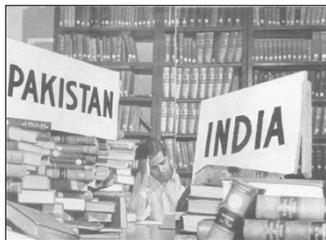


Partition



British India During World War II

- Indians resented unilateral British declaration of war against Germany
- British sought support from India
- in 1942, Churchill sent Sir Stafford Cripps to India
 - he offered India “dominion” status after the war
 - Congress party demanded immediate self-government
 - start of new “Quit India” movement
 - many opposed this (including Muslim League)
 - ruthlessly suppressed by the British
 - entire leadership of Congress party was thrown into prison
 - peasant rebellions all over
 - collapsed in violence, failure



Quit India Movement,
Beohar Rammanohar
Sinha

The Pakistan Idea

- By late 1930s, Jinnah was leaning towards an independent Indian Muslim state
 - driven by increasing marginalization of Muslims by Congress Party in 1930s (as it gained huge power all over British India)
- Lahore Resolution of 1940 called for “Pakistan”
 - independent state of Muslim India would comprise areas where Muslims in India were in majority
 - if Muslims were in minority, they would remain in “Hindu” India
 - P – Punjab
 - A – Afghan
 - K – Kashmir
 - S – Sindh
 - tan – Balochistan
 - yet many in Muslim League opposed this
 - nobody had any idea of how to actually cut up India
 - some historians think that Jinnah was just using this as a bargaining chip and didn't really want a separate state (Metcalf, pp. 208-209)

Jinnah's About Turn

- had been one of the strongest proponents of Hindu-Muslim unity, “undivided India”
- what changed his mind?
 - domination of Congress Party led by Nehru (which was mostly Hindu Brahmin)
 - fear of subjugation of minority Muslims
- wanted separate elections
- Jinnah personality (Metcalf, p. 213)

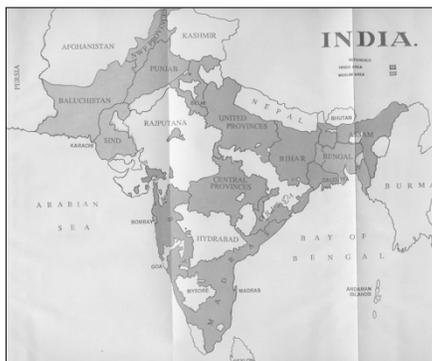


1946 Elections in British India

- Congress won 90% of seats in central legislature for non-Muslims
- Muslim League won well too but weaker in regional elections
 - especially in Punjab and Bengal
- In Punjab: Unionist Party was party of landowners
 - as a result Jinnah campaigned to peasants
- In Bengal: more difficult
 - Bengali Muslims had more in common with Bengali Hindus

Last Hope for a United India

- British Cabinet Mission in 1946
- Proposed
 - Independent India with three “provinces”
 - 1 for Hindu and 2 for Muslims
- Muslim League accepted
- Congress rejected
- Why?
 - wanted strong central government
 - also did not want to take on all of Punjab and Bengal
 - these two states were where Congress had the weakest support
- The outcome: inevitable that there would be two distinct states



How to Partition India?

- Two most problematic areas were
 - Punjab and Bengal
 - the problem?
 - they had (slight) Muslim majorities but had enormous Hindu populations
 - in Bengal: Muslims (56%), Hindus (42%)
 - these Hindu populations were big base of support for Nehru/Congress
 - Congress wanted these areas, Muslim League did not want to break up these states

Violence Breaks Out in Punjab and Bengal

- Calcutta massacre of 1946
 - over 3 days, 4,000 people killed
- other massacres in Bihar, Noakhali (in Bengal)
- Violence in Punjab was complicated
 - Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs (13% of population)
 - Not all violence can be put down to religion
 - massive resentment against old *zamindar* system



Independence

- Final borders decided by Lord Mountbatten, last British Viceroy of India
 - rejected calls by local Bengali Muslims to keep Bengal united
 - Congress supported splitting it in half because they gained political support from eastern Bengal (which was mostly Hindu)
 - split up Punjab rather arbitrarily
- Independence for both India and Pakistan on August 15, 1947
 - Nehru speech: “tryst with destiny”

