

22 / 9 / 2024

Day: Sunday

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Q: Critically examine Congress Ministries of 1937. How far it is correct to suggest that it paved the way for the separate Muslim homeland in India?

1- Introduction: Congress Ministries of 1937:

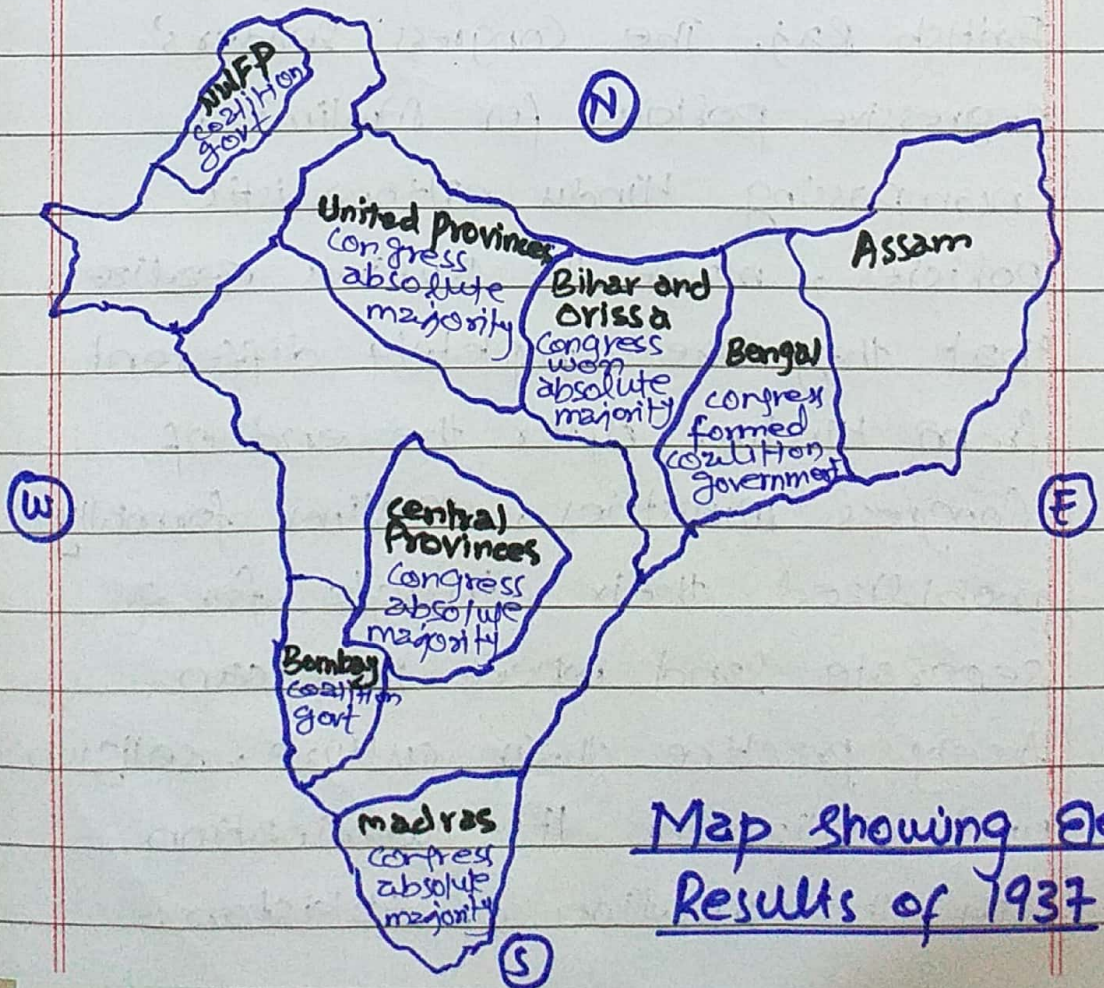
The establishment of Congress Ministries, after the elections of 1937, proved to be the last nail in the coffin of United India under the British Raj. The Congress leaders' regressive policies for Muslims, encompassing Hindu nationalistic policies, made the Muslims realize that they are completely different from Hindus. After the end of Congress Ministries, Muslims formally mobilized their struggle for a separate land where they can freely practice their culture, religion and civilization. Its culmination was the creation of Pakistan.

2- Critical Evaluation Of Congress Ministries Of 1937:

2a- Elections of 1937:

According to the mandate of Government of India Act 1935, elections were held between Muslim League and Indian National Congress in all the provinces of United India.

