**Khilafat Movement**

The Khilafat movement played a significant role in the political history of India. Indian Muslims held deep reverence for the institution of the Khilafat (Caliphate), which was held by the Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) aligned itself with Germany. However, Turkey and Germany were defeated in the war, and an agreement known as the Istanbul Accord was reached among the Allied Forces on November 3, 1918.

According to this accord, the territories of Turkey were to be divided among France, Greece, and Britain. Indian Muslims found themselves in a difficult situation during the war because of their strong devotion to the caliphate. They had profound respect for this sacred institution. Their support for the British Government was conditional on the protection of Turkey's holy sites and the assurance that Turkey would not lose its territories. However, the British government could not fulfill both of these promises.

In 1920, the Treaty of Sèvres was imposed on Turkey, and its territories, including places like Smyrna, Thrace, and Anatolia, were taken from Turkey and distributed among European countries. This led to a wave of anger in the Muslim world, and Indian Muslims rose in protest against the British government. Prominent Muslim leaders like Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, Maulana Shaukat Ali, and others strongly opposed the British government's policies and were imprisoned.

As a result, Muslims in India organized a mass movement known as the Khilafat Movement. The main objectives of this movement were:

(a) To protect the holy places of Turkey.

(b) To restore Turkey's lost territories.

(c) To reinstate the Ottoman Empire.

The Khilafat Movement represented the solidarity of Indian Muslims with the cause of the Ottoman Empire and was a significant episode in the struggle for India's independence and the rights of Muslims.

**Failure of khilafat movement**

The abolition of the Khilafat by Kemal Ataturk, the leader of Turkey, was a significant setback for the Khilafat movement in the Indian subcontinent. Ataturk exiled Sultan Abdul Majeed, who was a powerless Caliph, and abolished the Khilafat as an institution. This event brought all the agitational activities in the subcontinent to an end.

The Hijrat Movement, which aimed to protest the declaration of India as Darul-Harab (a place of war), made many Muslims disillusioned with the Khilafat Movement. As a result, a large number of Muslims, primarily from Sindh and the Northwest Frontier Province (N.W.F.P), attempted to migrate to Afghanistan. However, Afghan authorities did not allow them to cross the border. The failure of this migration movement led those who had advocated the Hijrat movement to realize its shortcomings.

When the Khilafat movement was reaching its peak, a tragic incident occurred in the village of Chora Churi. The police opened fire on a procession of local residents, and in retaliation, an agitated mob set fire to the police station, resulting in the deaths of twenty-one police constables. This incident led to the arrest of leaders like the Ali brothers and other Muslim leaders, and Mr. Gandhi postponed the movement. Consequently, the movement lost much of its momentum.

The Khilafat movement had several significant implications. It highlighted that Hindus and Muslims were distinct communities with differing interests and goals, as they struggled to maintain unity. This movement also contributed to the political awareness of Indian Muslims regarding their separate identity. Ultimately, it laid the foundation for the Pakistan movement, which sought the creation of a separate Muslim state.