

## Second Phase of the Indian National Movement (Continued)

### 6

## Formation of the Muslim League

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### Exercises

#### Multiple Choice Questions

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b)  | 2. (a)  | 3. (b)  | 4. (b)  | 5. (d)  |
| 6. (b)  | 7. (c)  | 8. (b)  | 9. (a)  | 10. (b) |
| 11. (a) | 12. (c) | 13. (d) | 14. (d) | 15. (a) |

#### Short-Answer Questions

1. When was the Muslim League founded?

**Ans.** 1906

2. Name the two Muslim leaders associated with the foundation of the Muslim League.

**Ans.** Waqar-ul-Mulk and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk.

3. Why did the British treat the Muslims with suspicion after the Great Rising of 1857?

**Ans.** The Muslims fought against the British in large numbers during the Great Uprising of 1857. That is why the British treated the Muslims with suspicion after the Great Rising of 1857.

4. Why did they change their policy towards the Muslims later on?

**Ans.** About the British policy towards the Muslims, Lord Ellenborough said, "The Muslim race is fundamentally hostile to us and therefore, our true policy is to conciliate the Hindus." So the English began to crush the Muslims because they did not remain loyal to the British after they had snatched away their kingdoms.

5. In what way did the economic backwardness of the Muslims lead to the rise of communalism in India?

**Ans.** The English tried to crush the Muslims in social and economic spheres. They were not recruited to civil and military services. Government jobs were mostly given to the Hindus. The Muslims remained poor and unemployed. The crippling of arts and crafts in villages also led to poverty among the Muslims. Thus, economic backwardness of Muslims in relation to Hindus led to rise of communalism in India.

6. Why did the British follow the policy of 'Divide and Rule'?

**Ans.** The rising tide of the National Movement forced the British to change their attitude and policy towards the Muslims. The British followed the policy of 'Divide and Rule'. They began to encourage communalism to sow the seeds of disunity between the two communities.

7. In which two ways did the British encourage communalism in India?

**Ans.** The British announced Partition of Bengal in 1905 and introduced Morley-Minto Reforms in 1909 which gave separate electorate to Muslims.

**8.** How did the misinterpretation of the Indian history by the British historians cause communalism in India?

**Ans.** The British divided the Indian history into Hindu and Muslim periods. In the Hindu period, they dubbed the Muslims as foreign invaders who settled here as conquerors. In the Muslims period, they identified the Muslims as rulers and the Hindus as a subjugated people. By exposing and playing aloud the atrocities committed by individual rulers, the English historians tried to create hatred among the Hindus against the Muslims and the Muslims against the Hindus.

**9.** How did the radical nationalists add to the communal tension in India?

**Ans.** Bal Gangadhar Tilak organised Shivaji and Ganapati festivals. Aurobindo Ghosh considered India as mother and nationalism as religion. They laid great emphasis on the ancient Indian heritage and ignored the medieval Indian culture dominated by the Muslims. The radical nationalists ignored the Muslim role in Indian history. As a result, a large number of educated Muslims remained aloof or turned hostile to the National Movement.

**10.** Who established the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh?

**Ans.** Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

**11.** Who was Mr. Beck?

**Ans.** Mr. Beck was the Principal of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College (Aligarh).

**12.** Name two associations formed by Syed Ahmad Khan to safeguard the rights of the Muslims.

**Ans.** (a) Mohammedan Civil Service Association  
(b) Indian Patriotic Association

**13.** What two promises were made by Lord Minto to the



deputation which met him in 1906 under the leadership of Agha Khan?

**Ans.** Lord Minto made promises to give separate electorates to the Muslims and to safeguard their political rights and interests.

**14.** With what aim did the British imperialists encourage the foundation of the Muslim League?

**Ans.** To drive a wedge between the Hindus and the Muslims and to check the rising tide of nationalism in India British imperialists encouraged the foundation of the Muslim League.

**15.** Give two objectives of the Muslim League.

**Ans.** (a) Promotion of the feelings of loyalty to the British Government.

(b) Protection and advancement of the political rights and interests of the Muslims of India by checking the growing influence of the Congress.

**16.** When was the Lucknow Pact signed between the Congress and the Muslim League?

**Ans.** 1916

**17.** How did the Hindu-Urdu controversy become one of the factors in the formation of the Muslim League?

**Ans.** In United provinces, Urdu was the court language which was opposed by the Hindus. Finally in April 1900, the government ordered that petitions written in Hindi in the Devangari script would also be accepted. This was opposed by Muslim. Both the communities held demonstrations and started agitations.

### **Structured Essay-Type Questions**

**1.** Briefly describe the main factors responsible for the foundation of the Muslim League, with reference to :

(a) British Policy of 'Divide and Rule'.

(b) Rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalism.

(c) Efforts of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.

