

Causes and Result of the partition of India 1947

The Partition of India in 1947, which led to the creation of two independent states, was a culmination of a number of events during the Indian national movement. British ‘Divide and Rule’ policy evolved from creating tension amongst the erstwhile Indian kings in its early phase to the level of the Indian social structure in the 20th century. This strategy seeded the root of communalism in India, later cultivated by Jinnah and the League in the 1940s in the form of Pakistan, a separate homeland for Muslims. Amongst the various consequences borne out of the Partition of India, the attack on the heart of India’s secular fabric is the most devastating and profound.

Partition of India Causes

The reasons for the Partition of India on the religious line were communalism and two-nation theory and the various events during World War II but the most basic cause was the socio-economic factors.

1. British Divide-and-Rule policy

The British used this policy to weaken the nationalist movement in India. Following are some of the examples, under this strategy:

- Its sponsorship in the establishment of the Muslim League.
- Introduction of separate electorate in 1909, 1919, and Communal award in 1932.
- Its granting of implicit veto to the League during World War II.
- Its idea and criteria of grouping in the Cabinet Mission Plan, etc.
- Growth of Communalism in India
- India saw the rise of communalism at the end of the 19th century, and it grew due to many factors. Unfortunately, it culminated in the partition of India on religious lines.

Key Events:

- Partition of Bengal (1905): It began as an administrative measure, but it quickly evolved into a huge political benefit for the government since it intended to divide Bengal into Hindu and Muslim-majority provinces.
- Formation of the Muslim League (1906): The formation of the All India Muslim League consisted of upper-class Muslim elites like Aga Khan, Nawab of Dacca and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk.
- Separate Electorates (1909): The Morley-Minto reforms introduced separate electorates in the legislative bodies, marking a significant event in the history of communalism.
- Lucknow Pact (1916): Congress agreed to separate electorates as a temporary measure to secure the support of the Muslim League in the national movement.
- Formation of Hindu Mahasabha (1915) and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (1925): These Hindu-nationalist organisations appeared as a pressure group in the number of deliberations between INC and the Muslim League.

- Simon Commission and Nehru Report: The Nehru Report tried to accommodate Jinnah's demands, but it failed in the All-Party Conference of 1928. Jinnah came out with his Fourteen Points.
- Communal riots in 1946: The riots of 1946, due to the appeal of Jinnah, were the immediate reason for the acceptance of partition.

2. Role of Muslim League and Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Jinnah played an important role in the partition of India, though he was initially an ambassador of secularism and opposed communal politics.

a. Jinnah's role:

- Although some scholars (particularly, Ayesha Jalal of Pakistan and her supporters) say that the demand of Jinnah for a separate state was merely a bargaining chip with the Congress. As per this belief, he wanted a separate state for Muslims, but not a separate nation.
- But, it seems hard to swallow this idea because of many reasons.
- Muslim landlords (in Sindh and other areas of Pakistan) and elites who were against the Congress' emphasis on socialist democracy, were in favour of a separate nation.
- Jinnah vetoed each and every talk between the British officials and Indians. He and the league wanted to be the sole representatives of Muslims in India, to which Congress or any secular party could not have conceded.
- Further, his call for the Direct Action Day was brutal and severed the belief that he was a liberal Muslim.
- Towards Mass Communalism: The defeat in the 1937 election result was a lesson to Jinnah and the League. After 1937, the priority of Jinnah was now to maximise the league's membership, communalise the masses further and elevate the demands of Pakistan.
- Two Nation theory: He was a strict supporter of the Two Nation Theory, that two communities could not co-exist together.
- This idea in India was germinated by the Aligarh school of thought, seconded by Iqbal and a few Hindu Nationalists in the 1930s, and ultimately utilised by Jinnah.
- Citing the socio-economic conditions of the Muslims and instilling the fear of the so-called Hindu domination after the independence, Jinnah excelled in his communal propaganda.
- And this is evident in the victory of the Muslim League on the Muslim seats in the 1946 elections.

3. Socio-economic factors

Various socio-economic factors in the 19th and 20th centuries contributed to the demand for a separate Muslim homeland and ultimately the Partition of India.

- a. Muslim economic backwardness: Muslims had lower literacy and inadequate representation in industry/commerce, leading to economic backwardness. Pakistan was seen as a way to boost Muslim economic status, exclusively.
- b. Fear of Hindu economic dominance: Muslims worried their economic interests would not be safeguarded in Hindu-majority India. Wanted Pakistan for greater control over resources and opportunities.

