

Chapter 12. Formation of the Muslim League

Very Short Questions

Question 1: When was the All India Muslim League formed?

Answer: The All India Muslim League was formed on 30th December 1906.

Question 2: Who presided over its session at Dacca?

Answer: Waqar-ul-Mulk presided over the Dacca session of the Muslim League.

Question 3: Why did the British rulers treat the Muslims with suspicion after the Revolt of 1857?

Answer: The British rulers treated the Muslims with suspicion after the Revolt of 1857, because they felt that the Revolt was led by the Muslims.

Question 4: Who established the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh?

Answer: Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established The Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh.

Question 5: Why did the British encourage separatist tendencies among the minority community?

Or

Why did the British believe in the policy of Divide and Rule in India?

Answer: The British believed in the policy of Divide and Rule because they realized that if both the communities fight one against the other, the British could go on ruling India.

Question 6: Give a reason for the establishment of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental Defence Association in 1893.

Answer: The Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental Defence Association was established in order to counter the growing influence of the Congress.

Question 7: Name the Viceroy who was responsible in 1909, for granting separate electorates on the basis of communal representation.

Answer: Lord Minto was the viceroy who was responsible in 1909 for granting separate electorates on the basis of communal representation.

Question 8: Who started the Ahrar Movement?

Answer: Maulana Mohammad Ali, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Mazhar-ul-haq started the Ahrar Movement which was assertive and national.

Question 9: On whose persuasion was the Muslim deputation constituted to meet the Viceroy Lord Minto at Shimla?

Answer: Mr. Archibald, the Principal of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, (M.A.O. College), Aligarh, encouraged the Muslim deputation to meet the Viceroy at Shimla.

Question 10: Who convened the Mohammedan Education Conference in Dacca?

Answer: Nawab Salimullah of Dacca convened the Mohammedan Educational Conference.

Question 11: Give one reason why Nawab Salimullah of Dacca convened the Mohammedan Educational Conference.

Answer: Nawab Salimullah wanted to infuse among the Muslims the idea of establishing a Central Mohammedan Association to look after the interest of the Muslims in general.

Short Questions – I

Question 1: Give two examples to show that the British encouraged communal and separatist attitude in Indian politics.

Answer: (i) The British exploited the caste structure of the Indian society by playing the non-Brahmins against Brahmins.

(ii) The replacement of Urdu by Hindi in law courts created a feeling of communal bitterness among the Hindu and the Muslims.

Question 2: How did the biased presentation of historical events spread hatred between the communities?

Answer: The British created hatred between the two communities (Hindus and Muslims) by giving new interpretation to Indian history where they identified the Indian nation with the Hindus and the Indian culture with the Hindu religion.

Question 3: With the help of economic backwardness, describe briefly the development of separatist trend among the Muslims in India.

Answer: The economic backwardness of the country was also responsible for the growth of communalism. Since there was not much industrial development so there was an acute problem of unemployment. The communities encouraged job reservations on the basis of religion, caste and region. This became an obstacle in the path of national unity.

Question 4: How the religious sentiments among the aggressive nationalists, resulted in the development of separatist trend among the Muslims in India.

Answer: The assertive nationalists in their speech and writings simply praised the ancient culture of India ignoring the medieval Indian culture. This caused unnecessary suspicion in the minds of a few educated Muslims, who kept themselves aloof from the nationalist movement and developed the separatist trend.

Question 5: Why did Sir Syed Ahmed Khan oppose the policies of the Indian National Congress?

Answer: Sir Syed Ahmed Khan opposed the policies of the Indian National Congress because he felt that the interests of Muslims and Hindus were different. He was afraid that if the British withdrew, the Hindu majority would rule and it would be unfair to the Muslims.

Question 6: Why did Sir Syed Ahmed Khan advise the Muslims not to join the Congress?

Answer: Sir Syed Ahmed Khan advised the Muslims not to join the Congress because he opposed the policies of the Indian Congress and was afraid that if the British withdrew, the Hindu majority would rule and it would be unfair to the Muslims.

Question 7: In what way did the Hindi-Urdu Controversy (1900) strain the relations between the two communities in India?

Or

How did the Hindi-Urdu controversy become an important factor in the formation of the Muslim League.

Answer: Urdu was the court language in Uttar Pradesh. The Hindu community, protested and demanded that they should be allowed to submit petitions in Hindi in Devanagri script. The Government granted this request. Thus, the Hindi-Urdu controversy further strained the relations between the Hindus and Muslims.

