**THE KHILAFAT MOVEMENT**

***EVENTS AND OUTCOMES***

**BACKGROUND:**

Britain and her allies (the United States of America being one of them) emerged victors as a result of the First Word War (1914-1918).  Behavior of the Allies during the War, and their arrogant proclamation, made the Muslims highly apprehensive about their future designs. The Muslims were afraid that the Allies may take over a part of Turkish Empire, distribute some of its part among themselves, may desecrate the holy Muslims shrines and even go to the extent of dismembering the Turkish Empire which the Muslims cherished as a symbol of the global Muslim fraternity. These apprehensions gave out a wave of anger and unrest among the Indian Muslim. They started a country wide movement in which the Hindus stood by their side and gave them full support.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE KHILAFAT MOVEMENT**

**Establishment of the Khilafat Committee:**In order to organize a mass movement and launch an opinion-forming campaign, a committee was formed on Nov. 23, 1919; it was name “The All India Khilafat Committee”.

**Hindu-Muslim Unity and Non-Cooperation:** In the year 1919 the Indian National Congress decided to support the Muslim on the Khilafat issue, and authorized Gandhiji to chalk out a road map for that matter. Gandhiji brought forward a programme of non-cooperation with the government, which was to be executive in four stages.

**Khilafat Delegation:** In 1920, a delegation headed by Maulana Muhammad Ali (Johar) set off for London. The British government refused to give an ear. The delegation, however, held some meetings and explained its position to the general public.

**The Treaty of Sevres:** In May 1920, the Allied Forces decided on Turkey’s fate under the treat made at Severs. The Empire was stripped off its occupations in Europe and Arabia. The Treaty was named after the venue where it was concluded.

**Non-Cooperation Movement:** Maulana Muhammad Ali (Johar), Maulana Shaukat Ali, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana Abu-ul-Kalam Azad and Maulana Hasrat Mohani set the Indian emotion at fire with their speeches. An all India hartal was observed on the appeal of the Khilafat Committee on August 1, 1920. Ghandhiji was elected leader of the Non-Cooperation Movement. As a part of the non-cooperation programme courts were boycotted, government servants resigned services, students all over India quit educational institutions and many of the British title holders surrendered their titles and decoration as protest; Ali Brothers (Muhamamd Ali and Shaukat Ali) were convicted on charges of high treason and given two rigorous imprisonments.

**Civil Disobedience:**        In November 1921, the people were given a call to break the law and disobey the government by refusing to pay taxes and by all other possible means. About thirty thousand people courted arrest as a result of this call.

**Hijrat Movement:**           Maulan Abul Kalam Azad and Mualana Abdul Bari Farangi Mahali issued Fatwa, which declared India as Darul-Herb and enjoined Muslim to migrate towards Afgahanistan.  The khilafat agitation received a psychological impetus from the traditional Hijrat of 18,000 Muslims to Afghanistan. So many Muhammadans, determined to shake off the dust of the ‘impious Raj’ moved into Darul-Islam, that was Afghanistan. Later, Afghan authorities declined to admit the emigrants and they had to go back. Many lost their lives on this way. Resultantly, a great loss of lives and assets. Many died during this mission. Some went to Soviet Union from Afghanistan because they had nothing in India now as they had sold what they had.

**Mopla Uprising:**               Moplas were a Muslim community settled on the south Indian shores. They claimed to be the descendants of the Arab traders. In the year 1921 there was a clash between the Moplas and the Hindu business lords of the area on issues of purely local nature. These incidents provided the British Government with a golden opportunity of creating rift between the Hindus and the Muslims. Exaggerated reports about Hindu-Muslim riots were spread, which provoked the extremists on both sides, riots spread throughout India. This state of affairs caused a great setback to the Khilafat Movement.

**Chora Chori Incident:**     In the year 1922, an infuriated mob at Chora Chori, a small township in the UP  laid siege to a police station and set it at fire. Twenty one policemen were burnt alive.

**Civil Disobedience Call off:**         Ghanhiji said that since the Civil Disobedience Movement had deviated from its avowed path of non-violence, it was necessary to call it off. He made this decision at a time when the Movement had reached its climax.

**Reaction of the Leadership**:        The entire leadership of the movement, the Hindu and the Muslim alike was stunned at this sudden decision. Most of the leaders thought that this decision was without justification and had caused a great setback to the Movement.

**Abolition of Khilafat:**     Attaturk came to power in Turkey. On March 3, 1924 he abolished the institution of Khilafat in constitutional manners. This proclamation came as the final death- blow to the Khilafat Movement in India.

**KHILAFAT MOVEMENT: RESULTS AND CONSEQUENCES**

Apparently futile Muslim efforts to keep the institution of Khilafat alive otherwise, had far reaching impact on the Indian politics i.e.,

It was the first popular movement which touched almost all parts of the sub-continent. It was through Khilafat platform that the leaders of public opinion came very close to the common man. It gave people the consciousness which was to serve as motivating force behind the Muslim struggle for the achievement of Pakistan in the days to come. It was an important step towards the liberation of India from the shackles of the British rule.

Although the Indian Muslims did not succeed in achieving their core objective, yet the Khilafat Movement did great service to the Turks who were fighting the war of their survival. Speeches and statements of the Khilafat leaders were translated and spread in Turkey, and it gave the Turk soldeirs courage to consolidate and strengthen their position in the areas left for Turkey after the war was over, and drive the enemies out of the Turk areas.

**ROLE OF JINNAH (THE QUAID-I-AZAM) AND ALLAMA IQBAL**

The moderate Muslims leaders like Quaid-i-Azam and Allama M. Iqbal were second to none in their sympathies for the Turks, but they did not indulge themselves in the politics of agitation or the emotional frenzy spurred through emotional and agitation politics. Results proved that these leaders were right. The sentiments of Jinnah can easily be understood from the excerpt of the letter wrote to Ghandhi:

***“………..the weapon will not destroy the British Empire…It is neither logical nor is it politically sound or wise, not practically capable of being put in execution.”***

(The End)

Merits of Khilafat Movement:

i.                     It trained Muslims for political action and agitation.

ii.                   It united the extremists and moderates on one plateform.

iii.                  It destroyed the myth of Muslims loyalty to the British.

iv.                 They learned the deep-rooted differences between two nations.

v.                   Muslims got acquainted of their political power.

vi.                 It made Muslims politically conscious.

Demerits of Khilafat Movement

i.                     Muslims became more interest in the local affairs than international one.

ii.                   Hijrat movement cost million of rupees and million of lives.

iii.                  Religious leaders for the time being vanished from political arena.

iv.                 Emotionalism gave nothing to them. Khilafat was abolished not by the British but by Turks themselves.