- c. Desire of landed elites for dominance: Landed Muslim elites in Punjab/Bengal saw Pakistan as an opportunity for greater economic dominance. Partition motivated by ambition for power.
- d. Urdu-Hindi divide: Debates over national language exacerbated differences. Proposals for Hindi alienated many Muslims who favoured Urdu. This linguistic divide worsened communal tensions.

Events Leading to the Partition of India

The partition of India was the outcome of complex processes and various factors, including the role of the British during the 1940s, especially during the Second World War.

1. British Stance in the 1940s

The effects of the Second World War, especially due to Japan's victories in Southeast Asia, were the main reason for the change in British stance. They now needed Indian support for the War, but at the same time, did not hesitate to support Jinnah's demand of Pakistan.

Linlithgow and other Viceroy's implicitly gave the veto power to the Muslim League in every round of talks for the constitutional reforms as well as the transfer of power.

The acceptance of the demand of Pakistan was first used to counter the demand for complete independence by Congress, and later to make these two erstwhile colonies weak and vulnerable as much as possible.

2. Lahore Resolution

In 1940, at Lahore, Jinnah argued in favour of the two-nation theory. A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq moved the resolution in the general session, known as the 'Lahore Resolution.' It was a formal statement that sought the creation of a separate Muslim state. The term "Pak-Stan" was coined by Choudhry Rahmat Ali in the 1930s while he was studying at Cambridge University.

3. Cripps Mission (1942)

Against the backdrop of the failure of the August Offer and the need to secure Indian support during World War II, a Mission consisting of three British cabinet members - Pethick Lawrence, Stafford Cripps, and A.V. Alexander was dispatched to India.

Proposals:

Granting of Dominion Status to India which would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Post the Second World War, a constituent assembly, consisting of only Indians, would be set up to draft a new constitution. The members would be partly elected (provinces) and partly nominated (princely states).

A province not willing to join the Dominion could have a separate union with its own constitution.

The Constituent Assembly as well as the British government would safeguard the rights of minorities.

Until the constitution would be drafted, the British monopoly on India's defence and the Governor-General's powers would be unfettered.

Failure:

Congress rejected the offer of Dominion status and independence of provinces (which would have resulted in the balkanisation of India).

The League rejected it as it did not offer a clear concession for Pakistan.

4. Rajagopalachari Formula (1944)

The main points in the Rajagopalachari Formula were:

Muslim League to support the Congress's demand for independence and work together to form a provisional government in the centre.

After the war, a commission would be appointed to demarcate the districts with an absolute Muslim majority, and elections would be held in those areas (including non-Muslims) regarding the desire for a separate state.

A joint management of defence, commerce, communications, etc., if the partition would be accepted.

5. Gandhi-Jinnah Talks:

In September 1944, Gandhi met with Jinnah to present the proposals but the talk was declared a failure.

6. Desai-Liaquat Pact (1945)

It was an attempt to appease the League and find a way out of the political deadlocks. Neither the Congress nor the League formally endorsed the proposal.

Nomination of an equal number of people in the Central legislature by both parties.

20% reserved seats for minorities in the central legislature.

7. Wavell Plan (1945)

In 1945, Viceroy Lord Wavell invited all to join in the Shimla Conference.

Proposals:

All members of the executive council, with the exception of the governor-general and the commander-in-chief, were to be Indians.

All portfolios except Defence were to be under the control of Indian members.

In the proposed 14-member Executive Council, Muslims were given the 6 posts despite constituting only about 25% of the total population.

Failure:

Jinnah stated that only the Muslim League has the authority to represent Indian Muslims.

Congress stated that the Muslim League had no authority to appoint any Muslim to the Executive Council.

8. Elections (1945-1946)

Amidst the conflict between Congress and the League, the elections were held in 1945.

Huge win for the League:

The League attained remarkable successes by getting 86.6 percent of the Muslim votes, winning all 30 Muslim seats in the Central Legislative Assembly, and grabbing 442 out of 509 Muslim seats in the provinces.

But it lost NWFP and Assam to the Congress and failed to dislodge the Unionists from Punjab.

9. Congress's performance:

Congress won overwhelmingly in the General (non-Muslim) constituencies, securing 91.3 per cent votes, winning 57 out of 102 seats in the Central Legislative Assembly, and obtaining majorities in all the provinces except Sind, Punjab, and Bengal.

10. Cabinet Mission (1946) and the aftermath

In 1946, the Cabinet Mission arrived in India and held talks with the leaders of all prominent political parties and then proposed its plan of establishing a Federal Government in India.

It rejected the demand of Pakistan and instead, proposed an Indian Union consisting of British provinces as well as Princely States.

