

Understanding Partition

Partition through oral source

Introduction:

The British policy of divide and rule played an important role in the spread of religiosity. Earlier the British attitude towards Muslims was not favorable and they blamed themselves for the 1857 uprising. But he immediately felt that his behavior had strengthened the Hindus, so he reversed his policy. Now they have sided with the Muslims and turned against the Hindus. Lord Curzon divided Bengal in 1905. He said that administrative problems led to the partition of Bengal. The real motive behind the partition of Bengal by the British was to sow the seeds of partition between Hindus and Muslims. By law 1909 the British government gave Muslims the right to segregate voters. In 1916, the Lucknow Agreement was reached between the Congress and the Muslim League. This is an important historical step towards achieving Hindu-Muslim unity. But it is an agreement for cooperation in the political arena based on a joint program.

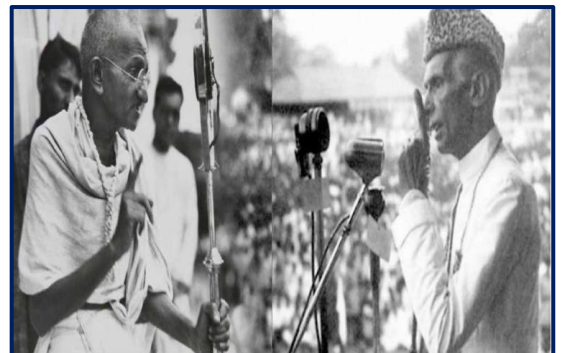
1. Partition through oral source

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In February 1937, elections were held for the Provincial Assembly, of which only a few had the right to vote. Lord Attlee sent a cabinet mission to India to resolve the Indian political crisis. The Muslim League approved the Cabinet Mission Plan on June 6, 1946, as it contained a Pakistani base, but Congress opposed it. Lord Mountbatten came to India to resolve the Indian political turmoil. He proposed his plan on 3 June 1947, stating that the country would be divided into two dominions, viz. I. India and Pakistan. This was accepted by both the Congress and the Muslim League.

The joy of independence from colonial rule was overshadowed by violence and violence after partition. Some events and facts about partition. And its disturbing experiences can be learned from interviews, books and other related documents. The partition caused a great deal of violence, thousands of people were killed, countless women were abducted. Large numbers of people have been displaced along the border, millions have been exterminated and turned into refugees. In total, nearly 15 million had to go through the newly created borders.

Displaced people lost their property and were also separated from their relatives and friends. People were removed from their local culture and had to start all over again. Observers and scholars sometimes use the expression



'Holocaust' with the basic meaning of mass destruction or massacre, which refers to the exploitation of murders, arson, and divisions.

Historical background of the partition:

Many incidents directly or indirectly fueled the fire for the partition of India and Pakistan. Religious politicization began in 1909 with special voters. It was further strengthened in 1919 by the Indian colonial government. Community identities no longer represent the common distinction between faith and beliefs, they have become tools for active opposition and hostility between communities. Before Ranaji in the 1920s and 1930s, religious identity was further strengthened by music, the cow protection movement and the Arya Samaj Shuddhi movement. The rapid spread of Tablighi (propaganda) and Tanjim (organization) angered the Hindus.

Middle-class campaigners and extremist activists sought to build greater solidarity in their communities and to mobilize people against other communities. Every religious riot has widened the gap between communities.



DO YOU KNOW?

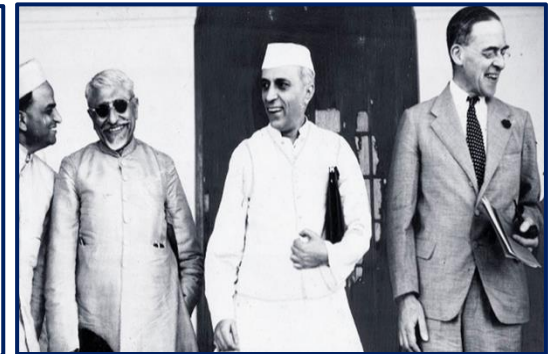
Unionist Party: This party stood for the interests of all the landlords of Punjab. It was founded in 1923.

