

KHILAFAT MOVEMENT

Khilafat Movement

CAIE Exam Questions

Reasons

1. Explain the reasons for the establishment of Khilafat Movement. 7 marks
2. Why was Khilafat Movement founded? 7 marks
3. 'Was Khilafat Movement founded because the Muslims feared the breakup of Turkey after the First World War'? Explain your answer. 14 marks

Reasons for failure

1. 'Was the migration to Afghanistan (Hijrat) the most important reason why the Khilafat Movement failed'? Explain your answer. 14 marks
2. 'Was the withdrawal of Gandhi's support from the Khilafat Movement the most important reason for its failure'? Explain your answer. 14 marks
3. Why did Khilafat movement fail? 7 marks
4. 'Was Chauri Chaura incident of 1922 the most important reason for the failure of Khilafat Movement'? Explain your answer. 14 marks
5. Explain why the Khilafat Movement failed by 1924? 7 marks
6. 'Was the abolition of institution of Khilafat in 1924 the main reason for the failure of the Khilafat Movement'? Explain your answer. 14 marks
7. The Khilafat Movement failed by 1924 because of poor leadership. Explain your answer. 14 marks

Reasons

Khilafat Movement was started due to the following reasons:

- In the World War I, the Ottoman Empire had decided to fight alongside the Germany and Austria against Britain France and Russia. Turkish side was defeated at the end of

the war. Peace Treaties were drawn up showing how the defeated nations would be treated. The treaty of Versailles set out Germany's:

- ✓ Armed forces were greatly reduced
- ✓ Colonies taken away and was split in two by the creation of a new country, Poland
- ✓ Was forced to pay huge sums to victorious Allies

These treaties worried Muslims of India as they feared dismemberment of Turkey and end of Khilafat. Under the leadership of the Ali Brothers, Moulana Muhammad Ali and Moulana Shaukat Ali, the Muslims of South Asia launched the historic Khilafat Movement as a protest against the dismemberment of Turkey.

- The ruler of Turkey was considered to be a Khalifa, the head of the world Islamic community. He ruled over an Empire, which included important religious centers such as Mecca, Jerusalem and Medina. Muslims formed Khilafat Movement to protect the holy places of Muslims, the Sultan and their religion.
- The Muslims of India had a strong feeling of identity with the world community of Islam. The general impression among the Muslims of India was that the western powers were waging a war against Islam throughout the world. Afghanistan also suffered as it was a bone of contention between Russia and Britain and was now under the latter's sphere of influence. They had seen the decline of Ottoman Empire as a blow to Muslim power in the world, so in order to protect the interests of Muslims at global level, they launched Khilafat Movement.
- INC declared support for Khilafat Movement too.

What happened in Khilafat Movement?

- A. All India Khilafat Conference 1919** - This conference was held in Delhi. It was decided to send a delegation to Britain to try to persuade the British Government to keep their promise of maintaining the Ottoman Empire. Mahatma Gandhi was also present in the

Conference that meant Hindus and Muslims were united against British. It was also decided to launch non-cooperation movement.

- B. The Second Conference** - It was held in 1919 in Amritsar where Muslim League and Indian National Congress also met. It was decided that these organization will work together to convince British not to divide Turkey. Gandhi also promised to convince British that Turkey will not be punished. However, British were not ready to listen to Indians. British Prime Minister Lloyd George did not respond to Moulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar positively.
- C. Khilafat Delegations** - In January 1920 a deputation asked Viceroy for fairness in the treatment of Turkey. In February, another delegation was sent to England for the same purpose. But while the delegation was in England 'Treaty of Sevres' was announced. The treaty said that Ottoman Empire to be split up. Arabia was made independent. Turkey's other possessions were to put under the control of 'League of Nations' and to be controlled by Britain and France as mandates.
- D. Non-Cooperation Movement** - In June 1920, Muslims of India sent a message to Viceroy that if the terms of Treaty of Sevres are imposed on Turkey, a non-cooperation movement will be launched. Gandhi toured India and announced his support for the cause of Khilafat. It involved:
- ✓ Surrendering of titles and resigning from seats of local bodies
 - ✓ Withdrawing children from government schools
 - ✓ Boycotting British goods
 - ✓ Boycotting British courts
 - ✓ Refusing to join armed forces
 - ✓ Refusing to stand for elections
- E. Protests Demonstrations and Strikes** - Khilafat Movement turned into an anti-British protest across the country. Visits of royal princes were greeted with protests and demonstrations. In order to control the law and order situation, British had to imprison the trouble makers. There were 30,000 prisoners in Indian jails. In riots 53 people were killed in Bombay.

