

# Factors Leading to the Establishment of the Muslim League: Historical Context and Background

Irshad Bashir<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Sonu Saran<sup>2</sup>

Department of History<sup>1,2</sup>

Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India

**Abstract:** *Political parties in India have a long history that dates back to the country's independence fight. Both the Muslim League and the Indian National Congress are significant political organizations. The fact that splits occurred as a result of the Indian National Congress's split and the differences between Muslims and Hindus was a sad but inescapable fact. In contrast to the majority, Muslim groups believe they are underrepresented and ignored. With the backing of the British government, the Muslim League was established as a result of the same sentiment and philosophy. Such Muslim demands that cause division among the Indian populace have always been tolerated, encouraged, and supported by the British. However, the league became the only organization representing Indian Muslims because of the British government's support for the political Islamists' non-secular goals and disdain for majority rule. Jinnah, who was a significant figure at the time. Jinnah and the Muslim League spearheaded the effort to divide British India into distinct Hindu and Muslim states, and the league rose to prominence as Pakistan's main political party following the 1947 partition of Pakistan. Because it had a large-scale pressure group in British India, its cohesiveness and appeal progressively waned*

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

## I. INTRODUCTION

One significant turning point in the history of contemporary India was the founding of the All India Muslim League. The early 20th century saw its founding. Only Muslims were allowed to join the Muslim League, which was considered a communal party. Prominent figures who contributed to the formation of the Muslim League include Sir Salimullah, who first drew up a plan for the Muslim League organization in all of India. Hakim Ajmal Khan, Sir Syed, and other Muslim leaders then supported this proposal. In just three years after its founding, the All India Muslim League was able to secure the status of distinct Muslim electorates in order to meet the challenges of the contemporary political system. It was one of the party's major early successes. The Lucknow Pact of 1916 formally sealed Muslims' distinct identities. The League backed the Congress's civil disobedience program in 1920. The Muslim League split in 1927, but the Nehru report in 1928 helped to heal the division, while tensions persisted until the league's reorganization in 1934. In the end, the Muslim League demanded that Muslims have their own independent state in Pakistan. The Muslim League gave rise to the Jinnah Two-Nation theory as a result of the conflicts and tensions that existed between the Congress party and the Muslim League over a number of issues.

### Objective of the study

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

## **II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The data used to produce this research was mostly focused on textual approaches; books and articles by distinguished scholars as well as papers published in a variety of national and international journals were taken into consideration for the paper's framework. Therefore, this research was written using secondary data.

## **III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

There is a wealth of literature on sustainable development. The following are reviews of some of the significant books that have occasionally been published on the aforementioned subject:

In his work, Madhav Godbole (2006) methodically analyzed the events leading up to the partition, the major players involved, and their responsibilities both during and after the division. One of the largest refugee movements in history was brought about by the division of India.

The conflict between the Congress and the Muslim League is described in D.C. Gupta's 1970 book. The communist virus infected India's political system. In the end, Muslims understood that their anti-British attitude was incorrect and that the only appropriate course of action was to embrace western culture and maintain their ties to Britain.

Amales Tripathi (2014) provided a critical history of India's independence movement and the Indian National Congress's contribution to it. It gave a thorough description of the independence movement, covering things like the Partition and the Morley-Minto reforms. The author also shed light on the intricate relationship between Hindu-Muslim communal politics and the power dynamics between the Center, the States, and numerous grassroots organizations.

History of the Freedom Movement in India, Vol. III, by Tara Chand (2017), discusses laying the foundation for the rise of the ideas of nationalism and freedom. The author discusses the rise of the desire for self-determination and nationalist ideologies. He also emphasized the "divide and rule" strategy of the British government.

The book by Kishwar Sultana (2016) discusses the advent of nationalism in India, the National Movement that led to the country's independence in 1947, and Jinnah's contribution to the Muslim League's political development between 1924 and 1940. This time frame is still vital to comprehending Pakistan's accomplishments.

The author of the well-written and educational biography of Jinnah and his contributions to the betterment of the Muslim community is Jaswant Singh (2010). He also described the Muslim League's pivotal involvement in the demand for Pakistan, a country with a majority of Muslims, which resulted in the British division of India in 1947.

### **Early Muslim Efforts**

Following the 1857 uprising, Muslims were targeted by the British. Muslims in India felt a sense of loss as the Muslim empire declined. In the end, the evolving pattern of governmental policies was set in the 19th century. The Muslim community is looking for a way to get their demands met. Islamimajis-I-Muzakir was founded by Nawab Abdul Latee (1823–1893), the first member of the Bengal legislative assembly. One of the earliest Muslim organizations, the Mohammedan Literary Society is more widely known. Nawab Abdul Latee spent more than three decades advocating for the well-being of the Muslim community. With the same goals, Syed Amir Ali (1849–1928) founded the National Mohammedan Association after him.

The first post-mutiny thinker, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, made a concerted effort to improve the economic situation by encouraging Muslims to pursue contemporary education. The biggest enduring accomplishment in Muslim political organization was unquestionably the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College in Aligarh and the Muslim Educational Conference.