Confederation: This refers to the union of states with the most autonomy and sovereignty over the central government.

Arya Samaj: Founded in 1875 by Swami Dayanand Saraswathi.

2. 1937 Regional Elections and its results:

The first provincial elections were held in 1937. In this election the Congress won a majority in 5 provinces and formed the government in 7 of the 11 provinces. The Congress was poor in the reserved constituencies, the Muslim League was also poor and won only a few seats in the reserved categories. In the United Provinces, the Muslim

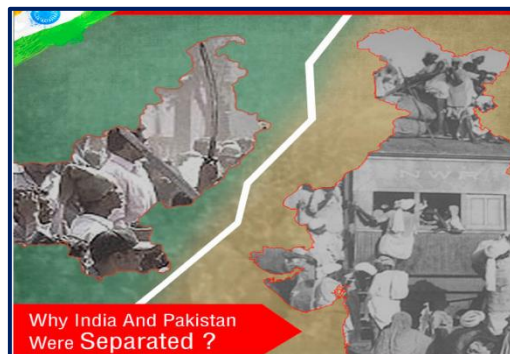


League wanted to form a government with the Congress, but the Congress rejected it because they had an absolute majority. This rejection led the League members to believe that they could not gain political power because they were a minority. The League also believed that only a Muslim party could represent Muslims and that the Congress was a Hindu party.

In the 1930s, the League's social support was low and weak, so the League began to work enthusiastically to extend its social support to all Muslim-majority areas. Congress and its ministries have failed to counter the hatred and suspicion that pervaded the League. The Congress failed to impress the Muslim people. The growth of the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha also played an important role in widening the gap between Hindus and Muslims.

3. 'Pakistan' proposal:

On March 23, 1940, the League adopted a resolution calling for autonomy for the Muslim-majority areas of the subcontinent. Partition or separate state was never mentioned in this resolution. Earlier in 1930, the Urdu poet Mohammad Iqbal called for the reorganization of the Muslim-majority areas of north-western India into autonomous units within a larger confederation. He did not even imagine a particular country at the time of his speech.



4. Sudden demand for partition:

None of the Muslim League leaders was clear about Pakistan. Autonomous territory was demanded in 1940 and divided within 7 years. However, Jinnah may have initially considered Pakistan as a bargaining chip to prevent the Congress from subsidizing and getting subsidies for Muslims.

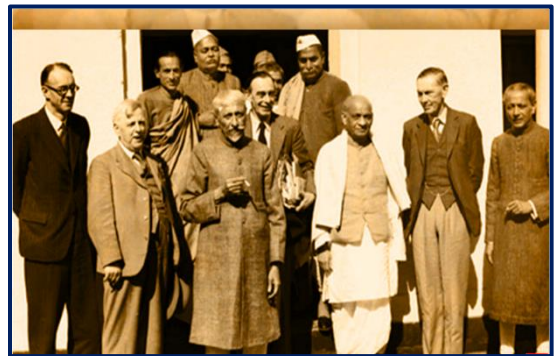


Negotiations between the British, the Congress and the Muslim League began in 1945, but failed due to unreliable demands by Jinnah Council members and the Communal veto. Regional elections were held again in 1946. While the Congress won the general constituencies in this election, the League won a landslide victory over the Muslim majority.

The League had a remarkable success in capturing the seats reserved for Muslims. It won 442 of the 50 reserved constituencies in the center and 509 seats in the provinces. Thus, in 1946 the League established itself as the dominant party among Muslims.

5. Cabinet Mission came to India:

In March 1946, a Cabinet mission came to India to formulate an appropriate political framework for India. The mission recommended that India unite with a three-tier alliance. It divides the Provincial Assemblies into 3 divisions. A is for the Hindu- majority province,



while B and C are for the north-western and northeastern Muslim-majority areas. The Cabinet Mission proposed a weak center and the provinces would have the power to form their own intermediate level executive and legislature.

