

## **The Partition of India and Associated Impact with Literary Key Points**

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The attainment of Indian freedom was followed by the tragic drama of partition. It was one of the darkest events in the history of India, which shook whole nation into disgust and hatred. The Indian unity, brotherhood and political ideology, through which India achieved freedom, remain failure and the new opposite chapter of Indian politics started from the very time of partition. The partition was not just a historical event but one which changed the lives of Indians throughout the country. It is the partition, which showed the different direction to the nation for future path rather than following the ideology of Indian tradition. The partition of India and the associated bloody riots inspired many in India and Pakistan to created enormous literary and cinematic depictions of this event. While some creations depicted the massacres during the refugee migration, others concentrated on the aftermath of the partition in terms of difficulties faced by the refugees in both side of the border. Even now, more than number of decades after the partition, works of fiction and films are made that relate to the events of

partition. The early members of the Progressive Artist's Group of Bombay cite "The Partition" of India and Pakistan as a key reason for its founding in December 1947. The literature describing the human cost of independence and partition comprises Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan (1956) and many other stories. Salman Rushdie's novel Midnight's Children (1980), which won the Booker Prize and the Booker of Bookers, weaved its narrative based on the children born with magical abilities on midnight of 14 August 1947. Freedom at Midnight (1975) is a non-fiction work by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre that chronicled the events surrounding the first Independence Day celebrations in 1947. The complete list of literature is so huge and diversified, still this paper attempts to highlight the key work done in the domain of partition of India. In this paper, some of the literary works by the renowned intellectuals and authors are underlined.

Prior to the withdrawal of the British they were forced to give concessions. These concessions were introduced on a piecemeal basis and did little to accommodate the aspirations of the people on the Indian sub-continent. In 1909 the Government of India Act allowed a very small number of rich Indians to sit on councils with little powers. In 1919 another Act created an Indian Parliament, but only rich Indians could vote. In 1935 a further Act allowed more power to be handed over to an Indian parliament but kept crucial departments under British control. Furthermore the elections in 1935 demonstrated to the Muslim League that an independent India would be a Hindu-led state.

As a result of these measures the population of the Indian sub-continent didn't trust the British to deliver any kind of meaningful independence. This was confirmed in 1942 when the Cripps Mission offered India dominion status after the war in return for assisting the British war effort. Ghandi rejected the offer out of hand as similar offers before World War One were never lived up to. The British further alienated Indian nationalists by suppressing the 'Quit India Campaign' and arresting thousands of people.

By March 1947 it was clear that the British were no longer in control of developments in India. When Mountbatten arrived in India in March 1947 he announced that Britain would withdraw no later than June 1948. Six weeks later Mountbatten produced a plan for the partition of India into two countries. Mountbatten then announced that British withdrawal would be brought forward to 15 August 1947. Partition was now inevitable and the British made a complete mess of drawing up the boundaries between the two countries. This led to one million dying and twelve million people becoming refugees as they found themselves on the 'wrong' side of the new borders.

The novel *Lost Generations* (2013) by Manjit Sachdeva describes March 1947 massacre in rural areas of Rawalpindi by Muslim League, followed by massacres on both sides of the new border in August 1947 seen through the eyes of an escaping Sikh family, their settlement and partial rehabilitation in Delhi, and ending in ruin (including death), for the second time in 1984, at the hands of mobs after a Sikh assassinated the prime minister. The 2013 Google India advertisement *Reunion* (about the Partition of India) has had a strong impact in India and Pakistan, leading to hope for the easing of travel restrictions between the two countries. It went viral and was viewed more than 1.6 million times before officially debuting on television on 15 November 2013.

During the revolt of 1857, which is described as the first war for independence, Hindus and Muslims fought side by side united in their purpose of defeating a common enemy. The British noticed this unity and realized that their survival rested on being able to keep the people divided, for they had managed to establish their rule because politically India had been a divided country at the time of their entry. This realization led to the famous British 'Divide and Rule' policy.

Religion was supposed to be one of the best factors to divide the people. It is used as an influential mechanism to attain economic, political and other social activities. And British used religion as their weapon to divide the strength which India had as a whole.

Till 1870 the British oppressed the Muslims greatly for they held them responsible for the revolt. After 1870 the British changed colors and instead started favoring the Muslim community. The rise of nationalism had threatened the British power in India and their efforts obviously were directed to suppress it. Now an important feature of the national movement was that it took longer to spread amongst the Muslim community. As a result the early nationalist's movement was made up mainly of people from the Hindu, Parsi and Christian communities. The British noticed the absence of the Muslims in this movement, and quickly began working on ensuring that they did not join the movement. The British began implementing policies too that promoted the activities of communal forces, and divided the national struggle.

When the British opened up the administration of the country most positions were taken up the Hindus since the education culture had not spread to the Muslim Community making them feel left out and demand a special reservation.

