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Day: Sunday

Q Jinnah, in his Presidential address to the annual sessions of All India Muslim League in March 1940 said, "The Problem in India is not intercommunal but manifestly of an international one, and it must be treated as such. Write a note on two nation theory and Lahore Resolution of March 1940 in the light of this statement."

1) Introduction

With the introduction of political reforms in India by the British, the Muslims realized that even the rights of separate electorates would not be enough and they had to search for some other long term solution.

Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address made it clear that Islam has its own social and economic system, and to implement it a political entity was required.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah together with the Muslim leaders and other Muslims of the subcontinent, had a staunch belief in a separate identity of the Muslims and the Hindus that could never be merged into a single nation. Based on the Two Nation theory, A.K. Fazal-ul-Haq, Chief Minister of Bengal, presented the Lahore Resolution.

2) An Overview: Quaid-e-Azam and Two Nation Theory

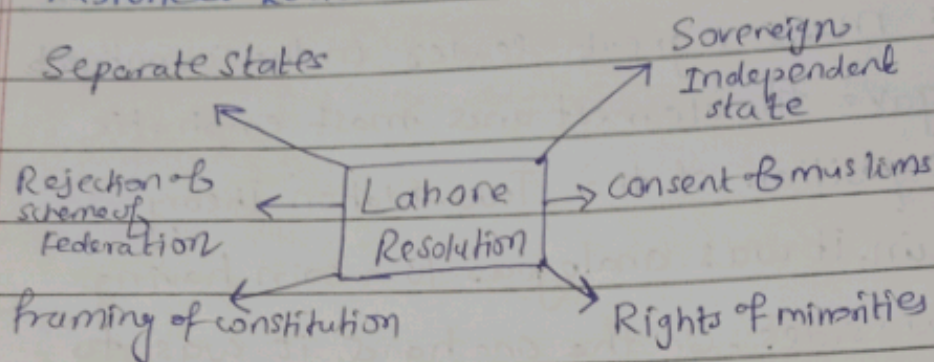
o Emphatic Exposition of the Two-Nation Theory
by Quaid-e-Azam

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a muslim great leader in the subcontinent, gave the clearest and most emphatic exposition of the Two-Nation Theory. To him, it was analogous to a coin having two sides. On the one hand, it was to save the religious identity of muslims, on the other hand, a prosperous homeland for muslims without being subjugated or suppressed. To yoke together two such nations under a single state, one as a numerical minority and other as a majority, must lead to the destruction of a state. According to Quaid-e-Azam

"We maintain and hold that muslims and Hindus are two major nations by any definition or test of a nation. We are a nation of a hundred million, and what is more, we are nation with our own distinctive culture and civilization and, therefore, have every right to our own separate homeland."

3) Agenda of Lahore Resolution

On March 23 A.K. Fazal Haq, move the historical Lahore Resolution



o Unsuited Scheme of Federation:-

While approving and endorsing the action taken by council and the working committee of All-India Muslim League emphatically reiterates that the scheme of federation embodied in the Government of India Act, 1935 is totally unsuited to, and unworkable in the peculiar conditions of this country and is altogether unacceptable to Muslim India.

o Reconsideration of Constitutional Plans:-

No constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principle, namely

that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be constituted, with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority as in the North-western and Eastern Zones of India, should be grouped to constitute Independent States in which the constituent unit shall be autonomous and Sovereign.

o Protection of rights of minorities (1)

The adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards should be provided in the constitution for minorities in these units and in these regions for the protection of their religious, cultural and political rights.

o Territorial readjustments:

No constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to Muslims unless it is designed on the following principle, namely, that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should

be so constituted, with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority, as in North-western and Eastern Zones of India, should be grouped to constitute "Independent states" in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign.

4) Quaid-e-Azam's Address

The venue of session was Minto Park near Badshahi Masjid and Lahore Fort. At the beginning of the session, the welcome address was presented by Nawab of Mamdot. This was followed by the historical speech of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The Quaid-e-Azam in his two hours presidential address in English narrated the events that took place in past months and concluded

"Hindus and the Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs and literature. They neither

inter-marry nor inter-dine together, and, indeed, they belong to two different civilizations that are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions. Their concepts on life and of life are different. It is quite clear that Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different ~~epics, different heroes and different episodes~~ different epics, different heroes and different episodes. Very often the hero of one is a foe of other, and likewise, their victories and defeats overlap. To yoke together two such nations under a single state, one as a numerical minority and other as a majority, must lead to a growing discontent and final destruction of any fabric that may be so built up for the government of such a state."

During his speech, the Chief Minister quoted the letter written by Lala Lajpat Rai in 1924 to C.R. Das. In which he mentioned that the Hindus and the Muslims were two separate and distinct

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nations that could never be imagined into a single nation. When Malik Barkat Ali claimed that Lala Lajpat Rai was a "Nationalist Hindu leader" Quaid responded, "No Hindu can be a nationalist. Every Hindu is a Hindu first and last."

5) Hindu and British Reaction

The Hindu reaction was, of course, quick, bitter, and malicious. They called the "Pakistan" demand "anti-national". They characterized it as "vivisection"; above all, they denounced it as imperialist - inspired to obstruct India's march to freedom." The British were equally hostile to the Muslims for at least two important reasons.

- 1) They had long considered themselves as the architects of the unity of India.
- 2) They had long regarded the super-imposed unity under the Britannica as their greater achievement and lasting contribution in history.

The Pakistan demand threatened to undo these presumed achievements on which the British had long prided.

However, despite the Hindu denunciation and the British alarm, the course of muslim, indeed Indian, politics from now on firmly set towards Pakistan.

6) Lahore Resolution: A successful Path towards creation of Pakistan (Moizubano)

The Lahore Resolution, is undoubtedly the most important event that changed the course of Indian history and left deep marks on world history. With the passage of this resolution, the muslims of sub-continent changed their demand from "Separate Electorate" to "Separate state". It gave new energy and hope to the muslims of the region who gathered around Quaid-e-Azam from the platform of the muslim league to struggle for their freedom. The dynamic leadership of the Quaid-e-Azam and commitment and devotion of the followers made

it possible for them to achieve an independent state within seven years of struggle, and that too when odds were against them. As aptly said by the Quaid-e-Azam

"No power on Earth can undo Pakistan."

Conclusion: A successful road towards creation of Pakistan

In a nutshell, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, along with the muslim league leaders and other muslims of the subcontinent, and above all, religious rights. Lahore Resolution became a turning point in the history of the muslims of India as the scenario before and after Lahore resolution was utterly different. It taught the zeal for freedom in muslims. Having passed the Lahore resolution, the consistent efforts and struggle of the muslims proved fruitful and turned dream of a separate homeland into reality within seven years.