**Ans.** (a) **British Policy of Divide and Rule :** After the Rising of 1857, the British treated the Muslims severely. This resulted in the backwardness of the Muslims in

political, economic and social spheres. But the rising tide of the National Movement forced the British to change their attitude and policy towards the Muslims who were now too weak to revolt against the British. They followed the policy of divide and rule. One of the British politicians (**Mountstuart Elphinstone**) clearly said, "Divide et empera (Divide and Rule) was the old Roman motto and it should be ours."

The British now became the champions of the Muslim minority. They began to encourage communalism to sow the seeds of disunity between the two communities. The English resorted to different methods to divide the Indian people. They presented the Muslim rulers as plunderers and tyrannical bigots to create hatred for them among the Hindus. Similarly, they painted several Hindu rulers as cruel to their Muslim subjects. In 1905, they tried to justify the partition of Bengal by telling the Muslims that Bengal was being partitioned to create a new Muslim majority province where the Hindus would not be able to subvert their interests. The foundation of the Muslim League in 1906 was an attempt to drive a wedge between the two communities.

- (b) **Rise of Assertive/Radical Nationalism** : There is no doubt that the assertive/radical nationalists gave great impetus to the National Movement but some of their actions led to the growth of communalism. Tilak organised Shivaji and Ganapati festivals. Aurobindo Ghosh considered India as mother and nationalism as religion. They laid great emphasis on the ancient Indian heritage and ignored the medieval Indian culture. They identified the Indian nation with the Hindus and the Indian culture with the Hindu religion. They ignored the Muslim role in Indian history. There was a certain tinge of religion in the political work and ideas of the radical nationalists. As a result, a large number of educated Muslims remained aloof or turned hostile to the National Movement.



(c) **Efforts of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan :** The Muslims remained aloof from Western education, ideas and institutions. It led to their political, social and economic backwardness. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the first to advise the Muslims to receive western education. In the beginning, he was a man of liberal views and a brave nationalist. He founded the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College at Aligarh in 1875 to spread education among the Muslims. Its Principal, Mr Beck, brought about a great change in Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. He tried to instigate the communal sentiments among the Muslims. He advised the Muslims to remain away from the Hindus, the Congress and the National Movement. He also advised them to support the British Rule in India and receive Western education. He began to support communalism and Aligarh became the centre of Muslim communalism. He also made Sir Syed Ahmad Khan think on communal lines.

2. Various events led to the foundation of the Muslim League.

In this context, describe the following :

- (a) Change in the British Attitude.
- (b) Formation of various Muslim associations.
- (c) Aga Khan's Memorandum to Lord Minto in October, 1906.
- (d) Meeting of Mohammedan Educational Conference in December, 1906.

**Ans.** (a) Lord Curzon divided Bengal into two provinces on administrative grounds. But the real purpose of the partition of Bengal was to reward the Muslims for their loyalty, to drive a wedge between the Hindus and the Muslims and to check the rising tide of nationalism in India. The policy of 'divide and rule' followed by the British culminated in foundation of Muslim League in 1906 and Morley-Minto Reforms in 1909, giving separate electorates to Muslims.

(b) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan set up various reactionary institutions to oppose the Congress. He founded

the Mohammedan Civil Service Association and demanded the appointment of Muslims to higher posts through nomination and not through examination. With the help of Mr Beck, he set up the Indian Patriotic Association to safeguard the rights of the Muslims, to preach loyalty to the British in India, to make efforts to strengthen the British Rule in India and to check the rise of National Movement among the Muslims. In 1887, he convened a Muslim Conference with the aim of keeping the Muslims away from the Congress. In 1893, he organised the Mohammedan Defence Association to prevent the Muslims from joining the Congress. So we see that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was successful to a great extent in keeping the Muslims away from the Hindus, the Congress and National Movement and in this way inciting communalism in India.

- (c) Lord Minto received the deputation of the Muslim leaders under the leadership of Agha Khan on October 1, 1906. Their chief demands were : (i) The Muslims should have their own separate electorates where the Muslim voters could elect their own members; (ii) A Mohammedan should be given a seat in the Bench of each of the High Courts and Chief Courts; (iii) The proportion for Mohammedan representatives entitled for nomination to Provincial Councils should be determined and declared; (iv) There should be a Mohammedan University which would be a centre of Mohammedan religious and intellectual life.

Lord Minto committed himself to give separate electorates to the Muslims and to safeguard their political rights and interests.

- (d) A meeting of the Mohammedan Educational Conference was held in December, 1906 to form a separate body of the Muslims. Many Muslim leaders were invited to meet at Dacca. They met under the chairmanship of Waqar-ul-Mulk who justified the organisation of the Muslims in a separate body. A long discussion



over this subject led to the foundation of the Muslim League in 1906.

