

PARTITION OF BENGAL

Reasons Behind the Partition and Anti-Partition Movement of Bengal

Bengal had a vast area that consist of Bihar, Orissa and Assam with a huge population. There were many languages and dialects which were used for the economic development of their state.

The reasons behind the Partition are:

Unity among the People

Lord Curzon in charge of the Government of India proposed the division of Bengal for administrative convenience. But the actual reason behind this was his fear on their existence and decided to break apart the state Bengal. Lord Curzon could understand the unity among the Indian nation and wanted to curb their individuality.

Political strength

Lord Curzon during his tenure from 1898 to 1905 he expressed of bringing down the number of elected Senate members. Thus in the year 1899 he brought down the members that were to be elected from the Calcutta Corporation giving the key financial powers to the Britisher's.

The Universities Act

Lord Curzon passed the universities Act in the year 1904 according to this Act secrets of the government were meant to be curtailed among them and not given to the press.

Nationalism

He later announced the partition of Bengal in 1905. He did it so aiming for two advantages. The weakening of the nationalist movement and the fire set between the Muslims and Hindus. In 1902 he announced that he wanted to divide Bengal with the objective of administrative convenience.

Separation of the state

Curzon's proposal's for the division of Bengal received Royal assent on 1st September, 1905. Bengal was divided into two parts. The separation of the state was also to cripple the nationalists and the educated who were higher in Bengal.

Hindus and Muslims

The moderate leader's influence on the people was reduced in the 19th century. Lord Curzon was determined to curb the nationalist movement and Wanted to rule by dividing Muslims and Hindu's against each other.

Anti-Partition Movement of Bengal

- The people of Bengal understood the real motive behind the partition. On 16th October 1905, the partition became effective people observed this day as a day of mourning.
- People fastened and walked barefoot to the Ganges and sang patriotic songs like

Vandemataram written by BankimChandra Chatterjee.

- Rabindranath Tagore suggested to observe 16th October as Raksh Bandhan day between people of west and east Bengal.

Significance of Swadeshi and Boycott movements

The Swadeshi and Boycott movements were started to oppose the Partition of Bengal.

The Boycott movement

The idea of boycott was started after the failure of peaceful campaigns and petitions. Rabindranath Tagore and Ramendra called for the observance of Raksh Bandhan and Arandhan on the day of the partition.

The Swadeshi movement

This movement also started to oppose the partition of Bengal. 'Swadeshi' means of one's own country according to this people should use goods produced within the country. This was lead by Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, in the year 1905. Swadeshi movement received the support of the youth.

Spread of the Movements

British goods were burnt at public places. The youth of Bengal took active part in the movements. Women gave up the use of glass utensils and stopped wearing foreign bangles. Use of foreign paper was refused by Students. Foreign goods like sugar and cloth were not allowed to use. Those who didn't take part in this movement were socially boycotted.

Results of Boycott Movement

The Charkha which was a spinning wheel represented the country's economic self-sufficiency.

This encouraged purchasers to buy native produced goods thereby boycotting British goods

Results of Swadeshi Movement

- Hindus and Muslims Cooperated
- Youth were ready to sacrifices.
- Social barriers like class and creed disappeared
- The press became fear less.
- The unity among the people increased.

Impact of Swadeshi and Boycott Movements

Nationalism

Lord Curzon intended to bring in differences among the Indians with the partition of Bengal, but they were against him. The movements encouraged nationalism and patriotism.

Native Industries

The movement contributed to the growth of native industries such as textile mills, match and soap factories, tanneries and potteries. Formation of banks and insurance companies too grew during this period.

Cultural Life

The culture of the National poetry and prose by great Indian writers such as Rabindranath Tagore, Mukunda Dass and RajaniKanta Sen had a great impact on Indians. Political journalism that resulted from the movements gave an impulse to freedom, liberty and self-reliance.

Education

National educational institutions were opened for imparting literacy, technical and physical education. The International University at Shantiniketan was one of them which was founded by Tagore in Bengal.

Mode of protests

People's sacrifice and new mode of protest were to be seen all over. Thousands of people were arrested and sent to jail. Peaceful

processions were subjected to lathi charges. New mode of protests like hartals, picketing, demonstration on roads, boycott of goods and institutions became part and parcel of Indian national movements.