

CONGRESS RULE

(1937-1939)

Congress rule or Congress Ministries were considered as a turning point for the Indian Muslims. They were a group of people who made decisions for the country, they were really strong and took control in almost all the provinces of India.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The 1937 elections were turning point for Indian Muslims as well as for the Indians as a whole because of the following new happenings in the electoral process:

i) The concept of restricted franchise was adopted.

The restricted franchise means

That not all the citizens could vote, only the universal adult franchise could vote. The minimum age requirement and property qualifications were introduced that limit the electorate.

ii) Increased Electorate than previous years:

Compared to the previous years, the number of voter outcome increased. This happened because of the Government Act of India 1935, that expanded the electorate, allowing more people to vote. Though the Government of India act 1935 was formulated but not fully promulgated, only the provincial part was introduced that made the Congress stronger as a party and Muslims were treated badly.

iii) Introduction of separate electorate:

This allowed distinct religious committees like Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs to elect their representatives separately.

The outcome of the elections was that the emergence of Congress as a dominant political force. Muslim League performed poorly in the elections. Muslim League got only 21% of Muslim seats without winning majority in Sindh, Punjab, NWFP and Bengal.

CONGRESS RULE AS A FORERUNNER TO CREATION OF PAKISTAN:

Congress achieved big victory and formed government in different provinces. After winning Congress adopted rigid policy. They refused to form a coalition government with Muslim League. Moreover, they put forward the demands and terms and conditions that were impossible to achieve for Muslim League. Consequently, rejecting the terms and conditions by Muslim

League, Congress formed their government in the United Province.

IMPACT ON MUSLIMS:

After the victory Congress gained confidence aimed to position itself as a major, strong national party and also wanted to win over Muslim voters. But due to cultural differences, Muslims distrust on Congress leaders. Competition with Muslim League, the divide between the Muslims and Congress deepened. However, there are several reasons that became the onset of the creation of a separate country for Muslims and those are following:

i) Anti-Muslim Drive By the Congress:

Congress wanted to push Muslim League and other Muslim organization because they recognized that Muslim League had great support in Muslims Community.

So, they started promoting Hindu culture and symbols as a part of their governance. And while Muslims were closely tied to their own culture and Islam.

ii) Introduction Of Wardha Educational Scheme and Bande Matram:

Wardha Educational Scheme was introduced by Congress to influence the Muslim youth and convert Muslims to Hindu culture through primary educational lectures. Congress also tried to impose Hindu nationalism on Muslims by the declaration of Bande Matram as their national anthem.

iii- Urdu-Hindi Controversy:

According to Wardha Educational Scheme, the medium of instruction in the school was Hindi. Eventually Hindi language became the topmost important language. In their policies and declared as their national language, that

that deepened the antagonism between Muslims and Congress.

iv) The Policy Of Discrimination by Congress Ministries:

Muslims in this period of time had experienced lot of discrimination in employment. There were lot of challenges during selection process because of the domination of non-Muslims on high positions.

v) Hindu-Muslim Riots:

Muslims had faced lot of discrimination and assault in that period of time. Hindus were to assault innocent Muslims. The houses, properties were set on fire by Hindu, women and children were abducted that led to the separate country for Muslims.

vi) Hindrance In Religious Practices Of Muslims:

The Hindus started imposing ban on slaughter of cows.

The anti-social elements started creating noise and disturbances outside the mosques without any fear and no-one bothered to stop those anti-Muslim activities, Congress did not even condemn.

According to Nigel Kelly, the author of History of Culture of Pakistan, during two years of rule, Congress kept mum over deliberate anti-Muslim riots; attacks on houses, and setting property on fire. The blessing in disguise was that the Muslim leaders observed what could happen if Congress governed at national level. Leaders started questioning whether provincial autonomy alone would address their concerns. They started thinking more critically about effectiveness of federal system without provincial system autonomy in protecting Muslims interests.

CONCLUSION:

The rule of Congress in India was a blessing in disguise as it allowed Muslims

to think critically about the status of Muslims in India. Muslim leaders started thinking about the need to explore other political alternatives and eventually that led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah rightly said that:

"The Muslims can expect neither justice nor fair play under Congress Government."

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KHILAFAT MOVEMENT:

(1919-1932).

"Khilafat movement is a political campaign launched by Indian Muslims in British India over British policies against Turkey."

