

# **Partition of Bengal in 1905**

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# Partition of Bengal

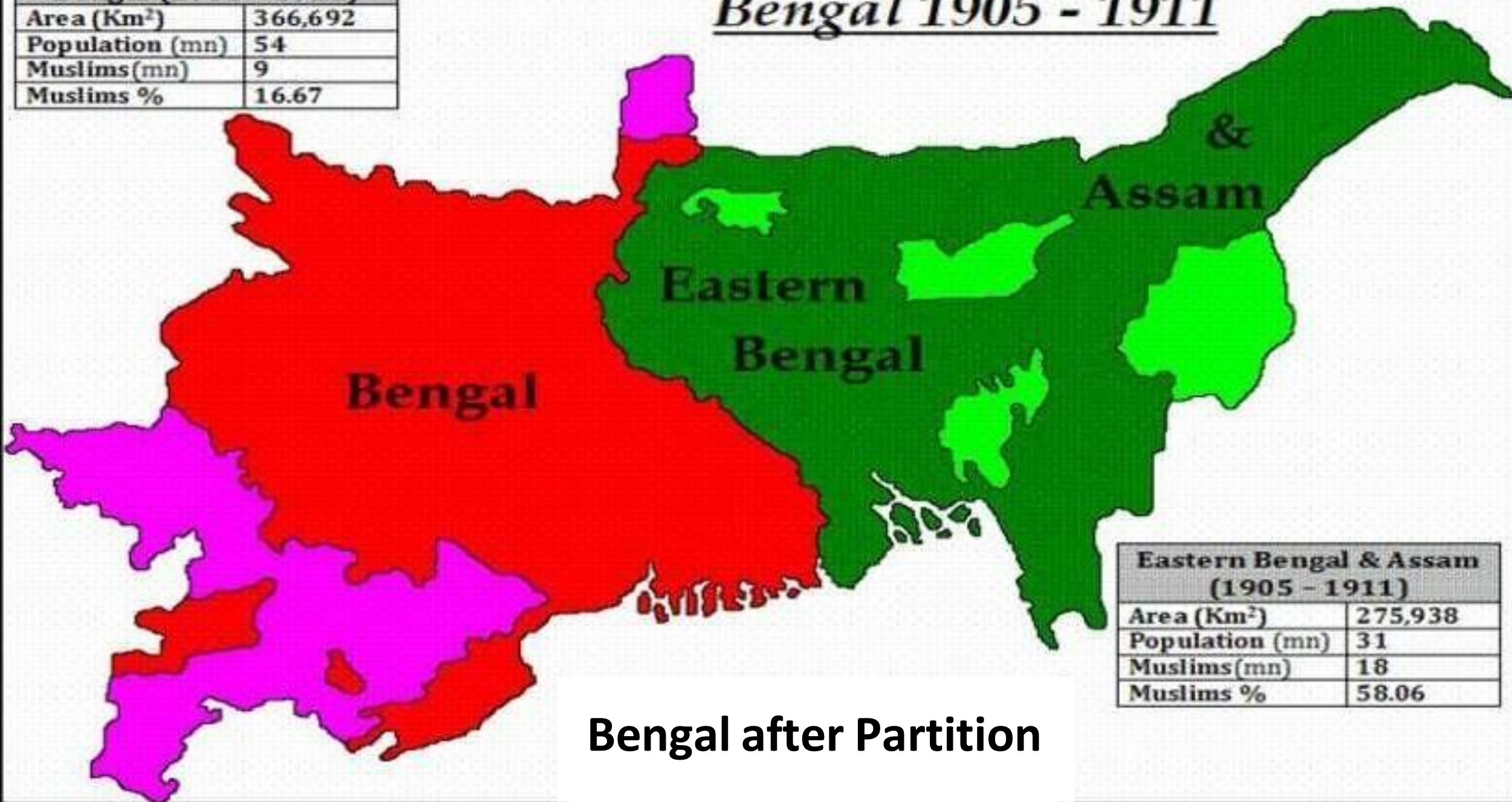
- The Partition of Bengal in 1905 was an important event in the political history of British India and Bengal. The decision to effect the Partition of Bengal কলকাতা was announced on 19 July 1905 by the Viceroy of India, Curzon. The partition took place on 16 October 1905 and separated the largely Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas.



George  
Curzon

Bengal (1905 - 1911)	
Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	366,692
Population (mn)	54
Muslims (mn)	9
Muslims %	16.67

## Bengal 1905 - 1911



Eastern Bengal & Assam (1905 - 1911)	
Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	275,938
Population (mn)	31
Muslims (mn)	18
Muslims %	58.06

**Bengal after Partition**



## PARTITION OF BENGAL (1905)



# Bengal After Partition

## **Western Province**

- West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
- Hindu majority
- Hindi and Oriya speaking peoples were majority
- Calcutta was the capital.