2b- Results of the Elections 1937:



Map showing Election Results of 1937

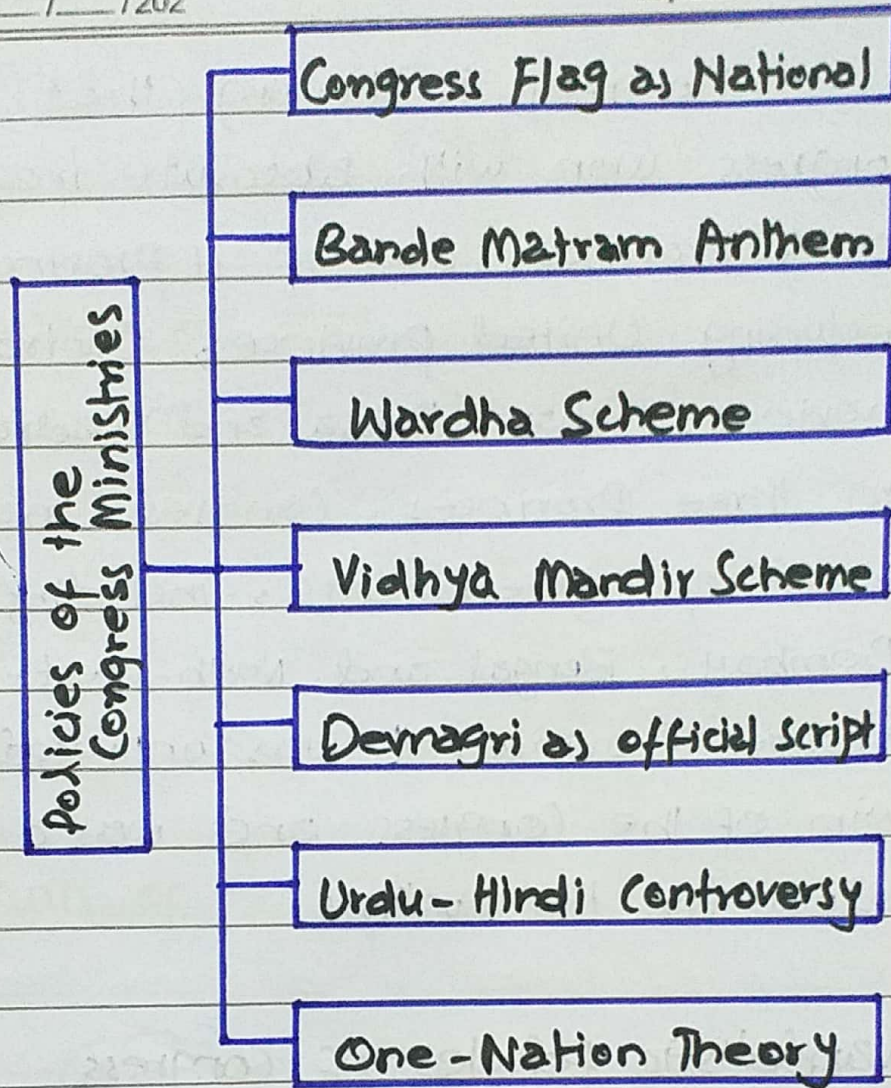
The map is showing that Congress won with absolute majority in 5 provinces out of 11 provinces, including United Province, Central Province, Bihar, Orissa and Madras. In three provinces, Congress made coalition governments, including Bombay, Bengal and North-West-Frontier Province. It was unprecedented win of the Congress and was a blow for the Muslims.

2c- Vandalistic policies of Congress Ministries for the Muslims:

"Congress started vandalistic policies to annihilate the Muslims culture, civilization, language and religion"

— Ahmad Saeed, "Trek To Pakistan"

After coming to power, Congress leaders imposed Hindu nationalistic policies on Muslims in all provinces.



Qd: Purpose of regressive policies of Congress Ministries: Malicious agenda of Congress leaders to infuse ideology of Hindu nationalism:

Congress leaders started imposing pure Hindu policies to brainwash Muslim youth with the ideology of One-Nation Theory. It inspired fear among the Muslim leaders of India.

2e- Introduction of new educational policies in all provinces:

Congress introduced the primary education policy such as Wardha Scheme and new education policy to impose Hindi language on Muslims such as Vidhya Mandir Scheme. They compelled Muslims to adopt these policies.

2f- Mandate Hindi language as compulsory to replace Urdu:

In all institutions, Hindi was made compulsory. The Muslims in all provinces could not use Urdu. For instance, Devnagri script was made official script in all government

offices.

