

## **\*\*Pre-Independence\*\***

- \* India was a patchwork of princely states with diverse traditions and religious identities.
- \* European colonization (16th-18th centuries) by various powers, with the British East India Company becoming the dominant force.
- \* British ruled directly and indirectly (through princely states).
- \* In the 19th century, British categorization of Indians by religious identity exaggerated communal divisions.

## **\*\*Independence and Partition\*\***

- \* India gained independence in 1947 after 200 years of British rule.
- \* Independence was accompanied by the largest forced migration in history, with an estimated 10-15 million people displaced.
- \* Partition into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan created deep divisions.

## **\*\*Boundary Commission\*\***

- \* The British hastily drew a border dividing provinces and princely states based on religious majorities.
- \* The boundary committee faced challenges with inaccurate maps and limited knowledge of the local population.
- \* Hindus and Muslims migrated to areas where they believed they would be in the religious majority.

## **\*\*Post-Independence\*\***

- \* Punjab and Bengal provinces were partitioned, resulting in widespread violence.
- \* The partition left a legacy of distrust and communal tensions.