

Pakistan Resolution

- Annual session of Muslim league held in Lahore on 22 March 1940
- The premier of Bengal Maulvi Fazal Haq
- Demanded autonomous, independent and sovereign state
- It was called, “Lahore Resolution”
- Hindu Press called it Pakistan Resolution

Crisps Mission: to win support for Indian war efforts

- Sir Stafford Cripps promised;
- Dominion status for India after war(though individual provinces could opt out of the union and negotiate their own independence)
- After a war a constituent Assembly should frame a new constitution
- Elections for the constituent Assembly would be held immediately after the war

Reaction to Cripps Mission

- ML rejected it for no reference of Pakistan, though appreciated the right to opt out of future union
- Congress vehemently rejected; demanded all out freedom

Quit India Resolution

- August 1942
- Gandhi: if British leave there would be no threat of Japanese invasion
- All-India Congress Committee passed its 'Quit India Resolution', calling for immediate withdrawal of British
- Called for non-violent mass struggle
- Nehru Gandhi arrested
- Congress banned
- ML did not approve of quit India movement

Gandhi-Jinnah talks 1944

- Gandhi wanted to settle question of Pakistan after British had left, Jinnah wanted it before British leave
- Gandhi wanted central Government to have control over key areas such as defence and foreign policy, Jinnah wanted these matters to be with provinces
- Jinnah reminded Gandhi that he is only spokesman of Congress

Simla Conference

- It was now clear that the British intended to leave India. What they desperately needed was agreement on what should happen when they leave
- Lord Wavell proposed that an executive council should be set up to govern country under the present constitution until a new constitution could be agreed upon
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- The executive council would contain equal members of Hindus and Muslims , apart from viceroy and member controlling defence

- To discuss the proposal Wavell called a conference in Simla in June 1945
- Jinnah pointed Sikhs and Scheduled castes would always vote for Hindus
- He also objected that congress would nominate Muslim members
- Talks failed

1945-46 Elections

- Labour Party won in Britain and directed Lord Wavell to hold elections in India for setting up executive council
- League won 87% of the Muslim vote, all 30 Muslim seats in the central legislative assembly and 446 of the 495 seats in provincial elections
- It showed growing popularity of MI
- People realised tyranny of Congress rule

Cabinet Mission Plan

- March, 1946: final British effort to settle differences within India
- It proposed an interim government should be set up to rule India whilst the British withdraws was organised
- The Government would form an All-India Commission from members of provincial and Central legislatures
- The commission would then decide whether there should be one or two states after British had left

Final recommendations of Cabinet Mission

- It rejected the idea of establishing Pakistan
- Instead there would be three different parts to a post-British India:
The Hindu majority territories, The Western Muslim provinces, Bengal and Assam
- Each part would have local autonomy and would be able to draw up its own constitution
- Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Communication would be managed by a central Indian Union

- Muslim league stated that it was prepared to nominate members to an interim cabinet to oversee the move to independence based on this plan
- Nehru said that Congress would not feel bound once the British had left
- Cabinet plan was dropped
- Direct Action Day

Towards Independence

- British asked the Nehru to form Executive Council
- After hesitation, ML nominated its own members
- Elections were held for Constituent Assembly
- When it met for first time ML members refused to attend
- Congress demanded resignation of ML members from EC
- The British PM, Attlee decided it was a time for decisive action

3 June Plan

- Attlee: Settlement on later than June 1948
- Mountbatten: further brought it to August 1947
- Two states should be set up. The interim constitution of both states was the 1935 Government of India Act
- Each State was to have Dominion Status and have an executive Responsible to a constituent assembly
- Muslim Majority provinces would vote either to join India or Pakistan

- Bengal and Punjab had to decide about provinces too
- NWFP held referendum
- 1947, Indian Independence Act was passed