

# Partition of Bengal

October 16, 1905

- ↳ Bengal area was = 1,89,000 sq. ware miles  
Population = 80 million
- ↳ Finding the Bengal presidency too large for one Governor<sup>to</sup> administer, in 1905 the British decided to redraw its boundaries.
- ↳ Divided into two provinces  
Eastern Bengal and western Bengal (and Assam)
- Reason: Administrative problems
- ↳ Bengal was too big, a province for one governor to administer.
- \* Lord Curzon, the viceroy and his sent the proposal to London in February 1905.
- \* Secretary of state for India St. John John Brodrick sanctioned it in June.
- Proclamation = <sup>formation new province</sup> September

Bengal and Assam came into being on October 16, 1905.

Eastern Bengal

Western Bengal

Dacca (capital)

Calcutta (capital)

Population:

Factor of leading to the partition

← starting.

- a) → vastness of the problem ← Problem — Administrative Governance  
b) Limited resources of communication  
c) Need of the time
- For details check 1st page.

Reactions:

## Part paper questions:-

"It was ever reaction of hindus to the partition of the bengal in 1905 that widened the cleft b/w Muslims and hindus"

Comment.

Reaction of muslims:

Reaction of muslims was positive

Nawab Salimullah said

"The partition of Bengal bestowed new life and new image to the muslims."

Lt. Governor Bampfylde arrived in Dhaka, muslims accorded him a rousing reception.

## Reason of muslim positive (reaction)

① United bengal → muslims minority  
western bengal → <sup>being the</sup> 1st area to come under western influence

was already developed / industrialised.

① Agricultural area → more technologies  
↳ sailing and were generated revenues.

② It was a striking contrast to the eastern part where muslims peasantry → crushed under the hindu landlords.

(muslims were in minority in)

② very few funds → allocated for  
After partition. ③ Right of separate <sup>education</sup> devolvement. - ③\*

muslims outnumbered the hindu in eastern  
↳ this alleviated <sup>bergal</sup>

muslims politically and economically.

Resulted in a series of unprecedented  
agitation by the hindus.

Check page # 2 for further  
detail

~~status~~  
General points -  
new province has its  
own civil services, its a  
railway station, high court  
Governor house.

③\* minority → no political  
After partition <sup>representation</sup>  
got the chance for  
to secure pol rights.

## Reaction of hindus:

Considering past paper question

① End of hindu rule over muslim in bengal

② End of their exploitation → no more exploitation  
(For explanation check the few pages  
of this session) by hindus.

② Hindu lawyer and press response was  
betalibated. → protested / criticised british govern

③ Swadeshi and boycott movement

spark of the swadeshi movement was  
British decision to partition of bengal

Swadeshi means: one's own country, implied that people should use only goods & produce in India and boycott foreign goods.

Boycott of British goods. British

↳ good tactic to pressure (govern)

Augus 7, 1905 → public meeting at the Calcutta Hall, the Boycott resolution was passed.

~~K. B. Sayeed writes about swadeshi, The aim was to put pressure on important textile interests in British who~~

..... Word document check.

→ pressurized British to abolish the decision of partition.

The Congress revealed:

True face of the Indian INC as a Hindu-sympathetic party was clearly revealed to the Muslims.

(This episode led to shift their role to politics. prominent personalities including Nawab Sir Salimullah, Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Nawab Vizal-ul-Mulk and many others were led to form All India Muslim League.)

past quest

start from this paragraph

Commenting on the Hindu reaction against the partition I.H. Aureshi, the renowned <sup>1911</sup> ~~(I.H. Aureshi)~~ has written:

"The net result was that the Hindu agitation ~~also~~ definitely estranged Muslims from the Congress" and convinced them "of the futility of expecting justice and fair play from the Hindu majority."

Hindu reacted with hostility to the partition.

Annual meeting → 1906 → passes resolution condemning partition and calling for its annulment.

## Annulment 1911

led to a further widening of the gap b/w two communities.

Political situation in view of Hindu revivalism → British decided to undo their earlier decision to please Hindus.

This act disappointed the Muslims.

Annulled in 1911 by Lord Hardinge

(response to the Swadeshi movement)

I.H. Aureshi

According to I. H. Qureshi:-

"Muslims' reaction to these decisions was naturally bitter. For years the Govt of India and home government had been telling the Muslims that the decision regarding the partition of Bengal was final and would not be reopened. Such flagrant disregard for solemn promises created a feeling of distrust among the Muslims. They all faith in British pledges. They were convinced that the Government listened only to sedition and clamour, that constitutional approaches did not pay, that loyalty was rewarded with treachery."

Conclusion:

→ It was a catalyst in India Muslims realizing the need for a separate homeland

→ Hindu revivalism / Antimuslim Campaigns led to a corresponding rise in nationalistic sentiments among Muslims of India.