

Title: History Of Subcontinent
Course: Pakistan Studies

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From 712 to 1857 – Arrival and Expansion of Muslim Rule

The story of Muslim presence in the subcontinent begins in 712 AD when Muhammad bin Qasim, a young Arab general, was sent to Sindh by Hajjaj bin Yusuf. His mission was to punish Raja Dahir, who had allowed pirates to loot ships carrying Muslim women and children. After defeating Dahir, Qasim introduced a system of **justice, religious tolerance, and administration** based on Islamic principles. This marked the beginning of Muslim rule in South Asia, and Sindh came to be known as Bab-ul-Islam (Gateway to Islam).

Later, Mahmud Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori launched multiple attacks, eventually establishing Muslim dominance in North India. The victory of Muhammad Ghori in the Second Battle of Tarain (1192) laid the foundation for the Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526), which had five major dynasties:

Dynasty	Years	Notable Rulers	Achievements
Slave (Mamluk)	1206 – 1290	Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish, Razia Sultana	Built Qutub Minar, introduced strong administration
Khilji	1290 – 1320	Alauddin Khilji	Defended against Mongols, market reforms
Tughlaq	1320 – 1414	Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Firoz Shah	Expanded territory, experimental policies
Sayyid	1414 – 1451	Khizr Khan	Weak rule, political decline
Lodi	1451 – 1526	Bahlul Lodi, Ibrahim Lodi	Last Afghan dynasty before Mughals

1857–1900 – The Fall of Muslim Power and British Domination

After crushing the 1857 revolt, the British blamed **Muslims** more than any other group. As punishment, they removed Muslims from government jobs, took away their lands, and closed the doors to Western education for them. In contrast, Hindus quickly adapted to the British system, gaining better jobs and influence.

This created a big gap between the two communities, and Muslims began to feel **left behind and powerless**.

In this difficult time, **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan** emerged as a visionary leader. He had supported the British during the 1857 war and understood that if Muslims didn't modernize, they would remain weak. His efforts became the start of the **Aligarh Movement**.

Sir Syed's Contributions:

- Wrote "**Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind**" to explain the real causes of the 1857 revolt and asked for fair treatment of Muslims.
- Started **Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental College** in 1875 (later Aligarh Muslim University).
- Encouraged Muslims to learn English and modern sciences instead of isolating themselves.
- Argued that Muslims and Hindus were **two different nations** with different cultures and religions.

During this time, the **Indian National Congress** was formed in 1885. Although it claimed to represent all Indians, in reality, it was mostly Hindu-dominated. Muslims stayed away due to fears of being politically ignored.

1900–1940 – Muslim Political Awakening and the Demand for a Separate Identity

By the start of the 20th century, Muslims had realized that they needed their own political voice. In **1906**, with the efforts of Nawab Salimullah and others, the **All India Muslim League** was formed in **Dhaka** to protect Muslim rights.

Another major event was the **Partition of Bengal in 1905** by Lord Curzon. East Bengal had a Muslim majority, and the partition allowed it to develop separately. However, strong Hindu protests led to its cancellation in **1911**, which deeply disappointed Muslims.

The **British** introduced **separate electorates** in the **1909 Morley-Minto Reforms**, allowing Muslims to vote for their own representatives—a huge political victory.

In **1916**, the Muslim League and Congress came together briefly through the **Lucknow Pact**, but it didn't last. The real blow came after **World War I** with the failure of the **Khilafat Movement (1919–1924)**, launched to protect the Ottoman Caliphate. Though Hindus like Gandhi supported it, the alliance soon broke, and Muslims felt betrayed again.

In the 1930s, the idea of a separate Muslim homeland started taking shape:

- **Allama Iqbal**, in his **1930 Allahabad Address**, clearly said that Muslims are a separate nation and should have their own independent homeland.
- The **1935 Government of India Act** granted provinces more control, and **1937 elections** were held. Congress won and started pushing Hindu symbols and language (like "Bande Mataram" and Hindi), ignoring Muslim concerns.

This was a turning point. **Jinnah** and the Muslim League saw no hope of fair treatment under a united India. The idea of a separate state became stronger, and Jinnah began transforming the Muslim.

1940–1947 – Final Struggle and the Creation of Pakistan

The most important moment came in **March 1940** when the **Lahore Resolution** was passed at the Muslim League's annual session. It clearly demanded **separate states** for Muslims in regions where they were in majority. This was the beginning of the official **Pakistan Movement**.

Year	Event	Impact
1940	Lahore Resolution	Formal demand for Pakistan
1946	Elections	Muslim League won all Muslim seats, proving mass support
1947	3rd June Plan	British announced partition of India
14 August 1947	Independence	Pakistan was born

The 1946 elections were crucial. The Muslim League's landslide victory showed that **Muslims across India stood with Jinnah's vision** of Pakistan. It also destroyed the Congress's claim to represent all Indians.

Despite resistance from Congress and other groups, the British agreed to **partition India** under the **Mountbatten Plan (3rd June 1947)**. On **14th August 1947**, **Pakistan became an independent state**, fulfilling the dream of **Allama Iqbal**, **Sir Syed**, and **Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah**.

Emperor	Reign	Famous For
Babur	1526–1530	Founder of Mughal Empire; won Battle of Panipat
Humayun	1530–1540, 1555–1556	Lost and later regained the empire; father of Akbar
Akbar	1556–1605	Religious tolerance, strong administration, Din-i-Ilahi
Jahangir	1605–1627	Known for justice; Noor Jahan's influence
Shah Jahan	1628–1658	Built Taj Mahal; promoted art and architecture
Aurangzeb	1658–1707	Last strong emperor; strict Islamic laws
Bahadur Shah II	1837–1857	Last Mughal ruler; exiled after 1857 revolt

After Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal Empire weakened. European powers, especially the **British**, took advantage of this decline and started interfering in politics. By **1857**, dissatisfaction with British policies caused the **First War of Independence**, also called the **Revolt of 1857**.