

27-10-2015

Q. No. 2

Analyze the political behavior of the Indian National Congress during its ministries (1937-1939). How did these events influence Muslim League's political strategy and the demand for Pakistan?

I Introduction

The Congress rule extending from (1937-1939) was replete with tyranny and marked by absolute bias and mistreatment of the Indian Muslims. The policies pursued by the Congress ministries alienated the Muslims in unprecedented ways. Their actions and policies were aimed at treating India as a cultural and political whole and marginalizing other communities, particularly Muslims. Hence, the Muslim League was pushed to air its ultimate realization about the need to call for a separate state.

II. The Tyrannical Policies and Actions Witnessed During the

Congress Ministries

A. Bande Matram

The Congress came up with this Hindu Nationalist song which encouraged the expulsion of Muslims from India. Playing of this song was made compulsory before starting the official business in the provincial assemblies. This offended the Muslims and their sentiments.

B. Wardha Scheme

This was an educational scheme based on Gandhi's philosophy. It made Hindi as the medium of instructions in schools, banned religious education, and included spinning cotton by hand in the curriculum. The students were also expected to bow before a picture of Gandhi hung in their schools. The policy was perceived by Muslims as an attempt to subvert the love for Islam among these kids and as a way of cultural and religious domination.

C. Hoisting of the Three-Colored

Flag

Soon after taking over, the Congress hoisted a three-colored flag along the British Union Jack. This was meant to show that there were only two powers in India, one of British and other of the Congress. This further served to aggravate the Muslim League.

D Religious Persecution during Congress Ministries

In some places in India, there was intense persecution of Muslims such as banning of Azan, destruction of mosques, making noises during prayer times and pushing pigs into mosques. This extremist attitude made Muslim League and the Muslims in general alarmed about the intentions of a Hindu-ruled ~~regiment~~ political party.

E Ban on the Slaughter of Cow

Some extremist elements moved as far as imposing a ban on the slaughter of cow and eating of beef. As it was

edible food for the Muslims, the act enraged Muslims and appeared to deprive Muslims of their basic rights.

F. Replacement of Urdu by Hindi in Schools

The Congress also replaced Urdu by Hindi in schools and made attempts to promote Hindi as the official language of India. This showed Congress intention to impose their cultural hegemony on other communities including Muslims.

G. Hindu-Muslim Riots

In many places, Muslims' houses, property, and their honor was targeted by Hindu extremists. There were significant communal clashes in some places. This led to deepening of Hindu-Muslim rivalry in British India.

III Impact on Muslim League's Political Strategies and Demand for Pakistan

The tyrannical rule of Congress convinced the Muslim

League that a future Hindu-dominated state could leave the Muslims absolutely: powerless and persecute them in unprecedented ways.

A. Strengthening of the Two-Nation Theory

The Congress rule convinced the Muslim League that it was impossible to live alongside Hindus as manifested by Hindu hatred toward Muslims. It made it clear that Muslims could never flourish in a Hindu state. Hence, it was only a year later that Muhammad Ali Jinnah demanded a separate state for the Muslims in Lahore Resolution of 1940.

B. Mass Political Mobilization in 1945 Elections

Moved by the Congress tyrannical rule, the Muslim League worked tirelessly in its political campaigns in the future elections as it could not afford to withstand another such rule of Congress. Consequently, the Muslims were able to amass a significant support of

the Muslim electorate.

IV Conclusion:

The political behavior of Congress ministries was highly prejudicial, biased, and inhumane. Their policies and actions were tyrannical and hateful ~~of~~ toward Muslims and left no chance in persecuting the Muslims and degrading them socially and politically. The two years rule convinced the Muslim League that it was high time to demand for a separate state as a state dominated by Hindus could never be in favor of the Muslims. Hence, the Congress rule led to a paradigm shift in Muslim League's political strategy and its demands.