



PARTITION OF BENGAL, SWADESHI, AND BOYCOTT MOVEMENT

Milestones in India's Freedom Struggle

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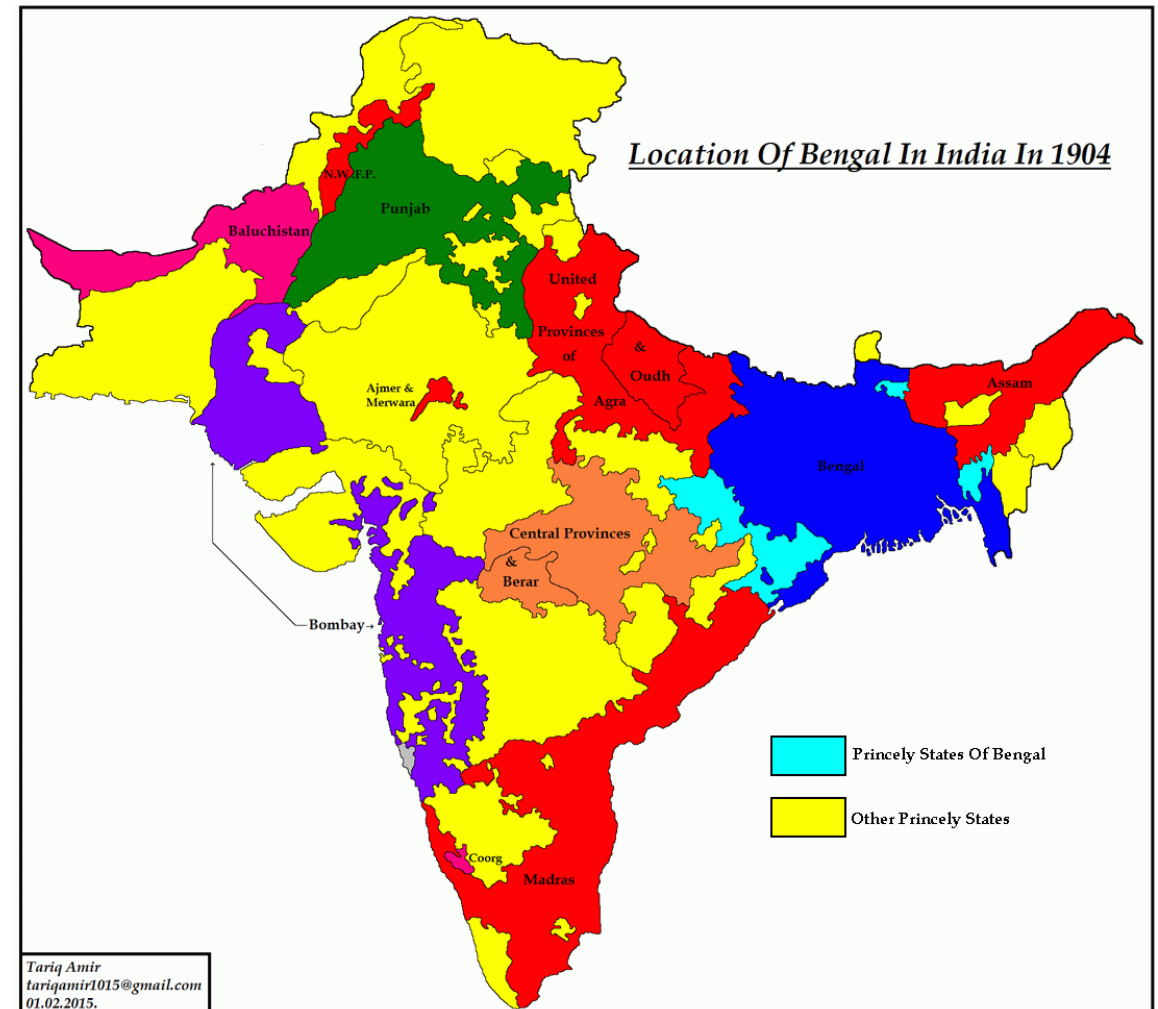


INTRODUCTION

- **Context of British Rule:** By the early 20th century, British colonial policies faced increasing resistance from Indian nationalists. The rising aspirations for independence clashed with the British administration's efforts to consolidate power.
- **Partition of Bengal:** The decision in 1905 by Lord Curzon to divide Bengal marked a turning point in India's history, becoming a catalyst for mass movements.
- **Significance:** The event stirred emotions across the country and united Indians under the banner of nationalism, setting the stage for future independence movements.