Initially, all parties agreed, but later the League demanded that the group be forced to resign and secede from the union. Congress, however, demanded that the provinces be given the right to join the group. That is why the talks were canceled due to differences.

Now after this failure Congress felt that partition was inevitable and took it as painful but inevitable. But Mahatma Gandhi and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan of the North-West Frontier Province continued to oppose the idea of partition.

DO YOU KNOW?

Muslim League: Founded in 1906.

Hindu Mahasabha: Established in the year 1915.

Federal Union: Autonomous Union Granted autonomous status. Its central government has some limited powers.

6. Re-election in 1946

After withdrawing from the Cabinet mission, the Muslim League decided to take direct action to win its demand for Pakistan. August 16, 1946 was declared 'Direct Action Day'. Initially, riots broke out in Calcutta and gradually spread



to other parts of northern India. In March 1947, the Congress agreed to divide Punjab into two parts, one Muslim majority and the other Hindu / Sikh majority. As well as the division of Bengal.

Returning to the security situation:

In 1947 there was heavy bloodshed. The system of governance of the country completely collapsed and power was completely lost. The British authorities were reluctant to make a decision and did not know how to handle the situation. The British were preparing to leave India. Top leaders except Gandhiji were engaged in discussions on independence. Indian civil servants in the affected areas are worried for their lives. The problem is compounded by the fact that soldiers and police forget their professional commitments and help their fellow believers and attack members of other sects.

DO YOU KNOW?

Lucknow Agreement: In 1916 an agreement was reached between the Congress and the Muslim League.

Pakistan: India came into existence after partition. Chaudhry Rahmat Ali, a Punjabi-Muslim student in Cambridge, first named it 'Pakistan' in 1933.

Muslim League resolution in Lahore: In 1940 the Muslim League introduced a resolution in Lahore demanding autonomy for Muslim majority areas.

Status of women during partition:

Women suffered the most during the partition. Women were kidnapped, trafficked and forced to settle into a new life with strangers under unknown circumstances. Some began to develop a new family bond in their changed circumstances.

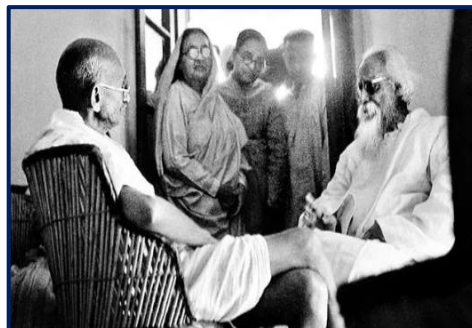
The governments of both India and Pakistan have a lack of awareness on emotions and sometimes forcibly alienate women from their new relatives. He did not consult the women concerned and undermined their right to make decisions. The concept of respect is based on the concept of masculinity, which is defined as the ownership of John [female] and Zamin [land]. Courage is believed to be the ability to protect one's property, that is, John and the land from outsiders. So, when men feared that their women-wives, daughters, and sisters would be abused by enemies, they killed their own women. The incident took place in Rawalpindi village when 90 Sikh women volunteered to jump into a well to protect themselves from outsiders. These events were seen as 'martyrdom' and at that time men believed that they had to boldly accept the decisions of women and in some cases have to convince themselves.



7. The role of Mahatma Gandhi during the Partition:

Using the unrest, Gandhi boldly tried to restore peace, visited the villages of Noakhali (East Bengal), visited the villages of Bihar, and then promised to prevent religious killings and the security of the minority community. Thus, Calcutta and Delhi were subjected to riots.

