

*Lecture no*

## **LAHORE RESOLUTION (1940)**

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## **Background:**

- Bitter experience of Muslims Under Congress Rule (1937-39)
- Outbreak of World War II (Sep 1939) and Congress Pressure on British
- Annual Session of AIML, held at Manto Park Lahore, (22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 1940)

## **Quaid-e-Azam's Speech (22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1940):**

“The problem of India was not of an inter-communal nature, but manifestly an international one and must be treated as such.”

“The differences between Hindus and the Muslims were so great and so sharp that their union under one central government was full of serious risks. They belonged to two separate and distinct nations and therefore the only chance open was to allow them to have separate states.”

“Hindus and the Muslims belong to two different religions, philosophies, social customs and literature. They neither inter-marry nor inter-dine and, indeed, they belong to two different civilizations that are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions. Their concepts of life and life after death are different. It is quite clear that Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different sources of history. They have different epics, different heroes and different episodes. Very often the hero of one is a foe of the other, and likewise, their victories and defeats overlap. To yoke together two such nations under a single state, one as a numerical minority and the other as a majority, must lead to growing discontent and final destruction of any fabric that may be so built up for the government of such a state.”

“Mussalmans are a nation according to any definition of nation. We wish our people to develop to the fullest spiritual, cultural, economic, social and political life in a way that we think best

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On the basis of the above mentioned ideas of the Quaid, A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq, the then Chief Minister of Bengal, moved the historical resolution which has since come to be known as Lahore Resolution or Pakistan Resolution. Historic Resolution was presented on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1940

## TEXT:

Resolved at the Lahore Session of All-India Muslim League held on 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March, 1940.

(1) While approving and endorsing the action taken by the Council and the Working Committee of the All India Muslim League as indicated in their resolutions dated the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 1939, and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1940 on the constitutional issues, this session of the All-Indian Muslim League emphatically reiterates that ***the scheme of federation embodied in the Government of India Act, 1935, is totally unsuited to, and unworkable*** in the peculiar conditions of this country and is altogether unacceptable to Muslim India.

(2) It further records its emphatic view that while the declaration dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 1939 made by the Viceroy on behalf of His Majesty's Government is reassuring in so far as it declares that the policy and plan on which the Government of India Act 1935, is based will be reconsidered in consultation with the various parties, interests and communities in India, ***Muslim India will not be satisfied unless the whole constitutional plan is reconsidered de novo and that no revised plan would be acceptable to the Muslims unless it is framed with their approval and consent.***

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(3) Resolved that it is the considered view of this session of the All India Muslim League that *no constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principle, namely that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted, with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority as in the North-Western and Eastern Zones of India, should be grouped or constitute “Independent States” in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign.*

(4) That adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards should be specifically provided in the constitution for minorities in these units and in these regions for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them; and in other parts of India where the Mussalmans are in a minority, adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards shall be specially provided in the constitution for them and other minorities for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them.

(5) This session further authorizes the Working Committee to frame a scheme of constitution in accordance with these basic principles, providing for the assumption finally by the respective regions of all powers such as defense, external affairs, communications, customs and such other matters as may be necessary.”

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## **Features:**

- Rejection of “One Nation Theory” and “Akhand Bharat”, and emphasis on “Two Nation Theory”.
- Independence and Sovereignty to Muslim Majority Areas.
- Constitutional Guarantees to the Protection of Minorities.

## **Significance:**

The Resolution paved the way for separate homeland.