### **All India Muslim League**

Muslims were inspired to establish a distinct political organization by the success of the Muslim delegation that awaited the viceroy in Shimla. It also piqued the interest of British officials who wanted to balance the Congress. Thus, the Muslim League was established in Dacca on December 31, 1906. The Aga Khan served as the first president and founding member of the All India Muslim League in 1906. The All India Muslim League is an anti-Congress parallel group. In addition to fully supporting Bengal's separation, the communalism-based league pushed for Muslims to be mainstreamed in India and requested a distinct electorate with specific protections. It was an anti-national and disloyal

organization from the beginning, with the stated goal of encouraging allegiance to the British government. In December 1907, the inaugural annual session took place in Karachi.

Sir Syed Ali Imam presided over the inaugural meeting of the All India Muslim League, which took place in Amritsar. The leaders of the league call for Muslims to be given increased representation in the public service and legislative bodies.

As time went on, the Muslim League became to represent the goals of Muslims in India effectively, and they began to view the league as their protector. In 1913, the Muslim League made self-government for India one of its objectives.

### Objective of Muslim League

1. To educate Muslims about their sense of allegiance to the British government.
2. To protect Muslims' political rights and draw their attention to the government.
3. To encourage fraternity among India's various nations.
4. Muslims ought to be represented in the legislature in proportion to the services they provided to the British Empire.

### Reasons for the Establishment of All India Muslim League

- **Establishment of Indian National Congress:** In India, INC is a broad-based political party that was established in 1885. Mr. Hume served as its first general secretary, and its first president was Indian. This organization was established primarily to provide a "safety valve." The press praised the INC's foundation, calling it a significant milestone in the history of British control in India. "It marks the beginning of a new life," wrote Indu Prakash. The Congress served as the focal point of the new society that had developed over the century following Plassey as a result of social, cultural, and economic shifts. The Muslim community as a whole began to fear that representative governance would mean the control of the majority community, or Hindu raj, as a result of the INC's increasing power and prominence. The "Two Nation theory" and the need for a separate home for Muslims were eventually articulated as a result of the league's hostility.
- **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.
- **Education and economic backwardness:** Muslims had lagged for 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.
- **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.
- **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 awaking 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".

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

#### **Notion of Pakistan:**

The Two Nation’s claim to political self-determination was made. The subcontinent was divided in 1947 as a result of the Hindu-Muslim conflict. Leaders of the Muslim League persisted in discussing a physical partition of India. Following it, the All India Muslim League met in Lahore. The resolution that embodied Pakistan’s demands or the establishment of a Muslim sovereign state made the session significant. August 16, 1946, was designated as "Direct Action" day by the league. It was against Muslims, not Hindus. Thus, the league gave Muslims a chance to come together on a common 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

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

As a result, the Muslim League demonstrates a novel approach to religion-based political mobilization, which has been crucial to the mainstreaming of Islam. the interaction between religion and politics that results from a particular historical and cultural setting. Therefore, we can conclude that the Muslim League’s greatest accomplishment was the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, which was made possible by the movement’s energetic leadership under Quaid-E-Azam.

**REFERENCES**

- [1]. Aggarwal, R.C; Constitutional Development and National Movement of India, S.Chand Publishing limited, New Delhi, 1999.
- [2]. Amales Tripathi; *Indian National Congress and struggle for freedom 1885-1947*, Oxford University Press, 2014
- [3]. *Annual Report of the All India Muslim league for the ten-year 1932 and 1933, pp.10*".
- [4]. Bahadur, Lal; The Muslim League, Agra Book Store, 1954.
- [5]. Chand, Tara; History of freedom Movement in India, Vol III, Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 1965.
- [6]. Chib, S.S; New Perspective on India's freedom struggle, VandeMatram Prakashan, Chandigarh, 1987.
- [7]. *Civil and military gazette June 11, 1936*".
- [8]. D.C Gupta; *Indian National Movement and constitutional development 1885-1945*, Vikas Publication, 1970
- [9]. Desai, A.R; Social background of Indian Nationalism, Popular Prakashan Pvt. Limited, New Delhi, 1998.
- [10]. Godbole, Madhav; The holocaust of Indian Partition: An Inquest, Rupa Publications India, 2006.
- [11]. Gupta, D.C; Indian National Movement and Constitutional Development, Vikas Publication, New Delhi, 1970.
- [12]. Jamil-ud-din Ahmad; *Speeches and writings of Mr. Jinnah 1946 (vol i) Pp.26*
- [13]. Jaswant Singh; *Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence*, Oxford University Press, 2010
- [14]. Kapoor, A.C; Constitutional History of India, S.Chand & Co., New Delhi, 1985.
- [15]. Kishwar Sultana; *Politics of the All India Muslim League 1924-1940*, New Delhi Oxford University Press, 2016
- [16]. Madhav Godbole; *The Holocaust of Indian partition: An Inquest*, The University of Michigan, 2008
- [17]. Mahajan, V.D; Modern Indian History, S.Chand Publishing limited, New Delhi, 1999.
- [18]. Pakistan "two nation" doctrine proclaimed by Muslim league xiii, pp. 170, 173. "
- [19]. Resolution of the AIML quote in khalid bin syed, Pakistan the formative phase, pp.115-116
- [20]. Singh, Jaswant; *Jinnah India-Partition-Independence*, Oxford University Press, 2009.
- [21]. Tara Chand; *History of freedom movement in India Vol III*, Publication Division Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2017
- [22]. Tripathy, Amales; Indian National Congress and the struggle for freedom 1885-1947, Oxford University Press, 2014.
- [23]. United India Patriotic Association August offer, 172-3
- [24]. [www.epw.in](http://www.epw.in) (Feb15, 2020)