, however in 1928 Nehru report help to narrow down the difference though dissensions continued till 1934 when the Muslim league reorganized. Ultimately, the Muslim league made a demand for separate sovereign state of Pakistan for the Muslim. The tussles and stresses between Congress party and Muslim league over various issues resulted in the outcome of the Muslim league the origin of Jinnah Two-Nation theory.

Objective of my Paper

1. To trace the origin and causes of All India Muslim League, why Muslim League was founded on communal lines.
2. To discuss the causes of Muslim League and hostility towards Indian National Congress.
3. This paper tries to analysis the policies which was used by Britishers.
4. It also focuses on the factors which was helpful to the growth of Muslim league.
5. To study the factors that lead to the division of the country.

Research Methodology

To write this paper, the data has mainly concentrated on textual approach, books written by eminent scholars and articles, papers written on various National and International Journals has been considered to do the framework of this paper. Thus, secondary data has been used to write this paper.

Review of Literature:

A lot of literature on sustainable development is available some of the important books that appeared on the above topic from time to time have been reviewed as follows:

Madhav Godbole (2006)¹ in his book examined in a systematic manner the events that led to the partition, the key personalities involved and the roles they played during and after the partition. The partition of India resulted in what came to be known as one of the biggest migrations of refugees in history.

D.C Gupta (1970)² this book narrates the rift between Congress and Muslim League. The virus of communalism entered the body politics of India. Ultimately Muslims realized that their anti-British stance was a mistake and that the only proper course was to adopt western ways and remain loyal to British connection.

Amalek Tripathi (2014)³ presented an analytical history of India's struggle for freedom and the role played in it by the Indian National Congress. It provided a comprehensive account of the independence movement, encompassing events such as the Morley-Minto reforms, the Partition. The author also threw light on the complex interplay of power politics between the Centre, the States, and the various grass-roots organizations on one hand and the push and pull of Hindu-Muslim communal politics on the other.

Tara Chand (2017)⁴ History of the freedom movement in India Vol. III this book concerned with preparation of the ground for the emergence of the concept of nationalism and freedom. The author explains about the Nationalist ideas and growth of the urge of self-determination. Moreover, he highlighted British policy of "divide and rule".

Kishwar Sultana (2016)⁵ the book deals with the rise of Nationalism in India and the National Movement which culminated in the Independence of the country in 1947 and Jinnah's role in the Political development of the Muslim league during 1924-1940. This period remained of crucial importance for understanding the achievement of Pakistan.

Jaswant Singh (2010)⁶ the author had provided informative and well told biography of Jinnah and his work for the welfare of Muslim community. He also explained the key role of Muslim League regarding demand for separate Muslim majority nation Pakistan, leading to the partition of India by Britishers in 1947.

Early Muslim Efforts

After the revolt of 1857 Muslim became the target of Britishers. The decline of Muslim empire created a sense of loss among the Muslims of India. Ultimately in the 19th century the changing pattern of the government policies has been established. The Muslim community want an organization by which they can fulfil their demands. Nawab Abdul latee (1823-1893) the first member of Bengal legislative assembly laid a foundation of Islamimajis-I-Muzakir. Better known as Mohammedan literary society, one of the oldest Muslim organization. More than 30 years Nawab Abdul latee worked for welfare of Muslim community. After him Syed Amir Ali (1849-1928) established The National Mohammedan association with the same objectives.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the first post mutiny thinker tried hard to raise the economic condition by promoting modern education for Muslims. The Mohammedan Anglo oriental college, Aligarh and Muslim Educational conference were by far the most lasting achievement in the political organization of Muslim.