## **Eastern Province**

- East Bengal, Assam, Tripura
- Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Malda
- Muslim majority
- Bengali s
- Dhaka was the capital.

# Reasons Behind the Partition

## **Official Reason**

- Administrative
- Socio-economic
- Religious

## **Actual Reasons**

- Political

**Reasons behind the Partition:** "Although the British government wanted to change the administration after the partition of Bengal until 1903, political factors became the main factor between December 1903 and July 1905 "(Sumit Sarkar)

**Administrative Reasons :**

- ❑ From 1757 onwards, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam formed the province of Bengal. It was the largest and most populous province in terms of size and population.
- ❑ By 1903, it had a population of about 80 million and an area of 189,000 square miles. As a result, it is difficult for a Governor General to run such a large province.

- ❑ As a result, one Lieutenant Governor was appointed to assist the Governor General from 1854 onwards. . But even then the rulers did not set foot in these areas due to the difficulty of travel. As a result, law and order deteriorated in all these areas and theft and robbery increased.
- ❑ This was why Curzon considered it an irrational task to keep such a vast area in a single administrative unit. So he planned to divide Bengal in two parts in 1903 and it was implemented in 1905.

## Socio-Economic Reasons

- ❑ During that time Kolkata became the nerve center for socio-economic activities. Mills and factories, trade and commerce, courts-offices, education institutions- everything was confined within Kolkata.
- ❑ But there was no appropriate transportation system for the raw materials to transport. As a result, the economic condition of Bengal hampered gradually.
- ❑ The population of this area remained uneducated and deprived of education or higher education because of the lacking of appropriate education institutes. Considering these the division of Bengal was inevitable.



## Religious reasons

Muslims were predominant in the eastern part of undivided Bengal and Hindus in the western part. So from a religious point of view, many people think that there is an attempt to form two separate provinces for these two communities.

## Actual or Political Reasons :

It also involved a far reaching political interest of the British government. The middle class Bengali intellectuals were gradually growing conscious of nationalism and politics

The Congress leaders led the all India movement from Kolkata. Therefore its main objective was to stop all anti-British movements that centered upon Kolkata

The united strength of the Hindu Muslim solidarity, and the united Bengal were threats for the British rulers.

Thus Curzon divided Bengal more to sustain the British rule than to do welfare for the East Bengal according to his "divide and rule" policy. In this way, arrangements were made to weaken the Indian National Unity.

# Reaction of East Bengal

All the Muslim people supported the decision of partition

Muslim people were very much hopeful for development in the region.

Lower cast Hindus were also happy with the decision.

# Development issues at East Bengal Aftermath of the Partition

- Eastern Bengal & Assam province would cover 1,06,540 sq. mile.
- Muslims & lower caste Hindus became pleased.
- Dhaka became the capital.
- Formation of All India Muslim League in 1906.
- Important buildings, High Court, Secretariate constructed in Dhaka.
- Development of communication & security.
- Created new job/service opportunities.
- Economic development.
- Development in education sector.

# Annulment of Partition of Bengal

- The authorities, not able to end the protest, assented to reversing the partition and did so in 1911. King George announced in December 1911 that eastern Bengal would be assimilated into the Bengal Presidency. Districts, where Bengali was spoken, were once again unified and Assam, Bihar and Orissa were separated.

A portrait of King George V in a military uniform, featuring a blue jacket with gold epaulettes and a blue sash. He has a beard and is looking slightly to the left.

King George

# Why was the partition of Bengal reversed in 1911?

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Surrender in front of protests and demonstrations, Law and order situation, cult of bomb and terrorism developed, violence spread to most parts of India, attacks on British officials and their Indian associates.

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Economic reasons: boycott of British goods and Swadeshi Movement, decline in demand of British products in Indian markets, imports dropped, profits of British traders ruined, local industry flourished, use of home-made products increased.

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British measures proved ineffective, restrictions on print media and public gatherings, imprisonment of leaders, activists sent into exile, reconciliatory efforts also failed, Morley-Minto reforms of 1909 could not pacify Indians.

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Delhi Durbar in December 1911, George V (King of United Kingdom and Emperor of India) had to address the Indians, British wanted peaceful proceedings.



# Reactions and Aftermath of annulment

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In 1911, the capital has been shifted from Calcutta to Delhi.

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The Bengali Muslims were angry and disappointed.

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Lord Hardinge promised a new University at Dacca in 1912.

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This resentment remained throughout the rest of the British period.

A white rectangular card with the words "Thank You" written in a black, elegant cursive script. The card is positioned on a dark, reflective surface. To the left of the card, the tip of a silver fountain pen with a gold nib is visible. In the background, a white ceramic cup and saucer are partially visible, slightly out of focus.

*Thank  
You*