

Examine Congress Ministries of 1937.

How far it is correct to suggest that it paved the way for a separate homeland in India?

I. INTRODUCTION

According to Indian Act of 1935, the elections were held in eleven provinces of India in 1937. By analyzing the result of the elections, it was clearly depicted that the aspirations of Congress to rule over India was eminent. Thus, it happened by the formation of Congress Ministries, and they took every measure to exploit minorities especially Muslims not in the form of violence but in the form of moral, spiritual, and psychological implications. However, the real Muslim nationalism was objected observed after experiencing the bitter phase of Congress Raj which paved the way for the separate homeland for the Muslims of India.

II- DISCUSSING THE CONGRESS

MINISTRIES

Elections were held in eleven provinces of India. These provinces were Orissa, Bihar, Bombay, Punjab, Bengal, Madras, UP, CP, NWFP, Sindh, and Assam. Following table has depicted the result of the elections.

Total Provinces	11
Total Seats	1585
Seats won by Congress	715
Seats won by Muslims	484
Seats won by others	375
Seats won by Muslim League	108

Reference: The Decisive Decade
of Freedom Movement 1937-
1947

III- THE FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT

BY CONGRESS

i- Unscrupulous and unconstitutional demands

Congress made unconstitutional demand for the formation of government. Under the Indian Council Act of 1935, governors were given unlimited powers to protect the rights of minorities. Congress demanded the limited power of governor general in the provinces. The British government had accepted leaving the ground for Muslim exploitation.

ii- The formation of alliances with other parties

Almost in eight provinces, Congress were in majority form to make government. However, in CP and Bihar, they made an alliance with Hindu Mahasabha and in Sindh with Bacha Khan.

iii- Illogical demand to Muslim League to form an alliance

In CP, they presented illogical demands to form the government.

Demands presented to Muslim League

Abandon All India Muslim League Parliamentary Board

Make an alliance with Congress and not contest elections in future on Muslim League seat

IV- CONGRESS RAJ AND THE EXPLOITATION OF MUSLIMS

(a) Advocation of one-India

They advocated for one-India by removing quota system to exploit minorities of India and especially Muslims.

(b) Formation of working committees in each province

Working committee processed through law-making before going to assembly

Law-making
or important
development

Working
Committee

Assemblies
for voting
and imple-
mentation



Impeding the process
of law-making in
Muslim-dominating areas

(c) Encouraging Wardha Scheme

Under Wardha Scheme, they standardized education system. Muslim ideology was under threat in the form 'enculturation of Hindu culture through education'

(d) Promoting the tri-color flag and Vande Mataram

They promoted tri-color as the system of unity. Vande Mataram, a national anthem written in anti-Muslim

context was encouraged.

(e) Economic stagnation of Muslims

Muslims were made economically annihilated by not offering high-class jobs and opportunities for upgradation. They were made economically weak.

(d) Atrocities of Muslims

Following atrocities were practiced on Muslims.

Atrocities on
Muslims under
British Raj

Ban of slaughtering of cow

Ban on Azan

Bow before the portrait of Gandhi

Shahed Ganj Mosque Abolished

Prohibit formation of Mosques

V- SIGNIFICANCE OF CONGRESS MINISTRIES IN THE FORMATION OF SEPARATE HOMELAND

(a) Galvanizing support for Muslim League

Congress Raj had enabled Muslims to recognize the real intention of Hindus thus help galvanize support for Muslim League.

(b) Elections in 1937-43 and the win of Muslim League

After the recognition of Congress Ministries, elections were held on 58 Muslim seats. All were won by Muslim League as explained by Fazal ul Haq.

(c) Strong objective in the form of Muslim nationalism

After the Congress Raj, Muslim nationalism was emerged with full zeal and zest. All Muslims gathered under the banner of Muslim League for Pakistan.

(d) New political evolution of Muslim League

New political struggle was observed in the policies of Muslim League.

Right to Minorities → Right to separation

↓ ↓

1906-1939 1940-1947

(e) Intensifying efforts for the formation of Pakistan

Thus, Muslim League had intensified their struggle for the creation of Pakistan which was depicted in Lahore resolution in 1940.

VI- CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, Congress Raj in 1937-39 had a clear manifestation of the intentions of Congress towards the exploitation of Muslim at every level thus paving the way for the creation of Pakistan.

“The period of Congress Raj during 1937-39 had significantly impacted the struggle of Muslims for Pakistan.”

(Francis Robinson)

Jinnah in his Presidential Address to the annual session of AIML in March 1940 said, "The problem in India is not of an inter-communal character, but manifestly of an international one, and it must be treated as such." Write a note on the Two Nation Theory and the Lahore Resolution of March 1940 in the light of this statement.

I. Introduction

II. Decoding the statement given by Quaid-e-Azam

(A) Rejection of an inter-communal character in discussing the problems of India

- * It is not merely conflicts between different religious and ethnic communities
- * Beyond the scope of ethnic, religious, cultural, or linguistic identities

(B) ~~Make~~ India's problem as the manifestation of international one

- * Broader geo-political dimensions
- * Impact of British imperialism
 - Emergence of the right to self-determination
 - The formation of nation state like Poland, Ireland, Czechoslovakia

* Political and social issues and their awareness

III- What is Two Nation Theory in the light of this statement?

(a) Separate identity of Hindus and Muslims

(b) Two distinct nations beyond religious interpretation

(c) Political rights and representation as a separate nation

IV- Understanding Lahore Resolution in the light of this statement

(a) Demand for an independent Muslim state

(b) Demarcation of Muslim majority areas

(c) Effect safeguard of the rights of Muslims

V- Conclusion