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CREATION OF PAKISTAN: JINNAH AND ROLE OF MUSLIM LEAGUE

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Creation of Pakistan: Jinnah and Role of Muslim League

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Abstract – A few decades ago, there was no Pakistan. The land now called Pakistan was earlier part of India which came into being as a result of the two-nation theory promoted by the Muslim League leader, Mohammad All Jinnah. Conflicts between Muslim League and Congress, leadership of Jinnah, Muslim's support to favors British rulers were some of the major factors contributing towards the creation of Pakistan.

Key Words: Communalism, Pakistan, Muslim League, Partition.

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MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH: LEADER OF MUSLIM LEAGUE

Jinnah was a Muslim, lawyer, statesman and more importantly the founder of Pakistan. He was born in 1876 and is known as Quaid-e-Azam. Jinnah acquired his education from Sindh Madrasa and went to Karachi's Mission School. He went to England to pursue law studies and was included in the bar in 1896. He initiated his political career in 1906 by becoming a member of the All India National Congress and developed relations with Muslim Leaders. In 1913 he joined the All India Muslim League. Jinnah tried to strengthen the Hindu Muslim unity as annual sessions of both the Indian National Congress and All India Muslim League were held together in Lucknow in 1916. Jinnah's efforts to promote Hindu Muslim unity reached a climax after the Nehru Report was published in 1928 which faced criticism and certain amendments were proposed. When these were rejected, Jinnah finally decided to part ways with the congress.

THE MUSLIM LEAGUE: FROM FOUNDATION TO THE CREATION OF PAKISTAN

The Muslim League founder in 1906 was a party claiming to be the sole representative of Muslim interests in India. In 1940 it had passed a resolution aiming at independence from both the British rule and also the Hindu majority dominance of India. It considered the Muslims of India to be not a minority but in fact a "nation within a nation" which was waging a struggle for its right to a nation of its own. The Muslim League also from the very beginning followed

a policy of cooperation with the British. Jinnah was the undisputed leader of Muslim League and emerged as the Quaid-e-Azam of the Indian Muslims.

* Change in the Attitude of the Muslim League:

The Congress- League understanding reached through the Lucknow Pact (1916) was an important event in the history of the Indian national movement. The Congress and the League agreed to raise similar demands to the British. The Muslim demand for 'separate electorate' was accepted by the Congress. There was a new trend in the Muslim League during the Khilafat movement.

KHILAFAT AND NON CO-OPERATION:

In the Khilafat and Non Cooperation the Muslim League followed the nationalist line. Congress supported the demand of the Khilafatists while the Khilafatists supported the attainment of Swaraj as their goal.

MUSLIM LEAGUE AFTER NON CO-OPERATION:

After the suspension of the Non Co-operation movement, Muslim League proceeded along communal lines. But the appointment of the Simon Commission was an opportunity when the Muslim League and the Congress came closer and opposed the Simon commission. Soon after there was a new trend in the Muslim League when under the leadership of Jinnah the Muslim League rejected the

Nehru Report and raised the demand of Fourteen Points. The Fourteen Points raised by Jinnah was opposed to the national unity. The Two-Nation theory put forward by Jinnah in 1940 finally laid the way for the creation of Pakistan.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF MUSLIM LEAGUE:

Muslim League under the leadership of Jinnah struggled hard with its aim of separate state for Muslims and achieved various goals.

- * It had specific aims like creating feeling of devotion and confidence among the Indian Muslims towards the British Empire, requesting the British Government to look into the problems of the Indian Muslims and finally promoting harmony among the Muslims of this country.
- * The Muslim League marched ahead with distinct goals. In the Amritsar Session of 1908 it passed a resolution that like the Hindus, Muslims should be included in the Privy Council. It accepted communal electorate system granted by the Morley-Minto reforms.
- * Amity increased between the Muslim League and the Congress. Due to the participation in the Khilafat Movement, nationalism grew within the Muslims. In the Lucknow Pact (1916 A.D.) both the Muslim League and the Congress agreed to demand from the Government, provincial autonomy, increase of members in the Legislatures, extension of franchise etc.
- * The understanding between Congress and Muslim League was not long lasting. The Nehru Report of 1928 was not accepted by the League. Jinnah put forth the 14 point formula demanding a federal government having provincial autonomy, local-self-government, religious freedom to different sects, proper patronage to Muslim education, religion and culture, appointment of Muslim ministers at one-third places in the Central and provincial ministry, any constitutional change by the Central Legislative Council should be made in due consultation with all the units etc.
- * From 1937 till 1947, the Muslim League became aggressive. In 1938, the League, in its resolution, reflected that the Congress was doing injustice for the Muslims in India. Jinnah put forth the proposal before the British Government that the Muslim League should participate in the framing of the Constitution.

Without consulting the Indians the British Government declared India's participation in the World War II and the Congress Ministry resigned. This was welcomed

by the Muslim League who supported the British Government.

- * In 1940, the League placed its demand for Pakistan and Jinnah made it clear in the Madras Session of the League in 1941 that an independent State in the eastern and north-western provinces should be established.

CREATION OF PAKISTAN

After 1940, the League stuck to its demand of a separate state throughout the negotiations under August Offer, Cripps' proposals, Simla Conference and Cabinet Mission Plan. He called 16th August 1946 as the Direct Action Day and to take Pakistan by force.

According to the Mountbatten Plan, India was divided in 1947 and finally, the Muslim League under Jinnah's Leadership succeeded in getting its terms accepted and Pakistan was formed. Jinnah became the first Governor-General of Pakistan.

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