All India Muslim League

The success of Muslim deputation that waited upon the viceroy at Shimla enthused the Muslims to start a separate Political organization. The British officialdom was also interested in it to counterbalance the Congress. Consequently 31-Dec-1906 Muslim League was formed at Dacca. In 1906 the Aga Khan was a founding member and first president of All India Muslim league.⁷ The All India Muslim League as a parallel but anti Congress organization. The communalism-based league not only whole heartedly supported the partition of Bengal but also demanded and worked for separate electorate and special safeguards for Muslims and ensure their mainstreaming in India.⁸ It was

¹ Madhav Godbole; *The Holocaust of Indian partition: An Inquest*, The University of Michigan, 2008

² D.C Gupta; *Indian National Movement and constitutional development 1885-1945*, Vikas Publication, 1970

³ Amalek Tripathi; *Indian National Congress and struggle for freedom 1885-1947*, Oxford University Press, 2014

⁴ Tara Chand; *History of freedom movement in India Vol III*, Publication Division Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2017

⁵ Kishwar Sultana; *Politics of the All India Muslim League 1924-1940*, New Delhi Oxford University Press, 2016

⁶ Jaswant Singh; *Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence*, Oxford University Press, 2010

⁷ "Annual Report of the All India Muslim league for the ten-year 1932 and 1933, pp.10".

⁸ "Civil and military gazette June 11, 1936".

from the day of its birth an unpatriotic and anti-national organism with an avowed aim of promoting loyalty towards British government. The first Annual session was held at Karachi on December, 1907.

The first conference of the all India Muslim league was held at Amritsar under the presidentship of Sir Syed Ali Imam. The league leaders demand for more weightage to the Muslims in the legislative councils and civil services.

With the passage of time Muslim league started becoming a great representative of the aspirations of the Muslim in India and they started looking towards the league it as their guardian. Muslim league adopted self-government for India as its goal 1913.

Objective of Muslim League

1. To create awareness among Muslims the feeling of loyalty towards British government.
2. To safeguard the political rights of the Muslims and bring them into the notice of government.
3. To promote brotherhood between the different nations of India.
4. The Muslims should be given place in legislature commensurate with their services rendered to the British Empire.

Reasons for the Establishment of All India Muslim League

1. **Establishment of Indian National Congress:** INC is a broadly-based political party in India founded in 1885. Its first president was an Indian and Mr. Hume was its first general secretary. The main purpose for the creation of this organization was to provide a "safety valve". The formation of INC was lauded by the press and was described as an important chapter in the history of British rule in India. *Indu Prakash* wrote "It marks the beginning of a new life". The Congress was the central organ of the new society which had evolved as a result of Economic, Social and cultural changes taking place during the hundred years since Plassey. The growing importance and strength of INC made the Muslim community as a whole fear that representative government would mean the rule of the majority community or Hindu raj. Gradually the league's antagonism led to the enunciation of the "Two Nation theory" and demand for separate home for Muslims.⁹
2. **Hindu Extremism and Urdu-Hindu Controversy:** The Urdu Hindu Controversy began with the demand of Hindus to replace Urdu by Hindi as official language, in Deva Nagari Script in 1867. To fulfil this demand Hindus of Banaras started a movement during the same period. Hindu Extremists started programs like ARYASAMAJ with a purpose to reconvert the Muslims into Hindu religion etc. So, there were also the cause of creation of Muslim League.
3. **Education and economic backwardness:** Muslims had lagged far behind from the Hindus in education and economic progress. Muslims largely remained aloof from modern western education since the British also regarded them as responsible for the 1857 rebellion, they were discriminated against. Muslims were not involved in the growth of any organized industry and did not take advantage of western education to enter government services as a result they did not get any benefit as compared to Hindu.
4. **Role of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan:** He was a great intellectual, a radical thinker, keen historian, an enlightened and forward-looking educationist. He asked the Muslims not to join INC. He declared that if the British were made to withdraw from India, the Hindu majority would dominate over them and such a state of affair would be very unfair to Muslims and the Islam.

He also encouraged the Muslims to demand separate electorate, even a separate Muslim majority state. Even partition of Bengal was the first step in that direction. Thus, the communal problem in India was not merely religious in character as styled by the rulers, it was propped up for political gains.