3. The foundation of the Muslim League in 1906 had great repercussion on the later history of India. In this context, answer the following :

- (a) Main objectives of the Muslim League.
- (b) Main impact of the Muslim League on the National Movement.

**Ans.** (a) The main objectives of the Muslim League were declared as follows :

- (i) Promotion of the feelings of loyalty to the British Government.
- (ii) Protection and advancement of the political rights and interests of the Muslims of India by checking the growing influence of the Congress, and
- (iii) Prevention of the rise of hostility towards other communities.

(b) **Impact of the Muslim League on the National Movement :** The leaders of the League advised the Muslims to shun the National Movement. They asserted that it was only by supporting the British policies that the Muslims could get concessions from them. They also asserted that the Muslim interests were different from those of the Hindus. In this way, the policies of the Muslim League weakened the nationalist sentiments and opposed national movements.

The provision for separate electorate in the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 was intentionally incorporated to please the Muslim League. The Congress was opposed to this policy of dividing the Indian people. A pact which is known as the Lucknow Pact, was signed between the Congress and the League in 1916. Now the Congress also showed its willingness to accept the concept of communal electorate which subsequently added to the communal bitterness.

In the 1934 session of the League at Lahore, Mr Jinnah



put forward his two-nation theory. The demand for Pakistan was made the key-point of League politics in 1940. In this way, despite severe opposition from Gandhiji, who declared that Pakistan would come into being only on his dead body, the country drifted rapidly towards partition. Communal riots broke out in the country and in 1947, Pakistan became a reality.

4. What part was played by the following in the creation of the Muslim League?

- (a) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
- (b) Principal Beck
- (c) Lord Minto

**Ans.** (a) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan set up various reactionary institutions to oppose the Congress. These institutions instigated the Muslims, preached them loyalty to the British in India. The MAO college founded by him became the centre of divisive politics.

(b) Principal Beck tried to instigate the communal sentiments among the Muslims. He advised the Muslims to remain away from the Hindus, the Congress and the National Movement.

(c) Lord Minto committed himself to give separate electorates to the Muslims and to safeguard their political rights and interests.

5. Growth of communalism in India was encouraged by the British authorities as well as certain trends in Indian society. In the light of this observation, explain :

- (a) The 'Divide and Rule' policy of the British.
- (b) The writings and speeches of the assertive nationalists.

**Ans.** (a) **British Policy of Divide and Rule :** After the Rising of 1857, the British treated the Muslims severely. This resulted in the backwardness of the Muslims in political, economic and social spheres. But the rising tide of the National Movement forced the British to change their attitude and policy towards the Muslims who were now too weak to revolt against

the British. They followed the policy of divide and rule. One of the British politicians (**Mountstuart Elphinstone**) clearly said, “Divide et empera (Divide and Rule) was the old Roman motto and it should be ours.”

The British now became the champions of the Muslim minority. They began to encourage communalism to sow the seeds of disunity between the two communities. The English resorted to different methods to divide the Indian people. They presented the Muslim rulers as plunderers and tyrannical bigots to create hatred for them among the Hindus. Similarly, they painted several Hindu rulers as cruel to their Muslim subjects. In 1905, they tried to justify the partition of Bengal by telling the Muslims that Bengal was being partitioned to create a new Muslim majority province where the Hindus would not be able to subvert their interests. The foundation of the Muslim League in 1906 and the introduction of separate electorates in 1909 were attempts to drive a wedge between the two communities.

- (b) There is no doubt that the radical nationalists gave great impetus to the National Movement but some of their actions led to the growth of communalism. Tilak organised Shivaji and Ganapati festivals. Aurobindo Ghosh considered India as mother and nationalism as religion. They laid great emphasis on the ancient Indian heritage and ignored the medieval Indian culture. They identified the Indian nation with the Hindus and the Indian culture with the Hindu religion. They ignored the Muslim role in Indian history. There was a certain tinge of religion in the political work and ideas of the radical nationalists. As a result, a large number of educated Muslims remained aloof or turned hostile to the National Movement.

6. Several factors led to the foundation of the Muslim League in 1906. In this context, describe.

- (a) The Partition of Bengal.



(b) The role of the British Government.

**Ans.** (a) In 1905, the British tried to justify the partition of Bengal by telling the Muslims that Bengal was being partitioned to create a new Muslim majority province where the Hindus would not be able to subvert their interests. This led to bitterness between the two groups.

(b) After the Rising of 1857, the British treated the Muslims severely. This resulted in the backwardness of the Muslims in political, economic and social spheres. But the rising tide of the National Movement forced the British to change their attitude and policy towards the Muslims who were now too weak to revolt against the British. They followed the policy of divide and rule. One of the British politicians (**Mountstuart Elphinstone**) clearly said, "Divide et empera (Divide and Rule) was the old Roman motto and it should be ours."

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