2g- Portrayed Congress as the only representative party of India:

Congress made it mandatory

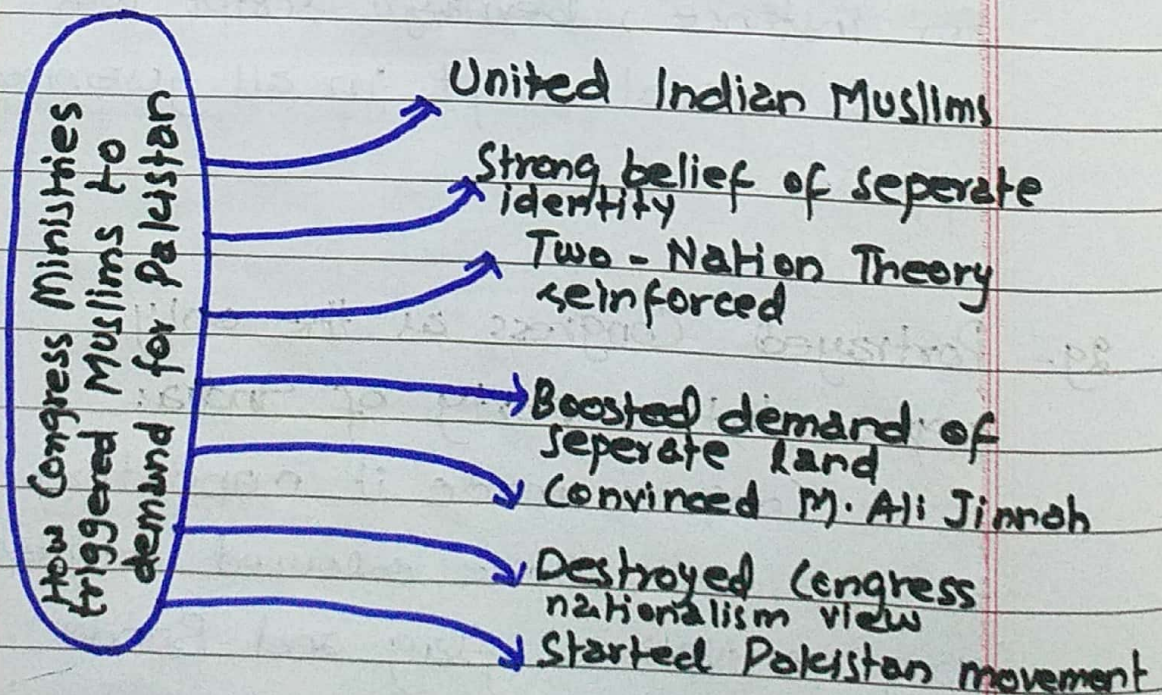
to use only three coloured Congress flag as National flag and Bande

Matram as only National Anthem.
It reflects that they did not want any other community in India.

3- Congress Ministries As A Turning Point In Indian History: Paved The Way For The Seperate Muslim Homeland In India:

“The Muslim reaction to Congress rule may be said to have led to the idea of Pakistan.”

— K.K Aziz 'The Making of Pakistan: A Study in Nationalism'



3a- United Indian Muslims across India under one banner of Islam:

Before Congress Ministries, the Muslims of India were divided. However, the oppressive rule of Hindus reawakened Muslims across India and they formally started their struggle for the separate homeland. Its stark example is the win of Muslim League with heavy majority in elections of 1945-1946.

3b- Strengthened the belief of Muslims as separate identity:

Muslims realized that they cannot live with Hindus in one state. They have completely different culture, language and religion.

As Quaid-i-Azam said in Lahore Resolution, 1940 that "The Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs and literatures".

3c- Reinforced Two-Nation Theory:

Congress rule was blessing in disguise for the Muslims as they formally started struggle for the separate Muslim homeland as they were completely convinced that they are a completely different nation.

3d- Boosted demand of Muslims for a separate homeland:

After that Muslims proved that only Muslim League represents Muslims of India. Through AIML party, they put their demand for Pakistan before British government.

3e- Muhammad Ali Jinnah emerged as a separatist leader:

As Quaid-i-Azam was the staunch supporter of Hindu-Muslim unity, the Congress rule convinced M. Ali Jinnah, other Muslim League leaders and all Muslims of India

that they cannot survive under Hindu government. M. Ali Jinnah said: "This is the parting of ways".

3f- Destroyed Congress claim of secularism and uninationzalism:

Moreover, it exposed pernicious agenda of Hindus. They cannot tolerate any other community in India except Hindus. It further paved way for the demand of Seperate state, Pakistan.

3g- Officially Started Pakistan movement:

In Lahore Resolution, 1940, Quaid-i-Azam clearly stated the demand for Pakistan. Hence, the culmination of Congress rule in 1939 provoked Muslims to strive hard for a Seperate land.

4- Conclusion:

After Congress came into power in 1937, its oppressive policies

reawakened the political consciousness among all the Muslims of India. Muslims realized that Hindu-Muslim unity is impossible. Hence, all Muslims united and started efforts for a separate homeland, culminating into the independence of Pakistan.