In East Bengal, he promised the protection of Hindus, while in Delhi he urged Hindus and Sikhs to protect Muslims and sought to instill mutual trust. Gandhiji went on a hunger strike to bring change in the hearts of the people. Many Hindus and Sikh emigrants are fasting with them. The effect of fasting was 'electricity', people began to realize what they had done to other communities. But this massacre finally ended with the martyrdom of Gandhiji.



DO YOU KNOW?

1946 General Election: In 1946, the last general election was held before independence. The major political parties in India contested the elections. The Indian Congress won a landslide victory in the general elections to the constituencies. Muslims also won in Muslim constituencies.

Cabinet Mission: The three-member Cabinet Mission arrived in India in March 1946.

Regional diversity in the division:

The partition led to carnage and thousands of lives were lost. In Punjab, the Hindu and Sikh populations were largely displaced from Pakistan towards India and the Punjabi Muslims from India towards Pakistan on a large scale.

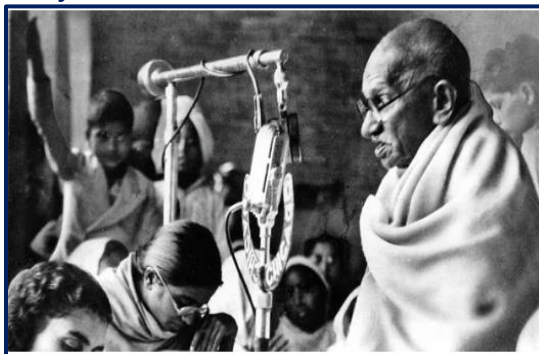
The migration of people in Punjab is very painful. The property was looted, women were killed, kidnapped and. There was massive carnage. In Bengal, people crossed the porous border, the pain was less concentrated and painful in Bengal than in Punjab. There was also no total displacement of the Hindu and Muslim population in Bengal. Some Muslim families from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad also migrated to Pakistan in the early 1950s and 1960s. When East Bengal seceded from West Pakistan and became independent in 1971 as Bangladesh, the two-state ideology based on Jinnah's religion failed.

There are many similarities between these two states of Punjab and Bengal. Women and girls were the main targets of harassment. The attackers considered the women's bodies to be a successful zone.



Help, Humanity, and Harmony:

Under the rubble of the suffering of violence and segregation lies the history of aid and humanity. There are many reports that people have worked extra hard to help the victims of the split. There are many stories of attention, sharing, empathy, opening up to new opportunities, and overcoming pain. For example, the story of Kama Khushi Dev Singh, a Sikh physician who helped many immigrants from the Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh community, is one of the finest examples. He provided them with shelter, food, security, etc. during the Partition.

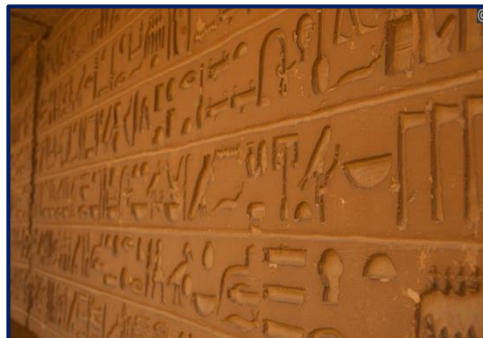


DO YOU KNOW?

1905:	Partition of Bengal
1906:	The Muslim League is founded
1916:	Lucknow Agreement signed
December 22, 1939:	Salvation Day celebrated by the Muslim League
August 16, 1946:	The Muslim League celebrates the Direct Action Day scheme
June 3, 1947:	Declaration and acceptance
August 15, 1947:	India gains independence and emerges as an independent nation.

8. Evidence and History:

Articles, memoirs, diaries, family histories, first handwritten accounts can help people understand their suffering during the Partition. Between 1946-50 the lives of the affected people changed drastically. He suffered immense psychological, psychological and social distress. Evi-



dence can help us to learn in detail about experience and memory. It enabled historians to write a great and vivid account of the sufferings and sufferings of the people. Official records inform us about the policy matters and high-level decisions of the government and its machinery.