- F. Hijrat Movement-** To many Muslims, Khilafat Movement was not only a protest against British but to protect and foster Islam. During those years, Muslims condemned western culture. Moulana Muhammad Abdul Bari declared India as Dar-ul-Harb (enemy territory). This religious order required Muslims to migrate to another Muslim country. In August 1920, 18000 Muslims set off on Hijrat to Afghanistan. They sold their land and property. They were misguided that Afghan government would welcome them and provide them fertile land to grow crops. But in reality it didn't happen. Afghan government refused entry of such large number of emigrants. They were sent back from the borders. This situation aggravated the problems of poor Muslims. Their property and jobs were taken away by other Muslims.
- G. The Moplah Rebellion –** In 1921 a rebellion broke out in South India among the Moplahs, Muslims who claimed to be descended from Arab settlers. The British blamed the Moplah rebellion on the Khilafat Movement. Moplahs fought the British soldiers and declared a Khilafat kingdom. More trouble followed, during which several Europeans were killed, Hindus were attacked and their houses and temples destroyed. Many were also forced to convert to Islam. The British retaliated in the most critical of ways and killed about 4000 Moplahs. As a result Muslims strongly resented the British.
- H. Chauri Chaura Incident -** Riots spread all over India. Khilafat Movement became a threat to law and order. In 1921 riots spread to Nilambur. At Tirur, a police station was set on fire and arms and ammunition stolen. In 1922 trouble erupted between the police and the demonstrating protesters at Chauri Chaura. The hostile mob set fire to the police station where 22 policemen were burnt alive. Gandhi was so upset that he immediately called off Non-Cooperation Movement doing great deal damage to the entire Khilafat Movement.

Reasons for the Failure of Khilafat Movement

1. Poor leadership-lack of coordination between Hindu and Muslim leadership, uncontrolled violence.
2. Failure of Hijrat Movement.
3. Calling off Non-Cooperation Movement after Chauri Chaura Incident 1922.

4. Diversity of aims between Hindus and Muslim Self-Rule and Protection of Khilafat.
5. Abolition of the institution of Khilafat by Kamal Atatürk.

Evaluation, Analysis and Judgment related to Khilafat Movement:

In my opinion, Khilafat Movement was founded due to religious reasons. According to Islamic teachings, Muslims all over the world are brothers to each other and part of the Muslim ummah. They are required to support each other in difficult times. Moreover, Khilafat was a sacred institution of Muslim with historical links to Holy Prophet (S.A.W). Turkey being a symbol of strength of Muslim power was very dear Indian Muslims. Collapse of Muslim political power in any part of the world was rather a sensitive matter to the entire Muslim world. However, Gandhi's support to Khilafat Movement in form of Non-Cooperation Movement had nothing to do with Khilafat or Khalifa. It was rather a political tactic to pressurize British government by manipulating Muslim religious sentiments and to unite Hindus and Muslims against British.

Importance of Khilafat Movement**Negatives**

- Muslims could not achieve the basic aims
- Economic losses to Indians due to non-cooperation movement and Hijrat movement (jobs, property, land etc.)
- Calling off non-cooperation movement negatively affected Hindu Muslim relation, more communal riots

Positives

- An opportunity to show off Muslim strength and street power
- Muslim religious sentiments conveyed to the British Government
- Congress realized Muslim political power in India and became a part of the movement
- Promoted Muslim unity and separate religious identity of Muslims later on helped in development of Pakistan Movement