

I. Introduction:

"Muslims are a nation according to any definition of nation. We wish our people to develop to the fullest spiritual, cultural, economic, social and political life in a way that we think best and in consonance with our own ideals and according to the genius of our people"

(Quaid-e-Azam)

On the basis of the above mentioned idea of the Quaid, A.K. Fazl-ul-Haq, the then Chief Minister of Bengal, moved the historical resolution which has since come to be known as Lahore Resolution or Pakistan Resolution.

The Pakistan Resolution of 1940, also known as the Lahore Resolution, is considered the Magna Carta of the Pakistan movement. It was a landmark event in the struggle for the creation of Pakistan, providing a clear direction and goal to the Muslim community in India.

a) Magna Carta:

"To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice."
(Magna Carta, 15th Jun 1215)

It was the first document to put into writing the principle that the King and his government was not above the law.

According to this All free men have the right to justice and a fair trial with a jury. The Monarch doesn't have absolute power. The Law is above all men and applies to everyone equally. All free citizens can own and inherit property.

b) Historical Context:

The resolution was passed on 23 March 1940, during the ^{27th} annual session of the All India Muslim League in Lahore. At the time, the Muslim community in India was facing political, social, and economic challenges due to the dominance of the Hindu majority. A. K. Fazlul Haq presented the historical Lahore resolution. The session was held on

22-24 March 1940, at Iqbal Park, Lahore.
The welcome address was made by
Sir Shah Nawaz Khan of Mamdot, as
the Chairman of the local reception
committee.

II. Content of the Resolution:

The resolution, moved by A.K. Fazlul
Haq and seconded by Chaudhry Khalique-
uz-Zaman, called for the creation of
independent states for Muslims in the
North-Western and Eastern regions of India.
It emphasized the need for territorial
delineations to ensure Muslim-majority areas
were grouped to constitute independent states.

(The Resolution declared:)

"No constitutional plan would be workable
or acceptable to the Muslims unless geographical
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 majority as in the North-Western and Eastern zones of India should be grouped to constitute independent states in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign".

III - Significance of the Resolution:

a - Unity the Muslim Community:

The resolution provided a platform that united the Muslims of India and gave them a sense of purpose and identity. Muslims started to unity of Muslims in India.

b. Clear goal:

It set a clear goal for the Muslim community providing them with a well-defined roadmap for their struggle for self-determination. The Approval of the Pakistan Resolution set a target for the Indian Muslims which was creation of Pakistan.

c) Recognition of Differences:

The resolution highlighted the political, social, and economic differences between Muslims and Hindus, recognizing the need for a separate homeland to protect Muslim rights and interests.

d) Stronger Demand for an Islamic State:

After the approval of Pakistan resolution the demand of Muslims for an Islamic state grew stronger day by day. This is the reason that Muslim League developed quite rapidly and it got well organized.

IV) Why it had been

called a "Magna Carta"

The Objectives Resolution, which is considered to be the 'Magna Carta' of Pakistan's constitutional history, proclaimed the following principles:

Sovereignty belongs to Allah alone but He has delegated it to the state of Pakistan through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him as a sacred trust. Liaquat Ali Khan made it clear that this resolution is no less than a Magna Carta for the future constitution build up of Pakistan.

(V) Features:

"Magna Carta" of Pakistan's Constitutional history have following features.

- a- Sovereignty belongs to Allah
- b- State shall exercise powers through the chosen representatives.
- c- The principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam, shall be made fully observed.
- d- Muslims to order their lives in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

- e- Adequate provision shall be made for the minorities.
- f- Pakistan shall be a federation
- g- Fundamental rights shall be guaranteed
- h- Judiciary shall be independent.

VI- Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Pakistan Revolution of 1940 is rightly termed as the Magna Carta of the Pakistan Movement due to its significant role in providing direction, unity, and a clear goal to the Muslim community in their struggle for a separate homeland. Its impact on the eventual creation of Pakistan and its enduring legacy make it a pivotal moment in the history of the subcontinent.

"I assure the minorities that they may look forward, not only to a period of the fullest freedom, but also to an understanding and appreciation on the part of the