While rejecting Pakistan, it introduced the concept of grouping, where provinces and princely states were free to form groups under the Union, with significant autonomy.

Initially refused, the Congress formed the government in September 1946 at the Centre, but the League refused to be a part of it.

Jinnah on August 16, 1946, called for the 'Direct Action Day' regarding the demand of Pakistan.

The call led to widespread communal riots across the country, resulting in around 5,000 deaths on the first day in Calcutta alone. Riots erupted in other areas like Noakhali and Bihar.

Mountbatten Plan and the Freedom with Partition of India

Lord Mountbatten was appointed Viceroy of India. He proposed the Mountbatten Plan (Dickie Bird Plan) on June 3 1947. Despite Gandhi's strong opposition, all parties consented to the partition, leading to the passing of the Indian Independence Act of 1947 in the British Parliament.

Freedom with Partition:

- It created two independent states - the Indian Union and Pakistan.
- It abolished the post of viceroy and secretary of state of India.
- It provided governor-general for each dominion - Mountbatten as the first Governor-General of independent India, and Jinnah as that of Pakistan.
- Princely states were free to join any of the dominions or even remain independent.
- The Constituent Assembly's draft constitution would not apply to Muslim-majority areas (as these would become Pakistan), which would decide their separate constituent assembly.
- The legislative assemblies of Bengal and Punjab voted in favour of partition, leading to the decision to divide these two provinces along religious lines.
- Sind's legislative assembly ultimately chose to join Pakistan.
- The North-Western Frontier Province (NWFP) was scheduled to conduct a referendum to go with either of the dominions. Despite Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan's rejection and boycott, it opted to join Pakistan.
- Boundary Commission: Headed by Sir Cyril Radcliffe, it was established to demarcate the international boundaries between the two countries and to partition Bengal and Punjab into two separate nations.
- Congress and Partition
- The Congress tried to bring all sections of society together, but separate electorates, the intransigence of Jinnah and the communal and reactionary grip over the League led to the partition of the subcontinent.
- Congress failed in persuading either Jinnah to give up his separatist dream or in convincing the British to not help Jinnah take that path.

- Congress first tried to accommodate the Muslim League through the Lucknow Pact, convergence of NCM-Khilafat, etc. but failed to accommodate later, especially during the Second World War.
- The Congress was unable to reach out to the Muslim masses and therefore reluctantly accepted the wishes of the majority of the Indian Muslims to carve a nation for themselves, however irrational and communal the demand was.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, followed by Nehru and many Congress leaders acknowledged the inevitability of partition as a way to end the brutal violence, due to Jinnah's call for the Direct Action Day.
- Gandhi opposed the Partition of India until the very end but eventually, had to accept the inevitable.
- Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Maulana Azad were the two dissenters when the CWC accepted the June 3rd Plan (Mountbatten Plan).
- Congress and Gandhi accepted the Partition of India, without conceding to the Two Nation theory. This is evident that the nature of Indian polity after the independence has been secular, implicit or explicit.
- Partition of India Consequences
- The partition created the independent nations of Muslim-majority Pakistan and Hindu-majority secular India, separating the provinces of Bengal and Punjab along religious lines. It triggered riots, mass casualties, and a colossal wave of migration.

Mass Migration: About 15 million people relocated to what they believed to be a safer territory. Muslims headed towards Pakistan, while Hindus and Sikhs headed towards India.

Mass Killings and atrocities on both sides: Approximately 1-2 million people were killed, many were killed by members of other communities and sometimes their own families, as well as by the contagious diseases that swept through refugee camps.

Violence against women: Women were kidnapped, raped, publicly humiliated, and many were forced to die by suicide in an attempt to protect their chastity.

Impact in terms of economic resources: India was deprived of jute and cotton and Pakistan of fuel.

Problem of Refugees: Both states subsequently faced huge problems accommodating and rehabilitating post-Partition refugees, whose numbers swelled when Pakistan illegally tried to occupy Jammu and Kashmir in 1947-48.

Hostility and Suspicion: The legacy of violence caused by partition has created an atmosphere of hostility and suspicion between the two countries that impacts the relationship even to this day.