BENGAL'S IMPORTANCE IN INDIAN POLITICS

- **Administrative Challenges:** Bengal's large size and population of 78 million were cited as administrative hurdles.
- **Economic Significance:** Bengal was an industrial and commercial hub, especially in jute and textile industries.
- **Political Influence:** Birthplace of influential nationalist leaders, journals, and institutions that shaped the anti-colonial struggle.



PARTITION OF BENGAL (1905)

- **Background:** Bengal, the largest province in British India, had become difficult to administer due to its size and population (approximately 78 million).
- **Division Plan:** Bengal was split into two entities:
 - **East Bengal and Assam:** Predominantly Muslim-majority areas.
 - **West Bengal:** Predominantly Hindu-majority areas.
- **Official Justification:** Cited administrative convenience.
- **Hidden Agenda:** Critics viewed it as a deliberate policy of "Divide and Rule" to weaken growing nationalist sentiments.

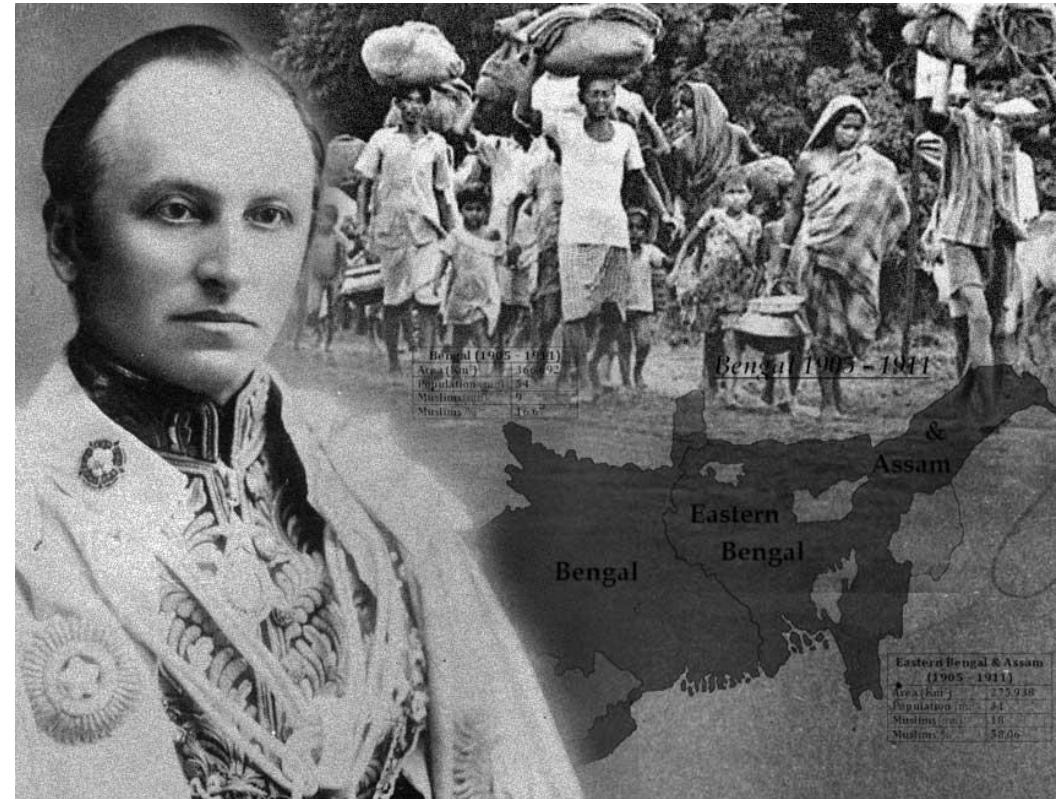
Bengal
(1905-1911)



	Bengal (1905-1911)	Eastern-Bengal & Assam (1905-1911)
Area (Km ²)	366,692	275,938
Population (Mn)	54	31
Muslims (Mn)	9	18
Muslims (%)	16.67	58.06

