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## Answer to the question no:02

Throughout history, imperial empires have employed divide and conquer one of their key strategies for expanding their control. It is a strategy in which one power, or a combination of powers, divides a target group. As a result, as the group becomes weaker, it becomes simpler to conquer and rule. So, this divide-and-rule strategy was adopted in Bengal by the British empire.

In the year 1905, Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal for the first time. The British partitioned India in order to separate Hindus and Muslims. Muslims were happy with this decision initially. But Hindus were disappointed at this decision. So, to protest this decision Swadeshi movement was started. The partition was annulled in 1911 as a result of the widespread political protests. On the other hand, Bengal was partitioned again in 1947, only 36 years after the first partition was annulled. The British end their 200-year rule over the Indian subcontinent and partition it into two nations in August 1947. As a consequence of the partition, two independent nations, India and Pakistan, were born. Moreover, there were two parts of Pakistan. East Pakistan and West Pakistan. Later on, East Pakistan became another independent country called Bangladesh.

First of all, the first partition took place on October 16, 1905, separating the predominantly Muslim eastern districts from the predominantly Hindu western districts. The Bengal Presidency included Bengal, Orissa, portions of Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Assam. Bengal has long been seen as a region that was too huge to effectively govern (Metcalf B & Metcalf T, 2002). So, in order to control over Bengal by the British they made up a plan to partition the Bengal. Their main idea was to separate Muslims and Hindus. The divide and rule policy were made to pit Muslim against Hindu. But British highlighted that they want to partition because Bengal was too big and the population is too much. So, partition of Bengal is beneficial for the people of Bengal. Initially the Muslims were happy with the Decision, as they didn't understand the plan of the British. On the other hand, Hindus were totally disagreed with that decision. West Bengal Hindus claimed that the partition would convert them to a minority. So, they started protesting these decisions. As a result, they began to protest the partition of Bengal decisions by taking many steps. The Swadeshi movement began in the aftermath of the partition. By initially boycotting British products, the movement put economic pressure on the government. Surendranath Banerjee and other moderates led the movement (Metcalf B & Metcalf T, 2002). Partition was regarded by Bengali Hindus as the vivisection of their "mother region," That's the reason why they began the Swadeshi movement. Additionally, Indians vowed to wear only domestic

(swadeshi) cottons and other Indian-made apparel rather than foreign-made clothes. Furthermore, Bengali professors and students started boycotting British goods to English schools and college classrooms. Moreover, Rabindranath Tagore was against these partitions. So, he joined with mahatma Gandhi to take actions against the British. Rabindranath Tagore organized the Rakhi Bandhan festival to reunite Hindus and Muslims. On the Other hand, the "All India Muslim League" was established in 1906, providing a completely different political identity for Muslims based only according to their own rights So, because of all those protest the British was finally defeated. Because of strong political opposition, the partition was annulled in 1911 by Lard Hardinge. It was done in response to the Swadeshi movement riots in protest against the policy. Bengal's partition in 1905 had a huge influence on India's history. The division had a significant influence on the people of Bengal as well as the political situation on the Indian subcontinent. So, we can say the partition of Bengal was a turning point in India's nationalist history.