5. **Aligarh Movement:** The Aligarh Movement was based on liberal interpretation of the Quarn. It tried to harmonized Islam with the modern liberal culture. It was the first national awakening movement among the Muslims. This movement which aimed at making the Indian Muslim politically conscious and spreading modern education among them. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was the founder of this movement. He played a significant role in bringing about an intellectual revolution among the Muslims. His efforts earned Sir Syed the title "Prophet of Education".

⁹ "Pakistan "two nation" doctrine proclaimed by Muslim league xiii, pp. 170, 173."

6. **The Success of Shimla deputation:** The Shimla deputation was an important issue in the history of modern India. It was unique because for the first time Muslim were anxious to take their share in political activities and the Hindu Muslim conflict which started with the Urdu Hindi controversy, was lifted to constitutional plans. After getting the permission of viceroy demand of separate electorate came into existence and result of this deputation was the Partition of India and emergence of Pakistan.
7. **British Strategies of “Communities, Classes and Interest”:** The Minto-Morley reform 1909 introduce the system of separate electorate and representation for Indian Muslims. Muslim League get constitutional recognition of separate electorate was a great achievement. Muslims could now have their own representatives at legislative councils. They were to be elected by Muslim alone.
8. **British Policy Divide and Rule:** The unity of Hindus and Muslims reminded them about the 1857 revolt. The cunning Britishers knew that they could achieve their objectives by dividing the Indian people into different divisions. Thus, they started taking effective steps towards their cunning policy “Divide and Rule”. The British had always been accepting, supporting such Muslim demands that divide the Indian people. Indian Council Act 1909, Partition of Bengal are the main example.

Jinnah’s Fourteen Points to Counter-Act Nehru Report:

Mr. Jinnah who didn’t agreed to Nehru report put forward his fourteen points as a minimum demand of the Muslims for any political settlement. The league was now steadily advancing from his previous demands of separate electorate and special weightage to the final full fledge demand for Pakistan. The league at its session in Bombay in 1936 condemned and rejected the federal scheme embodied in the Government of India Act, 1935.

As a result of its great success in the election, 1937 Congress was able to form a government in number of provinces. Jinnah and other Muslim leaders declared their dissatisfaction with the Congress government and Muslim league decided to fight the elections. Ultimately Jinnah presented his fourteen-point formula for the Muslims in all legislature and also in central and provincial cabinets.¹⁰

Notion of Pakistan:

The claim for political self-determination of the Two Nation was put forward. The Hindu Muslim problem which culminated in the division of the sub-continent 1947. Muslim League leaders kept on talking of a physical division of India.¹¹ After that the All India Muslim League held its session at Lahore. It was an important session because the resolution embodying demands of Pakistan or the establishments of Sovereign state of Muslims. The league fixed August 16, 1946 “Direct Action” day. It was against the Hindu not Muslim.¹² Thus the league provided an opportunity to Muslims to unite themselves at one platform.

Following are some points which induced them to submit to Pakistan Scheme.

- Communal riots
- Encouragement of the British to Muslim league
- Policy of the Congress
- Congress desire to make India strong
- Jinnah’s defiant attitude
- Failure of interim government
- Influence of lord Mountbatten

CONCLUSION

Thus, Muslim League exhibits a unique experimentation of religion-based mobilization for democratic politics, which has played a significant role in the political mainstreaming of the Muslim. The engagement of religion with politics that emerge out of the specific historical and cultural context. So, in the end we can say that the great achievement of Muslim league was the creation of Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-E-Azam the Muslim united themselves on the platform of the Muslim league and achieved Pakistan in 1947.

¹⁰ Jamil-ud-din Ahmad; *Speeches and writings of Mr. Jinnah 1946 (vol i) Pp.26*

¹¹ Resolution of the AIML quote in khalid bin syed, Pakistan the formative phase, pp.115-116

¹² United India Patriotic Association August offer, 172-3

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