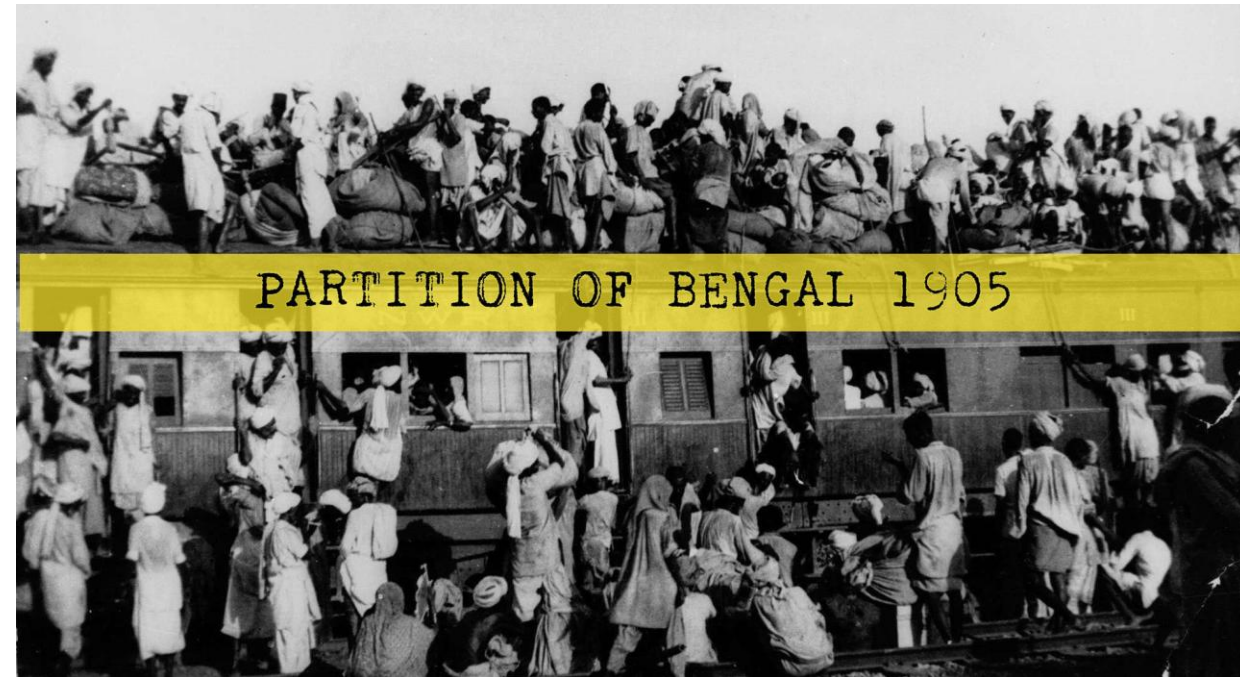
IMMEDIATE REACTION TO PARTITION

- **Public Protests:** The announcement of the partition led to widespread protests and demonstrations across Bengal.
- **Formation of the Anti-Partition Movement:** Nationalist leaders like Surendranath Banerjee and others rallied people to oppose the decision.
- **Role of the Press:** Newspapers like Amrita Bazar Patrika, Bengalee, and Sanjibani played a critical role in mobilizing public opinion.
- **Slogan:** “Unity is strength” became a rallying cry.



EMOTIONAL IMPACT ON PEOPLE

- **Symbolism of Bengal's Unity:** People saw the partition as an attack on their cultural and historical identity.
- **Mass Participation:** The protests included people from all walks of life—students, women, and businessmen.
- **Cultural Resistance:** Initiation of festivals and programs celebrating unity and shared heritage.



THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT

- **Definition of Swadeshi:** Advocacy of using goods made in India to reduce dependence on British imports.
- **Formal Launch:** August 1905 at the Calcutta Town Hall meeting.
- **Slogan:** "Be Indian, Buy Indian."
- **Goals:** Economic independence, promotion of indigenous industries, and fostering national pride.