History has provided the historian with experiences of the poor and powerless. It conveys information about vital assistance and public sympathy in making the victim's life easier. The history of segregation has been successful in exploring the experiences of men and women who have been previously ignored and mentioned or mentioned in history. Some historians are skeptical of history because they say there is no brevity and chronology in history. Histories do not provide the whole images and generally touch on tangential issues. The authenticity of history can be confirmed by evidence from other sources. History should not be viewed as a touchstone to learn about people's experiences. Histories are not readily available and affected individuals may be reluctant to share their grief with strangers. The historian finds it difficult to transfer from the web of memories created real experiences of partition.

Activity

- Q1. Write a note on background of Partition in 1947?
- Q2. Make a short note on the concept of cabinet mission?
- Q3. See the political India map during 1947 and find out the territories in the countries?
- Q4. Notes on Re-Election in 1946?
- Q5. Notes on the Role of Mahatma Gandhi during the partition?

Questions For Practice

1. Who unfurled the first national flag at the International socialist conference in Stuttgart (Germany) in 1907?
(a) Madam Bhikaji Cama
(b) Subash Chandra Bose
(c) Jawahar Lal Nehru
(d) Sardar Patel
2. Who urged the British to put India into God's hands in 1942?
(a) Jawahar Lal Nehru
(b) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
(c) Sardar Patel
(d) Mahatma Gandhi
3. Individual Satyagraha – initiated by its symbolic and non-violent nature?
(a) October 17, 1942
(b) 17 October 1940
(c) 17 October 1939
(d) October 17, 1938
4. Mahatma Gandhi started in 1906 to protest discrimination against Indians in S. Africa?
(a) Satyagraha in Durban
(b) Satyagraha in Cape Town
(c) Satyagraha in Port Elizabeth
(d) Satyagraha in Johannesburg
5. What slogan was Congress chanted against the British Government against India's involvement in the Second World War in 1939, without consulting the people of India?
(a) Tile or Maro
(b) Nahi Karengi Nahi Ladengi
(c) Na koi bhai na koi pai.
(d) None of these
6. Subhash Chandra Bose elected president of Indian national congress?
(a) Ramgarh Session 1940
(b) Bombay Session 1934
(c) Tripuri session 1939
(d) Wardha Session 1942
7. Bal Gangadhar Tilak began his new journey of awakening among the Indians by publishing two newspapers in 1881?
(a) Maratha and Kesari
(b) Maratha and Sambad
(c) Sambad and Kesari
(d) Maratha and Kaumudi
8. Under the provisions of the Government of India Act 1935, in the elections held in 1937, the Ministries of Congress were established in the following countries?
(a) Eleven States (b) Nine States
(c) Five States (d) Ten States
9. Who did the British call the father of Indian discontent and the greatest traitor?
(a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(b) Lala Hardayal
(c) Lala Lajpat Rai
(d) None of these
10. Who founded the Society for the Removal of Obstacles to the Hindu Religion in 1893?
(a) Dayanand Saraswathi
(b) Raja Ram Mohan Rai
(c) Chapekar brothers
(d) None of these
11. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Brahma samaj August 20, 1838?
(a) August 20, 1828
(b) August 20, 1838
(c) August 20, 1848
(d) August 20, 1958
12. Gandhiji initiated the non-cooperation movement in the following areas?
(a) Year 1910 (b) Year 1915
(c) Year 1917 (d) Year 1920
13. Swami Sahajanand Saraswathi was the country's first president?
(a) All India Hindu Mahasabha
(b) Mahasabha of the All India Union
(c) All India Kisan Mahasabha
(d) None of these
14. Where did the Quit India Movement begin?
(a) Kolkata (b) Mysore
(c) Mumbai (d) Pune
15. Abhinav Bharat, issued in 1904?
(a) Hindu Mahasabha
(b) A secret society of revolutionary activists
(c) All India Kisan Mahasabha
(d) None of these
16. The main Muslim organizations opposed to the partition of India were:
(a) Society-Ulema-back
(b) Khudai Khidmatgar
(c) Majlis-i-Ahrar –Hind
(d) All of these
17. Who was chosen by Mahatma Gandhi as the first satyagrahi to begin individual satyagraha in 1940?
(a) Vinoba Bhawe
(b) Jawahar Lal Nehru
(c) Brahma Datta
(d) Annie Besant
18. Who was the brainchild of the 1912 bombing of Lord Hardinge at Chandani Chowk in Delhi?
(a) Amir Chand
(b) Avadh Behari
(c) Ras Bihari Bose
(d) Basant Kumar Biswas
19. The partition of Bengal was canceled in 1911 during his Governor-General?
(a) Lord Hardinge
(b) Lord Minto
(c) Lord Chelmsford
(d) Lord Reading
20. The Get Out of India movement began on?
(a) 9 August 1940
(b) August 9, 1941
(c) 8 August 1942
(d) August 9, 1944
21. According to which document are Muslims given the right to vote separately?
(a) Contract Act 1813
(b) Permanent Residence
(c) Mahalwari System Reforms
(d) Morley Minto Reforms
22. The 1916 Lucknow Pact included?
(a) The Indian Muslim League and Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Indian Muslim League and Indian National Congress
(c) Indian National Congress and Lord Hardinge
(d) Lord Hardinge and Mahatma Gandhi

