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Pakistan Affairs

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2023 Q: Write a detailed and systemic analysis of the charismatic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam, the leader of Indian Muslims during the crisis-ridden decade of 1937-47.

Introduction:

Jinnah's charismatic leadership was instrumental during the last decade of the United India. It saw seismic shifts from Congress ministries to demand for Pakistan to Partition. Quaid-e-Azam's remarkable leadership was evident during the 1937 Congress vote, the declaration of Day of Deliverance, the Lahore Address of 1940, Cripps Mission 1942, Quit India Movement 1942, the 1945-46 general elections, Direct Action Day, and the eventual Partition of colonial India.

Analysis of Jinnah's

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Leadership From 1937-47:

1-The 1937 Provincial Elections:

Elections were conducted in 1937 under the Government of India Act 1935. The Congress dominated the elections and formed ministries in 8 out of 11 provinces. On the other hand, All India Muslim League (AIML) performed poorly. It won only about 109 Muslim seats of the total 482 Muslim seats.

2-Congress Ministries and Role of Jinnah:

Soon after forming ministries, Congress adopted bitter policies against Muslims. Some of its policies are as follows:

- Hindi became the national language.
- Congress flag became national flag.
- Vande Mataram - a song taken

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from an anti-Muslim novel - was sung in official functions and schools.

- Cow-slaughter was banned.
- As per report commissioned by AIML, Muslims were expelled from government offices, and opportunities for them were closed.
- The Vidya Mandar scheme was introduced which virtually transformed schools into temples - Hindu culture and language was promoted in schools.

During such crisis, Jinnah established AIML as the defender of Muslim rights. During the AIML Lucknow session, Jinnah said,

"The Congress have shown their hand that Hindustan is for the Hindus."

3-Day of Deliverance (22 December 1939):

World War II started and India was dragged

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into the war without consultation. The Congress protested and declared that India would participate in the war only if immediate and full independence is granted to it. British refused and instead offered dominion status at the end of the war. Congress resigned its ministries as a protest. Jinnah responded to it by declaring 22 December as a day of deliverance from Congress rule. On this day, Muslims of India rejoiced over their deliverance, showing Jinnah's ability to transform a political crisis into an opportunity for mass mobilisation.

4-Lahore Address and Adoption of Lahore Resolution 1940:

Compelled by the socio-political realities of united

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India, Jinnah formally articulated the Two-Nation Theory. During the annual AML session, he said,

"The Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs, and literatures. They neither inter-marry nor inter-dine together, and indeed they belong to two different civilizations based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions."

The Lahore Resolution was also adopted in this session under Jinnah's leadership. It was the written document that formally rejected the idea of united India, demanded separate states for Muslims, and minority rights. This document laid the foundation of Pakistan.

5-Cripps Mission and Jinnah's foresight:

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under pressure during WWI, British sent Sir Stafford Cripps to India to offer dominion status at the end of the war. Provinces were allowed to opt out. However, Jinnah rejected the plan because the non-accepting provinces, provinces which did not want to remain part of India, would have to vote in a joint-electorate. Hindu being a majority would therefore heavily influence the decision. This was Jinnah's prudence and foresight which saw the shortcomings of the Cripps Plan.

6- The Quit India Movement and Jinnah:

After the failure of the Cripps Mission, Congress launched the Quit India Movement under Gandhi's leadership. It quickly turned into mass civil disobedience and violent uprising. However

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Jinnah had apprehensions. He believed the movement was intended to force British into handing over powers to congress alone. Therefore, he did not participate in the movement and instead, coined the slogan "Divide and Quit".

7- General Election of 1945-46:

After World War II ended in August 1945, elections were held in India from December 1945 to January 1946. This time AIML dominated the election and won all the 30 Muslim seats in central Assembly. Moreover, it won over 90% of the Muslim seats in provincial Assemblies. This vindicated Jinnah's claim that AIML represented all Muslims of India. Moreover, it was Jinnah's efforts to transform the League into a mass-based party after

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Failure in 1937.

8-The Cabinet Mission Plan 1946:

The cabinet Mission Plan by British aimed to create an Indian federation with weak centre and strong provinces. It proposed the grouping of provinces into three sections. Group A would be Muslim majority provinces, group B would be Hindu-majority provinces, and group C would be Bengal and Assam. It rejected Jinnah's demand for Pakistan. Jinnah accepted the plan believing it would be a foundation for a separate Muslim state in future.

However, when Jawaharlal Nehru stated that Congress did not believe in grouping, neither was it bound by any agreement, Jinnah viewed it as betrayal of the core provisions of the plan. Left

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with no other choice, he declared the Direct Action Day.

9-Direct Action Day (August 16, 1946):

Fearing that Muslims would be subjected to perpetual Hindu majoritarianism, Jinnah called for Direct Action on 16 August 1946. This led to thousands of deaths in Calcutta and other regions of India. Although widely criticized for unleashing violence, this political strike quickly compelled the Congress and British to recognize the necessity for a separate Muslim state.

10-Partition and Independence (1947):

The Partition Plan, also known as the 3rd June or Mountbatten Plan, was devised. This led to the creation of Pakistan. This was the culmination of Jinnah's charismatic

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leadership. A separate homeland was provided for Muslims. Even when terminally ill, Jinnah still managed refugees, the border chaos, and state building, demonstrating his extraordinary resilience.

Conclusion:

The last decade of colonial India was fraught with numerous crises. Indian Muslims faced perpetual marginalization at the hands of Congress. However, Jinnah's charismatic and resilient leadership was instrumental. His tireless efforts and political acumen led Muslims to a separate homeland of their own where they continue to prosper without being dominated by another faith.