Sir Sayyed Ahmed Khan, an earlier nationalist drifted towards Communalism. Communalism was also fostered through the writing of the Indian History. Socio-religious reform movements like Arya Samaj, Sanatan Dharam movements, Aligarh movement, Wahabi movement and some other fringe movements contributed towards communalism.

The Partition of Bengal in 1905 was made on October 16 by then Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon. Partition was promoted on the grounds that Bengal was a very large state with a large population causing the eastern region to under-governed. However, the actual motives behind the partition were different. The position of the Bengali Hindus would be weakened, since Muslims would now dominate in the East which led to Hindu opposition to the partition while the Muslims highly favored it. This partition was one more part of 'Divide and Rule' policy.

As the partition was in favor of Muslims they welcomed it, whereas the Hindu's were not in favor of it. Due to this Hindu community launched a Swadeshi Movement by boycotting the

British goods. Seeing this scenario British decided to support the Hindus, this act disturbed the Muslims. It was medium to tell the Muslims to go to their homeland.

The growing communalism led to the Muslims forming a new political party called the Muslim League in 1906. Initially it was only confined to the educated class of Muslims. At around the same time the Indian National Congress began garnering mass support from its members and also consisted of young Muslims.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah one of the major forces behind the creation of Pakistan was in fact a member of the Indian National Congress till 1920.

Khilafat Movement (1919-1924) was a significant Islamic movement in India during the British rule. The sultan of turkey also known as the caliph i.e. khalifa or successor of Prophet Muhammad was considered as the religious leader of the Muslims all over the world. This was first the religious political movement in India involving common Muslims. However, initially this movement was first targeted to the educated and elite Muslims only.

The Khilafat Movement received the support of Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru, who related his Non Cooperation Movement with it. As major Congress leaders had joined hands with this movement the other political parties came together to support the injustice faced by the Muslims.

The main leaders of the Khilafat Movement were Maulana Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, famously known as the Ali brothers. They were among the leaders who used to protest from jail and their voices used to be heard through magazines and newspaper which awakened the Muslim community. The hub of this movement was Bombay, where they had their first conference wherein discussing the issues of the Movement.

The mass popularity that the Indian National Congress was enjoying led to The Muslim League feeling increasingly sidelined. As a result the Muslim League won only 109 from 492 reserved Muslim seats and only 4.8 percent of the overall Muslim votes showing thereby the lack of famous assistance for the Muslim League even amongst the Muslim inhabitants.

In the elections of 1937 Muslims had a good response whereas its counterpart Hindus did not have encouraging response. For example, Hindu Mahasabha had acquired only 12 seats from 175 in Punjab. This resulted in union of the parties in order to ensure survival.

This got worse in 1938 when the congress prohibited communalists from functioning within the Congress organization. Thus the congress was criticized for preaching that Hindus were the only Nation living in India. This led to the Hindu fundamentalist's version of 'two nation theory'.

The 'two nation theory' included Hindu Maha Sabha wherein it states that the country belongs to only Hindus and the Muslims should find their own home or should remain obedient to Hindus. And other 'the Muslim League' wherein it states that Pakistan is the only option to protect the interest of Muslims as it has the maximum population of Muslims.

After the outbreak of World War - II, Viceroy Linlithgow constantly promoted the Muslim League and the Pakistan power was used to contradict the Congress command that the British should promise to liberate India after the war and as evidence of honesty, shift actual power of Government to Indians immediately. Before promising or coming to a concrete solution the British wanted an agreement between the Muslims League and the Congress organization which stated that no political settlement should be made which was offensive to the Muslims League. This agreement would give Jinnah a type of a 'veto' power which he would use in future.

Jinnah the main leader of Muslim League had a different outlook for religion and its practices. One of the major drawbacks of Jinnah was he only supported the elite Muslims whereas showing no anxiety to the low and backward Muslims. The Muslim League wanted to give all the privileges to the elite Muslims only, which was for the Muslims Landlords and Nawabs.

As the Muslims were not united during the pre partition days, the aim of the Muslim League was to provoke religious passions to dedicated path. As the low caste Muslims were not given importance in the Muslim League they decided their own pathway where they from sections

like North West province and South where they supported Indian National Congress. Seeing this scenario the Muslim League used violent language.

Since 1870, elite Hindus like zamindars, money lenders and other leaders started an organization to provoke anti Muslims and simultaneously opposing India National Congress. Their sole purpose was to remove the Muslims from the country. For them Hindus were first Hindus and then Indians. This thought formed an organization known as Hindu Mahasabha and later was called Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Hindus Mahasabha created a false impression of patriotism by using slogans like 'Bharat Mata' i.e. Mother India and so on, which created an impression that they wanted a country without Muslims. As according to them Hindus and Muslims were a separate Nation.

By understanding the roots of communalism we must recognize that it is neither signifies religion nor patriotism as one but it signifies wellbeing. Then the religious communities are being divided into various sections like elite class low class and language it should be realized that no religious community is uniform as communalists. These particular fault lies in both Hindu and Muslims community. The Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha deliberately did not allow the low caste to participate which made linguistic culture lines which divided their religion on the basis on caste.

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