Question 8: Give any two demands forwarded by the deputation led by Aga Khan.

Answer: The two demands forwarded by the deputation led by Aga Khan were:
(i) The Muslims should be granted a representation in the Councils.
(ii) Their representation should be determined not on the basis of their numerical strength, but on the basis of their political importance and the services rendered by them to the British Empire.

Question 9: What were the objectives of the Muslim League?

Or

State any two objectives of the Muslim League.

Answer: The objectives of the Muslim League were:
(i) To promote, feelings of loyalty among the Muslims of India, towards the British Government and to remove any mis-conception that may arise as to the intentions of the Government with regard to Indian Muslims.
(ii) To protest and advance the political rights of the Muslims of India and to represent their needs and aspirations of the Government.

Short Questions – II

Question 1: Why did the Muslims find the partition of Bengal suited their interests.

Answer: Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal on the pretext that Bengal was too big as an administrative unit, therefore he wanted a division. But the real motive was to separate Muslims from Hindus and create communal feelings between them was the ulterior motive of the British Government. Partition of Bengal gave the Muslims community a new impetus for their political activities. The Muslims considered the newly carved province of the Muslim majority as a source of their strength and also as a center of their political activity.

Question 2: How did the educational backwardness of the Muslims lead to the growth of communalism in the early years of the 20th century.

Answer: The Muslims were not attracted by the Western science, Democracy or Nationalism. The Hindus, in those days were more educated in the Western sciences and culture than the Muslims. Even Christians and Parsees were comparatively more highly educated than the Muslims. The result of this backwardness was that they were not offered Government jobs whereas the Hindus were in Government jobs in a much greater number. It was natural that the Muslim masses were easily led by communal feelings. Jawaharlal Nehru rightly said that this difference continued to show itself in many directions, political, economic and produced a fear among the Muslims.

Question 3: Discuss the role of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in the formation of Muslims League.

Answer: Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the first to advise the Muslims to receive western education as they had remained aloof from it which led to their political, social and economic backwardness. Initially he was a man with liberal views and a brave nationalist. He even founded the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College in 1875 at Aligarh to spread education. He started instigating communal sentiments among the Muslims under the influence of Mr. Beck the principal of the M.A.O. He even started advising the Muslims to stay away from the Hindus and support the British Rule in India. This paved the way for the formation of the Muslim League.

Question 4: Mention any three aims of the Muslim League.

Answer: The aims of the League were laid down as follows:

- (i) To promote among Indian Muslims, feelings for loyalty towards the British Government. The League would also remove misconception regarding the intentions of Government towards Indian Muslims.
- (ii) To protect the political and other rights of the Muslims and to place their needs and aspirations before the Government in mild and moderate language.
- (iii) To prevent the rise of any feeling of hostility between Muslims and other communities, without adversely affecting the aforesaid objectives of the League.

Question 5: The All-India Muslims League was founded on 30 December 1906. With reference to this, briefly mention the factors which led to the formation of the League.

Answer: The British Government policy of 'Divide and Rule' in favour of the Muslims advanced their separatist attitude. The partition of Bengal and other events gave the Muslims a positive direction for their separate identity as a communal force. They felt the

need of a central political organisation of the Muslims alone. This opportunity came when Nawab Salimullah of Dacca, convened a meeting in connection with the Mohammedan Educational Conference. In that conference, he proposed a scheme of a Central Mohammedan Association to look after the Muslim interests exclusively. This proposal was unanimously accepted. The All India Muslim League was founded on 30th December, 1906.

Question 6: Briefly discuss the attitude of the nationalist Muslims towards the formation of Muslims League.

Answer: Although a large number of Muslims joined the All-India Muslim League but there were also many patriotic Muslims who opposed the aims and objectives of the Muslim League and proposed their full faith in the All-Indian National Congress. They understood the mischief of the policy of 'Divide and Rule' followed by the British in India. They exposed the nefarious scheme of the British Government and warned the Indian Nationalists not to fall victims to the shrewd policy of the British Government.

Question 7: Explain the circumstances leading to the formation of Minto-Morley Reforms.

Answer: The Viceroy Lord Minto was in favour of widening the gap between the Hindus and the Muslims. In order to win over the Muslims the Viceroy decided to grant certain concessions to the Muslims. A deputation consisting of 35 prominent Muslims led by his highness Aga Khan met Lord Minto in Shimla. The demands of the delegation were accepted by the Viceroy which in turn led to the formation of Minto-Morley reforms.