১৯৪৭ চনত ভাৰতৰ বিভাজন, যাৰ ফলস্বৰূপে দুটা স্বাধীন ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছিল, ভাৰতৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় আন্দোলনৰ একাধিক ঘটনাৰ পৰিণতিস্বৰূপ। ব্ৰিটিছৰ “ভাগ-বাটোৱাৰা নীতি” আৰম্ভৰ পৰাই ভাৰতৰ প্ৰাক্তন ৰাজন্যশাসিত ৰাজ্যসমূহৰ মাজত উত্তেজনা সৃষ্টি কৰি ২০শ শতিকাৰ সমাজৰ গাঁথনিৰ ভিতৰলৈ প্ৰৱেশ কৰিছিল। এই নীতিয়ে ভাৰতত সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ বীজ বপন কৰিছিল, যাক পিছত ১৯৪০ চনত জিন্মা আৰু লীগৰ দ্বাৰা পাকিস্তান, অৰ্থাৎ মুছলমানৰ বাবে এটা পৃথক ভূমিৰ ৰূপত পৰিণত কৰা হৈছিল।

ভাৰতৰ বিভাজনৰ ফলস্বৰূপে হোৱা বিভিন্ন পৰিণতিসমূহৰ মাজত, দেশৰ ধৰ্মনিৰপেক্ষ গাঁথনিৰ ওপৰত হোৱা আঘাত আটাইতকৈ বিধ্বংসী আৰু গভীৰ।

ভাৰতৰ বিভাজনৰ কাৰণসমূহ

ধৰ্মৰেখাৰ ওপৰত ভাৰতৰ বিভাজনৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ আছিল সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতা আৰু দুটা ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ তত্ত্ব। লগতে দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধৰ সময়ৰ বিভিন্ন ঘটনাইও ইয়াৰ বাবে ভূমিকা পালন কৰিছিল। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ মূল কাৰণ আছিল সামাজিক আৰু অৰ্থনৈতিক পৰিসংগতি।

ব্ৰিটিছৰ ভাগ-বাটোৱাৰ নীতি

জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলনক দুৰ্বল কৰিবলৈ ব্ৰিটিছে এই নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। এই নীতিৰ কিছু উল্লেখযোগ্য উদাহৰণ হ'ল—

- মুছলিম লীগ গঠনৰ বাবে পৃষ্ঠপোষকতা।
- ১৯০৯, ১৯১৯ আৰু ১৯৩২ চনৰ পৃথক নিৰ্বাচনী ব্যৱস্থাৰ পৰিচয়।
- দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধৰ সময়ত মুছলিম লীগক গুপ্তভাৱে ভেটো শক্তি প্ৰদান।
- মন্ত্ৰীসভা অভিযান পৰিকল্পনাত গ্ৰুপিংৰ চিন্তা আৰু মানদণ্ডৰ সৃষ্টি।

ভাৰতত সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ বৃদ্ধি

১৯শ শতিকাৰ শেষৰ পৰা ভাৰতত সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ উত্থান হৈছিল, যাৰ ফলত ধৰ্মৰেখাৰ ওপৰত দেশৰ বিভাজন হৈছিল।

কাৰণসমূহ:

- মুছলিমৰ সামাজিক আৰু অৰ্থনৈতিক পশ্চাদপদতা।
- সমাজ-সংস্কৃতি সংশোধনী আন্দোলনৰ পুনৰজাগৰণমূলক ধাৰা।
- হিন্দু আৰু মুছলমানৰ স্বার্থ পৃথক বুলি বিশ্বাসৰ উৎপত্তি।
- ব্ৰিটিছৰ ভাগ-বাটোৱাৰ নীতি।
- ইকবাল, জিন্মা আৰু কিছু হিন্দু ৰাষ্ট্ৰবাদীৰ ভূমিকা।
- ১৯৩৭ চনৰ নিৰ্বাচনত মুছলিম লীগৰ পৰাজয় আৰু পাকিস্তানৰ দাবীৰ বাবে জিন্মাৰ নতুন কৌশল।
- ১৯৪৬ চনৰ নিৰ্বাচনত মুছলিম লীগৰ ভূমিধ্বস জয়।

মুখ্য ঘটনাসমূহ

- **বঙ্গৰ বিভাজন (১৯০৫):** আৰম্ভতে প্ৰশাসনিক লক্ষ্যৰে কৰা হলেও, ই শীঘ্ৰে সাম্প্ৰদায়িকভাৱে হিন্দু আৰু মুছলমানৰ প্ৰাদেশিক বিভাজনত পৰিণত হ'ল।
- **মুছলিম লীগ গঠন (১৯০৬):** আগা খান, ঢাকাৰ নৱাব আৰু নৱাব মহছিন-উল-মুন্সৰ দৰে উচ্চবৰ্গীয় মুছলমানৰ দ্বাৰা গঠিত।
- **পৃথক নিৰ্বাচনী ব্যৱস্থা (১৯০৯):** মৰ্লে-মিণ্টো সংস্কাৰে এই ব্যৱস্থা পৰিচয় কৰি সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাক শক্তিশালী কৰিছিল।

