

Chapter 14

Understanding Partitions- Politics, Memories Experiences

Q1.Examine the factors responsible for the growth of communalism in India.

Ans. At the outset it must be admitted that in spite of strenuous efforts made by the congress leaders and rationalists, communalism could not be checked. Ultimately communalism won when India was partitioned and Pakistan was created on the communalism theory of two nations. It may be stated that communalism grew on account of the 'Divide and Rule' policy of the British. Jinnah was not the sole originator of this theory of two nations. The policy of 'Divide and Rule' encouraged Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to fight for the right of the Muslims. Lord Curzon in 1905 encouraged the Muslims when he divided Bengal and created a Muslim majority province. Iqbal in 1930 also favored separate treatment to the Muslims. The Hindu Mahasabha established in 1916 also worked on communal lines following factors led to communalist tendencies.

- (1) Divide and Rule Policy of the British.
- (2) Fear of the Muslim minority of its Suppression the Hindu majority.
- (3) Overemphasis on the glory of ancient India.
- (4) Emergency of political parties on communal lines.
- (5) Separate electorate for Muslims.
- (6) Lack of education among the Muslim community.
- (7) Frustration of the Muslim league on its inability to win election in 1937.

(8) Demand for partition of India at the Lahore session of the Muslim league in 1940.

(9) Direct Action by the Muslim league in 1946 and Communal riots.

Q2. Analyse the experiences of women from the partition?

Ans. The experiences of women in partition violent time were harrowing.

Women were raped, abducted, sold, often many times over, forced to settle down to a new life with strangers in unknown circumstances. Deeply traumatised by all that they had undergone. Some began to develop, new family bonds in their changed circumstances. Their money and ornaments were looted. At times therefore when the men feared that their women wives, daughters, sisters, would be violated by the enemy they killed the women themselves.

Q3 Pointing upon the destruction or slaughter on Mass scale at the time of partition ,compare Indian holocaust with Germany?

Ans. Because several hundred thousand people were killed and innumerable women raped and abducted. Millions were uprooted, transformed into refugees in alien lands. Estimate of casualties were 2,00,000 to 50,00,000. In all probability, some 15 million had to move across hastily constructed frontiers separating India and Pakistan. Stripped of their local or regional cultures. They were forced to begin picking of their life from scratch. There fire partition is considered as holocaust. The Survivors themselves have often spoken of 1947 through other words like maashal (Martial law), mara-mari, raula or hullar.

Though the people do not see any difference between the events of India and Germany . Afterall this much difference we find that in

1947-48, the sub continent did not witness and state driven extermination as was the case with Nazi Germany where various model used. The ethnic cleansing That characterized the partition of India was carried out by self self styled representative of religious communities rather than by state agencies.

Q4 'The Partition of India was indispensable'. Explain?

Ans. By the strength of Indian National Congress and power of mass movement ultimately British Government ready to free India in 1947. But freedom could given with the partition of India in two separate countries India and Pakistan. The causes for acceptance of the Independence with partition were as under:

The British had been following a policy of creating feelings of bitterness among the different communities in India. This policy of Divide and Rule aimed to check the growth of Nationalism .When they failed in their objectives, they decided to divide the country and leave it.

The attitude of Mr. Jinnah, the most prominent leader of the Muslim League, led to the partition of the country. He preached that the Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations. Hence they could not pull well together.

The British government followed the policy of appeasement towards the Muslims. They asked the Muslim League leaders to ask for more and more concession. They encouraged the Muslim to stress their demand for Pakistan.

The recommendation of the various mission sent by the British Government to solve the Indian Problem indirectly accepted the Muslim demand of Pakistan.

The failure of Interim Government also made the partition of the country inevitable. In the absence of cooperation between the two major parties of the country, the Muslim League and the Congress, the Government could be run effectively.

Lastly we can say that willing of leaders for the freedom, Hindu Muslim Riots, it was essential the partition of India.