The East India Company, a British commercial enterprise, dominated regions of the subcontinent beginning with Bengal in 1757, the period considered as the Company Rule or Company Raj. Again, Bengal was partitioned for the second time in 1947. Bengal was liberated from British dominion on August 15, 1947, following two centuries of British rule (N. Sengupta,2011). As a result of the partitions, two separate countries, India and Pakistan, were born. The division was rejected by the majority of the country's population. The decision was approved by the East Bengal area. On the other hand, partition went ahead. Cyril Radcliffe was chosen to draft the dividing plan, which would be acceptable to all parties. Radcliffe had five weeks to finish the task. He had no prior experience adjudication, such disputes and had no knowledge in Indian affairs. Additionally, the only way for both communities to attain social unity and equality was to divide the country. In addition, the original plans for a Muslim state did not include Bengal. Pakistan's supporters thought that Muslims only could succeed in their own country. and that an independent India controlled by Hindus would discriminate against them. As Britain grew increasingly ready to provide independence as quickly as possible after World War II ended, the government began to contemplate separating as the easiest and most realistic approach. if Britain had not wished to leave India so rapidly, the Partition of Bengal may have been avoided. Furthermore, When India and Pakistan gained independence, one of the biggest mass migrations in history began. Hindus and Sikhs came to India from Pakistan, whereas Muslims migrated to Pakistan. Following the 'Partition of Bengal,' a series of terrible tragedies occurred, many of which ended in the deaths of numerous innocent people. (N. Sengupta,2011). Bengal's split is still a topic of controversy today. Furthermore, according to Author Bashabi Fraser, the continuous flow of migrants, infiltrators, and refugees never ended, calling the partition into doubt. Additionally, it has been a long time since the partition took place, but sadly there are still several conflicts between India and Pakistan. We may look at Kashmir as an example. India and Pakistan have had a heated argument, notably over the Kashmir region, which both nations claim as their own.

In those ways and for all those reasons we can clearly see that, the partitions of Bengal in 1905 & 1947 are different from each other for many reasons. As we can see clearly-

- The partitions of 1905 annulled in 1911 because of strong political opposition. But the partitions of 1947 did not annul.
- The divisions of 1905 did not result in the formation of any country. On the other hand, because of 1947 partition two separate countries, India and Pakistan, were born.
- Although the division of 1905 was under British rule, there was no contribution or participation from British authorities or their rules in 1947.
- The division in 1905 partitioned Hindus and Muslims, whereas partition in 1947 divided the country completely.
- The British didn't end their rule over the Indian subcontinent after the partitions of 1905. Besides, The British end their 200-year rule over the Indian subcontinent after the partitions of 1947.

There are many reasons behind the partition of Bengal in 1905 & 1947. First of all, I will highlight the reasons for the division of 1905, as well as the factors and conditions that influenced the divides in each case. The British emphasized that the Bengal Presidency's size made it difficult to run an effective administration. So, they believed that the partition would help them to solve that problem. Again, the divide and rule policy were the fundamental cause of the division in 1905. It tried to divide Muslims and Hindus against one another. The reason became clear after the partition of Bengal, when the eastern section became a Muslim majority. In the west, Bengali was spoken. Moreover, Bengal was at the time the epicenter of Indian nationalist activism. The political purpose was to create a schism between West Bengal's mostly Hindu leaders, thereby undermining nationalism's cohesiveness and nerve center. Now, I will discuss about the reasons for the division of 1947, as well as the factors and conditions that influenced the divides in each case.

- ❖ After World War II, Britain wanted to leave India as soon as possible.
- ❖ The creation of the Muslim League resulted in the partition of India in 1947(Bose & Jalal, 1998).
- ❖ Mount batten wanted to partition Bengal.

- ❖ Muhammad Ali Jinnah founded a new province and helped the Muslims who had migrated to Pakistan from India.
- ❖ There were a number of prominent religious clashes between Hindus and Muslims. Hindus and Muslims did not want to coexist peacefully. Again, India's independence was opposed by Muslim leaders.
- ❖ The two-nation theory was another major factor for the division. Syed Ahmed Khan initiated this, saying that Muslims and Hindus will be two different classes. That's the reason why Pakistan became a Muslim country and India became a country for Hindus.

The divisions in each case were influenced by a variety of factors and circumstances. So, by taking into consideration all of the aforementioned, we can definitely say that the divisions of Bengal in 1905 and 1947 are different from one another.

Links:

1. [https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Partition\\_of\\_Bengal\\_\(1905\)](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Partition_of_Bengal_(1905))
2. <https://www.britannica.com/place/India/The-first-partition-of-Bengal>
3. <https://exhibits.stanford.edu/1947-partition/about/1947-partition-of-india-pakistan>
4. [https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Partition\\_of\\_Bengal\\_\(1947\)](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Partition_of_Bengal_(1947))