** ASSIGNMENT**

**COURSE: BDS 1201**

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**Topic: Learnings From the liberation War Museum**

**YEAR : 1947**

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**LEARNINGS FROM THE LIBERATION WAR MUSUEM**

# INTRODUCTION

Bengalis are people leading a simple life and known for their warm and welcoming nature. They love and respect their culture more than anything else. So, any arrow towards it had to pay a hefty price. It was no different during the long 24 years of Pakistani ruling in Bangladesh the then East Pakistan. The conflict between Bengalis and West Pakistani rulers started with the argument on state language in 1947 and ended with the liberation war of 1971.

1947 was a vital year for the Indian subcontinent as Britain’s holding on this region was granted independence on that year. It resulted in partition and emergence of Pakistan and India. But the partition didn’t happen overnight.

The seed of partition is the 2 nations theory. In 1937, National Congress of Hindu Mohasava president SAVARKAR said that, “India can’t be considered a undividable and well crystralized country anymore. Rather it has become a country with two nations inside-Hindu and Muslim.” This is the base of two nations theory. Nor Zinnah nor Muslim league gave it but Zinnah is called the father of two nations theory.

In 1940, a muslim league conference was held in Lahore. There AK Fazlul Haque, the representative of Muslim league in Bengal, proposed to the delegates that Muslims should have a homeland of their own where they won’t be treated as a minority and can live with their own identities. The proposal was accepted by Muslim league later. Now it is known as Lahore resolution / Pakistan proposal.

On January 1946, the provincial election was held in India. Target was to elect members of the legislative councils of British Indian provinces. There Indian congress was representing non muslim regions whereas muslim league was representing muslim regions. Indian congress got 90% non muslim seats and muslim league got 87% muslim regions seat.

After that, a tensions rose among the two parties . Muslim league wanted a separate sovereign state according to the Lahore resolution. They denied the proposal of a cabinet with members from both sides. Muslim league announced direct action day on 16 aug,1947. From 16 to 19 august almost 5000-10000 people were dead and close to 15000 were injured due to riots between hindu and muslims in calcultta. This is known as GREAT CALCUTTA KILLING. Calcutta became a communal area. Food supply diminished , hyperinflation prevailed and epedemics threatened metropolis. Muslim and Hindus started avoiding each other. Muslim league warned that if partition was not accepted, this could spread all over the country. As there were no other options, Congress, excepting Gandhi and Badhshah khan, accepted the proposal. The turn that events had taken afterwards made a peaceful solution through an agreement between the Congress and the Muslim League a far cry.

The partition was done in accordance to India Act 1947. According to it, British would transfer power to Indian government by June 1948. The act was passed on 5 july 1947. Two independent dominion India and Pakistan will be created. Indian states were free to accede to any of the two dominions. Every dominion will have a governor general. Legislature of two dominions will have the power to create their own laws. British government will cease responsibility from 15 aug,1947. Armed forces and civil services was divided. The two Dominions along with provinces would be governed by Govt of India Act 1935 till the Constituent Assembly makes the constitution. Office of Secy of State for India would be abolished; work transferred to Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs.

The partition didn’t come with only peace. It created a major havoc at the borders. Murshidabad,Malda both were muslim majority ares but they were given to India. Furthermore, Khulna was given to east Bengal of Pakistan which was for muslims. Many people were attacked because of this. Chittagong hill tracks were a special case. Despite having 98.5% buddist majority, it was given to Pakistan. This decisions resulted in a migration of almost 3.3 million people.

## Learnings From The Liberation War Museum

The liberation war of 1971 was the hardest time for people of East Pakistan. Almost 3 million people were killed while more than 50 million were wounded. According to American political scientist Rudolph Rummel puts total deaths were at 1.5 million. Estimated 10 million people went to India as refugees.

Since the independence came at the cost of a huge number of martyrs , it is our responsibility to preserve its memories and remaining so that the future generation can know about it in a practical way rather than some textbook chapter.

The liberation war museum was established with the target of preserving the memory of 1971 liberation war. The trustee board, consisting of eight members, sought donations from the general public who happily came forward with artifacts, personal belongings, human remains, archive of documents and personal belongings related to war to be displayed . As of today, more than 21,000 artifacts are stored there while some of them are on display for the general public.

From the liberation war museum, gallery 1, we get to know about the Lahore resolution which was propagated by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. There is also a picture of members of the the muslim league members. Paper cuttings of after partition period are also there showing the news about Khulna being included in East Pakistan and Murshidabad being included in India. A picture of Mahatma Gandhi, Shaheed Suhrawardy and others being at hunger striker is there. From which we learnt that Gandhi and others wanted hindu muslim amity rather than partition. From the map we got to know about how the partition divided the undivided India of the british colonial rule.