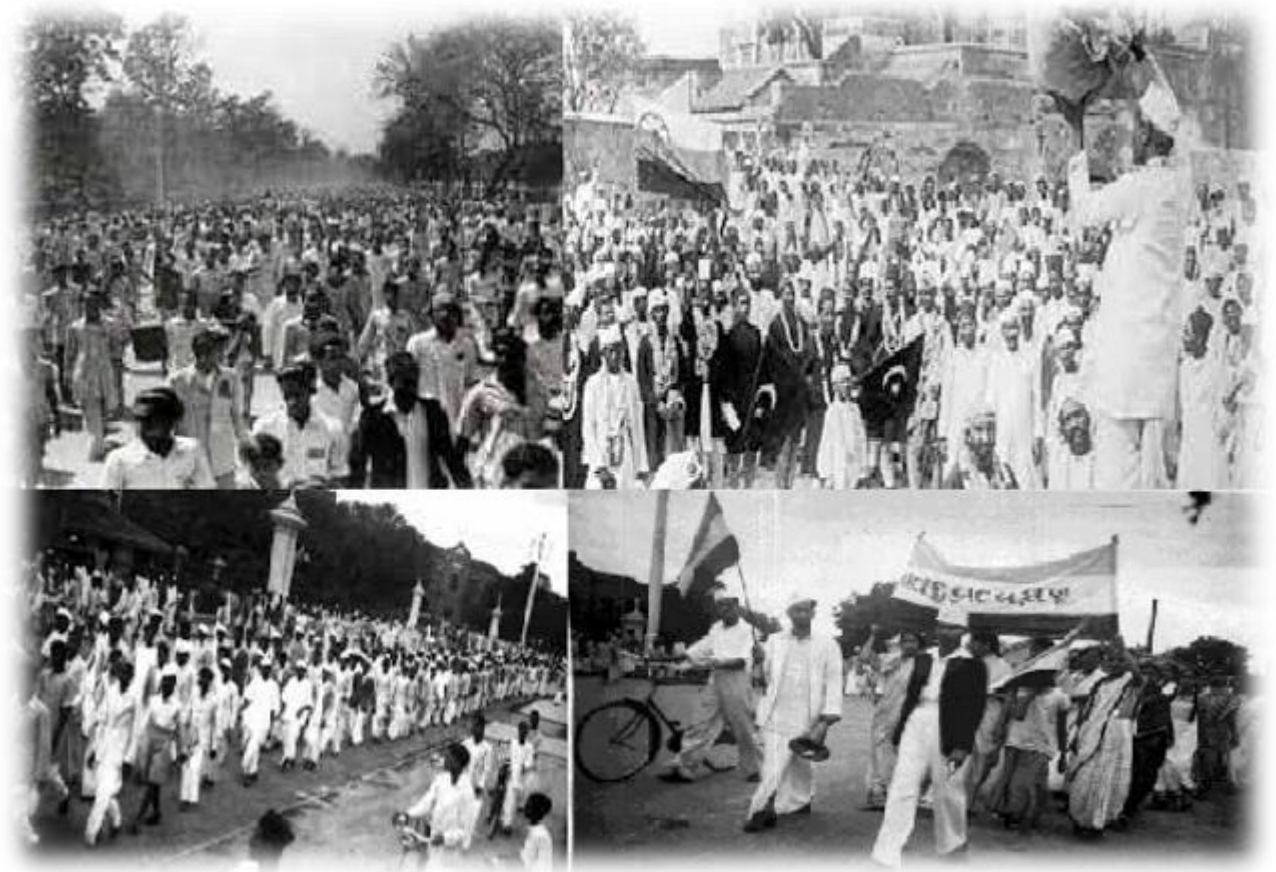
THE BOYCOTT MOVEMENT

- **Objectives:** Boycotting British goods, institutions, and services.
- **Methods of Boycott:**
 - Refusal to buy British textiles and goods.
 - Public burning of foreign cloth.
 - Boycott of government schools, courts, and services.
- **Economic Impact:** Drastic fall in the import of British goods, especially textiles.



OBJECTIVES OF THE MOVEMENTS

- **Economic Self-Reliance:** Encourage the production and use of Indian-made goods to build a self-sufficient economy.
- **Political Unity:** Create a united front against British colonial policies.
- **Cultural Revival:** Revitalize Indian traditions, crafts, and cultural identity as a form of resistance against colonial domination.



KEY STRATEGIES OF THE MOVEMENTS

- **Promotion of Indian Industries:** Establishment of Swadeshi enterprises like Bengal Chemicals and Swadeshi Mills.
- **Cultural Programs:** Songs, plays, and literature were used to spread nationalist ideals.
- **Education Reforms:** Creation of national schools and colleges to replace British institutions. Examples include the Bengal National College (1906).
- **Mass Participation:** Use of processions, street plays, and public meetings to engage people.



ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE MOVEMENTS

- **Participation in Protests:** Women picketed shops selling foreign goods and participated in rallies.
- **Spread of Nationalist Ideas:** Through cultural programs and home-based production of Swadeshi goods.
- **Notable Figures:** Sarala Devi Chaudhurani and other leaders who mobilized women to join the cause.