- **লখনউ চুক্তি (১৯১৬):** কংগ্রেছে সাময়িকভাৱে মুছলিম লীগৰ সমৰ্থন লাভৰ উদ্দেশ্যে পৃথক নিৰ্বাচনী ব্যৱস্থা মানি ল'লে।
- **হিন্দু মহাসভা (১৯১৫) আৰু আৰ এছ এছ (১৯২৫):** কংগ্রেছ আৰু মুছলিম লীগৰ মাজৰ আলচনাত এই হিন্দু ৰাষ্ট্ৰবাদী সংগঠনে চাপ সৃষ্টি কৰিছিল।
- **নেহৰু প্ৰতিবেদন আৰু জিন্নাৰ ১৪ দফা:** নেহৰু প্ৰতিবেদনে মুছলিম লীগৰ দাবী মানি নল'লে, আৰু ১৪ দফাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিলে।
- **১৯৪৬ চনৰ সাম্প্ৰদায়িক দাঙি-ধমকা:** জিন্নাৰ আহ্বানত হোৱা সাম্প্ৰদায়িক হিংসাই বিভাজনৰ পথ সুগম কৰিলে।

জিন্না আৰু মুছলিম লীগৰ ভূমিকা

প্ৰথমত ধৰ্মনিৰপেক্ষতাক সমৰ্থন কৰিলেও, জিন্নাই পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ত পাকিস্তানৰ দাবী কৰি বিভাজনৰ পথ নিৰ্ধাৰণ কৰিলে।

জিন্নাৰ ভূমিকা:

- **দুই ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ তত্ত্ব:** দুই সম্প্ৰদায় একেলগে থাকিব নোৱাৰা বুলি মত প্ৰকাশ।
- **১৯৪০ চনৰ লাহোৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ:** পাকিস্তানৰ দাবীক চৰকাৰীভাৱে ঘোষণা।
- **ডাইৰেক্ট একচন ডে (১৯৪৬):** জিন্নাৰ এই আহ্বানত বিশাল সাম্প্ৰদায়িক হিংসাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছিল।
- **১৯৩৭ চনৰ পৰাজয়ৰ পাছত নতুন কৌশল:** মুছলিম লীগৰ সদস্য বৃদ্ধি, জনসাধাৰণৰ সাম্প্ৰদায়িককৰণ আৰু পাকিস্তানৰ দাবী অধিক উচ্চকিত কৰা।

সামাজিক-অৰ্থনৈতিক কাৰণসমূহ

- মুছলিমৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক পশ্চাদপদতা।
- হিন্দু-অৰ্থনৈতিক আধিপত্যৰ আশংকা।
- পাকিস্তানত জমিদাৰশ্ৰেণীৰ অধিকাৰ প্ৰৱল কৰাৰ ইচ্ছা।
- উৰ্দু-হিন্দী ভাষাৰ বিবাদ।

ভাৰতৰ বিভাজনৰ ফলাফল

ভাৰতৰ বিভাজনৰ ফলত মুছলিমৰ সংখ্যাগৰিষ্ঠ পাকিস্তান আৰু হিন্দু-সংখ্যাগৰিষ্ঠ ভাৰতৰ সৃষ্টি হয়। ইয়াৰ ফলত বিভিন্ন দাঙি-ধমকা, গণহত্যা আৰু অভিবাসনৰ টো সৃষ্টি হৈছিল।

- **জনগণৰ স্থানান্তৰণ:** প্ৰায় ১৫ নিযুত লোক সুৰক্ষিত আশ্ৰয় বিচাৰি স্থানান্তৰিত হৈছিল।
- **গণহত্যা:** প্ৰায় ১০ লাখতকৈ অধিক লোক নিহত হৈছিল।
- **মহিলাৰ ওপৰত হিংসা:** বহু মহিলাক অপহৰণ, ধৰ্ষণ আৰু অপমানিত কৰা হৈছিল।
- **অৰ্থনৈতিক সম্পদৰ হানি।**
- **আশ্ৰয়াৰ্থীৰ সমস্যা।**
- **ভাৰত-পাকিস্তানৰ বৈৰীতা।**

ভাৰতৰ বিভাজন হৈছে দেশৰ ইতিহাসৰ এক পৰিৱৰ্তনকাৰী মুহূৰ্ত, কিন্তু ইয়াৰ ফলত ভাৰতৰ ধৰ্মনিৰপেক্ষ স্বৰূপ অক্ষুণ্ণ থাকিব পৰিল।