23. During which governor-general's term of office was the decision for full independence taken?
 (a) Lord Irwin
 (b) Lord Minto
 (c) Lord Chelmsford
 (d) Lord Reading
24. The main center of the Wahhabi Movement during the liberation movement?
 (a) Lucknow (b) Mysore
 (c) Patna (d) Delhi
25. Swami Dayanand established the headquarters of Arya Samaj at?
 (a) Kolkata (b) Lahore
 (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
26. In 1912, Muhammad Ali started the newspaper?
 (a) Domestic Opinion
 (b) New India
 (c) Al-Balagh
 (d) Comrade
27. The Indian National Congress has decided to initiate an individual civil disobedience rather than Mass Civil Disobedience in the following cases?
 (a) 1942 (b) 1935
 (c) 1933 (d) 1928
28. What Act provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation in the center consisting of British India states and princely states?
 (a) Government of India Act 1935
 (b) Government of India Act 1918
 (c) Government of India Act 1925
 (d) Government of India Act 1930
29. When did Mahatma Gandhi first fast to death?
 (a) 1921 (b) 1917
 (c) 1918 (d) 1915
30. What is the magna carta of the Western Education system in India called?
 (a) Charles Wood Secretary of State's Post 1854
 (b) Slavery Act for Education
 (c) Educational Wonder reforms
 (d) None of these
31. Who led the 1857 revolt in Lucknow?
 (a) Bahadur Shah Zafar
 (b) Jung Bahadur Rana
 (c) Begum Hazrat Mahal
 (d) Tanya Tope
32. Who said, "One religion for mankind, one caste and one God"?
 (a) Dayanand Sarshwati
 (b) Swami Sachidan and Sarshwati
 (c) Swami Raman and Sarshwati
 (d) Narayan Guru
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Solutions

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|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 5. (c) | 9. (a) | 13. (c) | 17. (a) | 21. (d) | 25. (b) | 29. (c) | 33. (b) | 37. (d) |
| 2. (d) | 6. (c) | 10. (c) | 14. (c) | 18. (c) | 22. (b) | 26. (d) | 30. (a) | 34. (a) | 38. (c) |
| 3. (b) | 7. (a) | 11. (b) | 15. (b) | 19. (a) | 23. (a) | 27. (c) | 31. (c) | 35. (c) | 39. (a) |
| 4. (d) | 8. (a) | 12. (d) | 16. (d) | 20. (c) | 24. (c) | 28. (a) | 32. (d) | 36. (b) | 40. (c) |

