

# *Partition of Bengal*

# Partition of Bengal

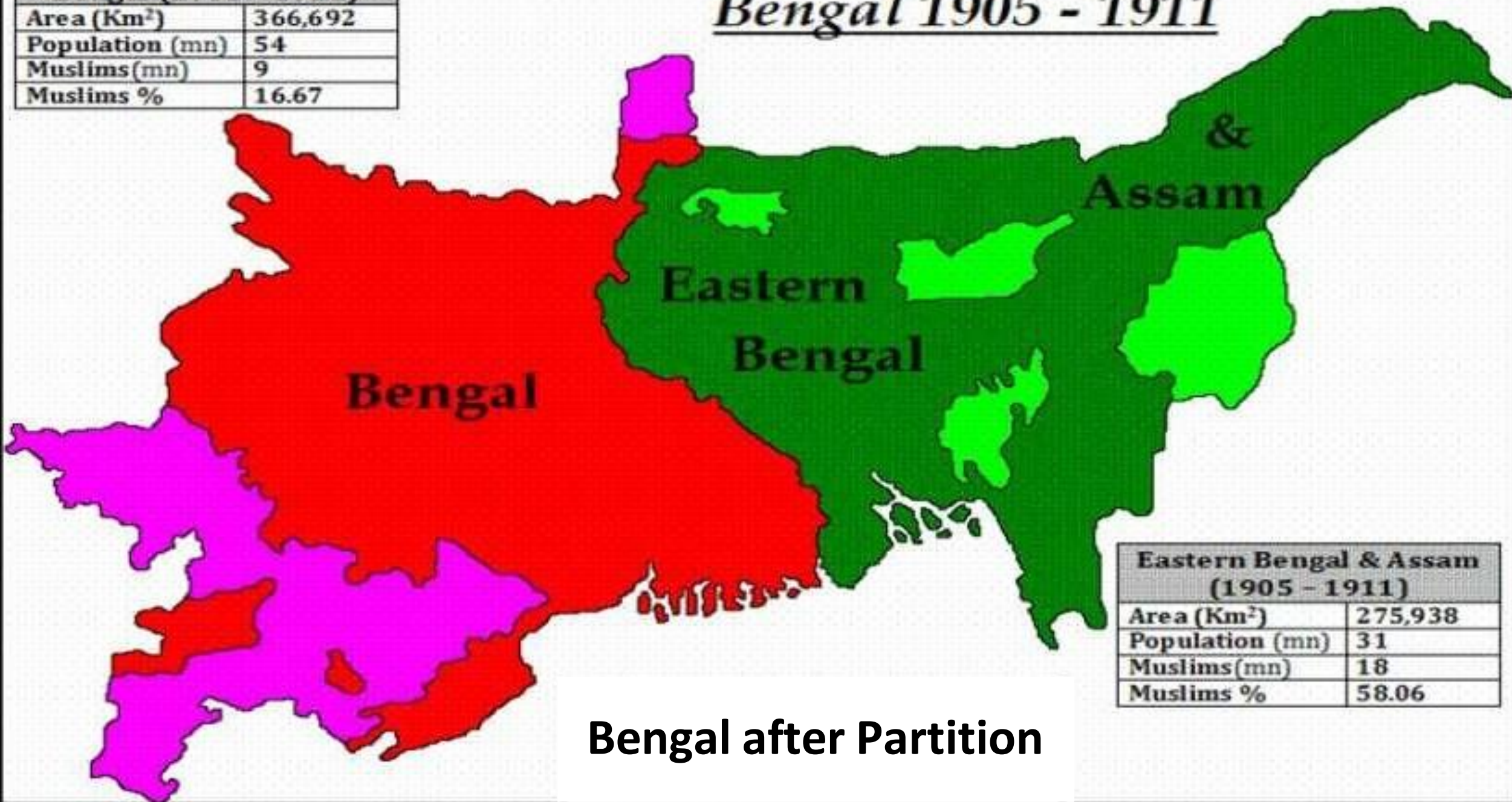
- The decision to effect the Partition of Bengal (বঙ্গভঙ্গ) was announced on 19 July 1905 by the Viceroy of India, Curzon. The partition took place on 16 October 1905 and separated the largely Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas. The Hindus of West Bengal who dominated Bengal's business and rural life complained that the division would make them a minority in a province that would incorporate the province of Bihar and Orissa.



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

## **Eastern Province**

- East Bengal, Assam, Tripura
- Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Malda
- Muslim majority
- Bengali s

# Reasons Behind the Partition

## Official Reason

- Administrative facility
- Dealing with famine & defense
- Development of Remote Areas

## Actual Reasons

- Weaken the National Movement
- Policy of **“Divide & Rule”**
- Reactionary policy of Lord Curzon to show the political leaders had no meaning

# Why was Bengal partitioned in 1905?

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Unwieldy for administration; very large consisting of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa with 78 million population, poor means of communications, difficulties in relief work during times of trouble (famine, plague), smaller units can be managed efficiently.

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To address the misery of Muslims, sense of deprivation in Eastern Bengal, social, economic and educational backwardness, neglected and isolated due to under-governance, flow of all investments towards Calcutta in Western Bengal.

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Bengal partitioned to weaken the solidarity of Bengal, Bengal was the hub of creating national awakening posing real threat to the rulers, British played the communal card widening the hostilities between Hindus and Muslims, division along religious line, weakened INC to curb the growing sense of nationalism.

# 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.



# 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 holding a sword.

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 surface. To the left of the card, the tip of a silver fountain pen is visible. In the background, a white ceramic cup and saucer are partially visible, slightly out of focus.

*Thank  
You*