Long Questions

Question 1: The formation of the Muslim League and the Home Rule Movement had a wholesome effect on the affairs of the country. In this context mention three factors leading to the formation of the Muslim League.

Answer: Factors which led to the formation of the League: The Muslim League was formed on 30th December, 1906. The three factors leading to the formation of Muslim League are given below:

(i) British attitude: As the national movement spread the British felt that the movement unite the people of India resulting in a threat to the British empire. United people could not be subjugated for long. The British tried to do all they could to keep the people disunited. Then by inciting one community against the other divided the people and encouraged communal and separatist attitude.

(ii) Partial Attitude of Hindu Activism: The radical nationalist, no doubt with sincere intentions, in order to justify India's past in advertently adopted a partisan attitude. While glorifying Shivaji and Rana Pratap they obliterated any mention to the contribution made by Mughal rulers. This was totally against the prevailing social milieu of a mixed culture. This was misinterpreted by wasted interest and cause a schism between Hindu and Muslim resulting in aloofness to downright oppositions to national movement in a dominant section of Muslim society.

(iii) Policy of Divide and Rule: The British realised the Hindu Muslim unity. The best way to safeguard their own interest and rule would be to put up the Hindu and Muslim against each other. So they deliberately followed the policy of Divide and Rule. Lord

Curzon, with a view to divide a country on communal lines, partition Bengal, replacement of Urdu by Hindi in courts also adds the fuel to the fire.

Question 2: There were several factors responsible for the formation of the Muslim League. In this context briefly describe the formation of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental Defence Association, 1893.

Answer: The Indian National Congress was growing its influence rapidly. It caused quite an uneasiness in the Government circles also. Mr. Beck was the Principal of the MAO College, Aligarh. He took keen interest in the formation of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental Defence Association and became its Secretary. The object of this Association was to dissuade the Muslims from joining the Indian National Congress and to advocate their loyalty to the British Government. Principal Beck not only strengthened the hands of the British Government but played a significant role in pursuing the policy of 'Divide and Rule'. This was what the British Government had been doing ever since the Indian National Congress started becoming popular.

Question 3: There were many events and factors which finally led to the formation of the Muslim League in 1906. In this context describe the rift caused by the Hindi-Urdu controversy.

Answer: During the British rule, before 1900, Urdu was used as court language. All petitions were written in Urdu but due to strong protest and demand, the British Government on 8th April, 1900 passed an order that Government offices and law Courts should also entertain petitions written in Hindi in Devanagari script. It also said that Court summons and official announcement should be issued both in Urdu and Hindi languages. The Muslims resented the order of the Government. This Hindi-Urdu controversy widened the gulf between the Hindus and Muslims. This was also one of the causes of the formation of the Muslim League.

Question 4: A Muslim deputation led by Aga Khan waited upon the Viceroy Lord Minto on 1st October, 1906. In this context describe the demands made by the Deputation.

Answer: The three demands made by the Muslim Deputation in 1906 to the Viceroy Lord Minto:

(i) Separate Electorates: The Muslims should be given the right of sending their representatives to the Provincial Councils and Imperial legislative council through separate communal electorates.

(ii) Separate Representation in the Municipal and University Bodies: There should be some scheme for giving adequate representation to the Muslims in Municipal and District Boards and the senates and syndicate of Indian Universities.

(iii) Greater Representation in Civil, Military and Judicial Services: There should be greater representation of the Muslims in all services civil and military. Further, there should be Muslim Judges in every High Court.

Question 5: The British Government succeeded in its diplomacy of creating a wedge between the Hindus and the Muslims in India. In this context briefly describe the policy of 'Divide and Rule'.

Answer: The British Government that looked at the Muslims with suspicion after the Revolt of 1857, and favoured the Hindus changed its attitude after the events of 1870. The Government grew apprehensive of the rise of Indian nationalism. It felt doubtful about the safety and stability of the British rule in India. The wave of national unity and patriotism led the British Government to adopt the policy of 'Divide and Rule'. The British Government encouraged the Muslims of India to demand separate electorate for Muslim representation. In this way the British Government took upon itself the role of the champion of the Muslims.

Picture Based Questions

Question 1: Answer the following:



- (i) Name the famous Muslim reformer in the picture.
- (ii) Name the educational institution founded by him. What was his objective?

Answer: (i) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.
(ii) He founded the Mohammed Anglo-Oriental college. His objective was to provide western education to Muslims.