Sarala Devi Chaudhurani: The freedom fighter who invoked patriotism through music

KEY FIGURES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** Encouraged boycott as a spiritual practice and emphasized self-reliance as the path to freedom.
- **Bipin Chandra Pal:** Used fiery speeches and writings to spread Swadeshi ideals.
- **Lala Lajpat Rai:** Advocated for economic independence and the development of Indian industries.
- **Surendranath Banerjee:** A prominent voice in the Anti-Partition Movement, organizing protests and public meetings.
- **Rabindranath Tagore:** Composed patriotic songs like Amar Sonar Bangla, which became a symbol of unity and resistance.

वंदे मातरम्

सुजलां सुफलां मलयजशीतलाम्
सस्य श्यामलां मातरम्
शुभ्र ज्योत्सनाम् पुलकित यामिनीम्
फुल्ल कुसुमित द्रुमदलशोभिनीम्,
सुहासिनीं सुमधुर भाषिणीम्
सुखदां वरदां मातरम् ॥

सप्त कोटि कण्ठ कलकल निनाद कराले
द्विसप्त कोटि भुजैर्धृत खरकरवाले
के बोले मा तुमी अबले
बहुबल धारिणीम् नमामि तारिणीम्
रिपुदलवारिणीम् मातरम् ॥

तुमि विद्या तुमि धर्म, तुमि हृदि तुमि
मर्म
त्वं हि प्राणाः शरीरे
बाहुते तुमि मा शक्ति,
हृदये तुमि मा भक्ति,
तोमारै प्रतिमा गडि मन्दिरे-मन्दिरे ॥

त्वं हि दुर्गा दशप्रहरणधारिणी
कमला कमलदल विहारिणी
वाणी विद्यादायिनी, नमामि त्वाम्
नमामि कमलां अमलां अतुलाम्
सुजलां सुफलां मातरम् ॥

श्यामलां सरलां सुस्मितां भूषिताम्
धरणीं भरणीं मातरम् ॥

CULTURAL IMPACT

- **Songs and Slogans:** Patriotic songs like Vande Mataram inspired unity and became a symbol of resistance.
- **Literature and Art:** Writers and artists expressed nationalist sentiments through their works, portraying India's rich cultural heritage.
- **Revival of Indian Crafts:** Efforts were made to revive traditional crafts and industries, which had suffered under colonial economic policies.

GOVERNMENT'S REACTION

- **Repression:** Arrest of leaders, bans on public gatherings, and censorship of the press.
- **Propaganda:** Justification of partition through British loyalist groups.
- **Divide and Rule:** Encouraging communal divisions by portraying the partition as benefiting Muslims.





CHALLENGES FACED BY THE MOVEMENTS

- **Limited Reach:** The movement was largely urban-centric and failed to mobilize the rural masses effectively.
- **Communal Tensions:** The partition deepened the divide between Hindus and Muslims, leading to mistrust and communal discord.
- **Repression by the British:** The colonial government responded with arrests, crackdowns on public gatherings, and press censorship.



RESULTS OF THE MOVEMENTS

- **Economic Impact on Britain:** Reduced demand for British textiles, forcing adjustments in trade policies.
- **Annulment of Partition (1911):** Reversal of the partition after years of sustained protests.
- **Strengthened Nationalism:** The movement brought Indians together and strengthened the resolve for independence.



LINK TO FUTURE MOVEMENTS

- **Inspiration for Gandhian Movements:** The Swadeshi ideals were later embraced in Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience Movements.
- **Economic Self-Reliance:** Foundation of policies promoting indigenous industries under Gandhi.
- **Mass Mobilization Tactics:** Continued use of boycotts, rallies, and cultural programs.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- **Revival of Indigenous Industries:** Growth of Indian-made goods and services.
- **Unity in Diversity:** Strengthened the idea of Indian identity across linguistic and regional divides.
- **Foundation for Independence Movements:** Established patterns of resistance and self-reliance for future generations.



HISTORICAL ANECDOTES

- **Tagore's Raksha Bandhan:** Symbol of unity during the partition protests.
- **Bonfires of Foreign Cloth:** Publicly burning foreign goods as an act of defiance.
- **Swadeshi Enterprises:** Establishment of companies like Tata Iron and Steel (1907).



Tata Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur
(1907)



CONCLUSION

- **Turning Point:** The Partition of Bengal and the Swadeshi-Boycott movements marked a decisive phase in India's struggle for independence.
- **Legacy:** Unified Indians across regions, strengthened nationalism, and set the stage for future movements.
- **Message:** The power of economic self-reliance and cultural revival in challenging oppression.