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

During World War I, Ottoman Empire joined the war in favor of Germany. But Turkey and Germany lost the war and Allied forces decided to divide Turkey and put an end to Caliphate. After the Treaty of Versailles (1919), the status of Caliph became uncertain and effectively leading to the dissolution of Ottoman Empire. The Empire that was once considered as the epicenter of Muslim world, lost its clarity and significance, alongside the

the empire itself. Many Indian Muslims felt a strong connection to Ottoman Empire and saw Caliph as a strong leader who represent their faith. They respected the Caliph for the unity of Muslim Ummah. Gail Minault highlights the significance of Caliph:

"The Caliph was both a spiritual and political leader meant to uphold justice and help Muslims achieve salvation."

And when the British government promised to protect Turkey its Holy places many Muslims supported them. However, the Britishers failed to keep their promises, this betrayal angered Muslims everywhere, especially in India. and eventually lead to the creation of Khilafat movement. This also result in the imprisonment of Muslim leaders, who spoke against British policies, like Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ALL-INDIA KHILAFAT MOVEMENT:

In response to the action of Allies in Turkey, Indian Muslims decided to launch a movement to protect the institution of the Caliphate. The All-India Khilafat movement was established in Bombay in July 1919. It provided the platform for Muslim activism around the Khilafat issue.

FIRST KHILAFAT CONFERENCE:

The first Khilafat Conference was held in Delhi in November 1919. In this Khilafat movement, the prominent Congress leaders like Jawahar Lal Nehru and Mr. Gandhi also participated. This collaboration marked a significant alliance between major political parties to address the injustices faced by Muslim community.

The key decisions that were made by the Conference were:

The Boycott of victory celebrations by not participating in the celebrations held by British and allies, demonstrating the disconnect with the situation in Turkey.

The Boycott of British Goods as a form of economic protest, aiming to weaken British economic interests in India.

Strategy of non-cooperation with the Government signaling a potential escalation in their protests.

SECOND KHILAFAT CONFERENCE:

The Second Khilafat Conference was held in Amritsar in December 1919.

Again the major political parties like Congress and Muslim League participated. The demand of release of Maulana Muhammad Ali and other leaders were put forward in the conference.

The Ali Brothers played a pivotal role in the movement, but effectively mobilizing the masses and advocating the Khilafat cause.

By joining major political parties, aimed to create a stronger impact against British rule.

The Demands that were put forward by the Conference were:

- a- The Turkish empire should not be dismembered.
- b- The institution of Caliphate must be retained.
- c- The Holy Places should remain in custody of Turkish government.
- d- Jazirat-ul-Arab including Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine with Holy places should remain under the control of Khilafat.

The Khilafat movement tried its best to represent the Ottoman Empire and protect Muslim lands without any mandate.

KHILAFAT CONFERENCE KARACHI

Khilafat Conference held in Karachi in July 1921. The participants in this conference were predominately Muslim expressed their loyalty to Khilafat. The participants resolved to continue Khilafat and welcomed Mustafa Kamal Attaturk's efforts to expel foreign forces from Turkey.

FAILURES OF KHILAFAT

MOVEMENT:

The Khilafat movement initiated by Muslims in British India to preserve the Ottoman Empire, gradually lost its momentum due to several reasons:

1. MOPLAH REVOLT:

In 1921, on Malabar coast the Moplah descendants of Arab Muslims who settled in

This region long before Muhammad Bin Qasim, revolted against brutal Hindu treatment on their lands. Hindus portrayed the revolt as Hindu-Muslim issues leading to increased propaganda against Muslims. This revolt and uprising effected unity between Muslim League and Congress that fostered during Khilafat movement.

2. THE CHORA CHORI INCIDENT:

The Chora chori incident in February 1922, worsened the situation. The Congress activists attacked a police station as a part of agitation against British. In response to this Gandhi decided to call off the non-cooperation movement. This sudden decision had caused adverse effect on Khilafat movement as it was called off without consultation with Khilafat leaders.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY

The third element that affected

The movement was the changing political landscape in Turkey. Mustafa Kamal Atatürk rose as a national leader. He abolished the Caliphate and exiled the Sultan Abdul Majeed, ending the institution for which Indian Muslims were advocating.

CONCLUSION:

Khilafat movement was a political campaign against British government in India by Indian Muslims. Khilafat movement tried its best to present Ottoman Empire and for the protection of Holy places around the world. Whereas, as the Caliphate was dismantled the Khilafat movement weakened significantly and eventually faded away, marking the end of struggle for Muslim rights in British India.