**Becoming Pakistan**

Introduction

Nestled in the heart of South Asia, Pakistan emerged on the world map as a sovereign state in 1947, following the partition of British India. Before 1947 India and Pakistan was undivided and known as 'India subcontinent'. India and Pakistan emerged as two independent dominions as per the India Independence Act passed by the British Parliament on 18 July 1947. By the same stroke the province of Bengal was divided into East Bengal and West Bengal. East Bengal became a part of Pakistan and West Bengal that of India. The province of 'East Bengal' was born on 14 August 1947 and its nomenclature was changed to 'East Pakistan' on 8 September 1955. Another part of Pakistan was 'West Pakistan'.

Becoming Pakistan was not so easy. It went through many rough and tough movement for becoming Pakistan. Now let's deep dive into the formation of Pakistan by a flow chart:

Bengal Partition in 1947

Within 36 years from the annulment of the first partition of Bengal, in the year 1947 the province came to be divided into two halves along the same geographical lines mainly on communal consideration (Religion). The carving up of India in line with Jinnah's two-nation theory effected the second partition of Bengal. The Hindu-majority West Bengal became a part of the Indian Union, [East Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Bengal) joined with the Muslim majority provinces in the western part of India (Baluchistan, [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab), [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh), and the [North-West Frontier Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North-West_Frontier_Province)), creating a new state of [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan). It may be noted that the Hindus by and large opposed the 1905-partition and most Muslims rendered their support to it; but it was the Hindus, especially the Hindu Mahasabha, who proposed the partition of Bengal in 1947 and Muslim leadership first opposed and later accepted the proposal sullenly. The rapid change in the political mood of the Hindus and Muslims of the province ought to be measured by the complex politics of communalities, communalism, and imperialism of the time.

Indeed, there was increased Hindu alienation under Muslim dominated coalition rule in Bengal in the years between 1937 and 1947. The resultant Hindu fear of Muslim domination in undivided Bengal outside the Indian Union whether a third Dominion or a part of Pakistan, and the Indian Muslim fear of perpetual Hindu domination over them in an Akhanda (united) India might explain the 1947 communal divide including the partition of Bengal. The British Cabinet Mission Plan (May 1946) that envisaged a loose Indian federation under the three-tier A, B, C formula is generally perceived as the best device to avoid the disastrous consequences of partition through keeping India together, but the prospect was swamped by the waves of communalism. At the 2 June (1947) Leaders' Conference, the partition plan as presented by Lord Mountbatten was agreed on by the 'seven big', namely Nehru, Patel and Kripalani (Congress), Jinnah, Liaquat and Abdur Rob Nishtar (Muslim League) and Baldev Singh (Sikh).

But HS Suhrawardy, chief minister of Bengal, made a last moment attempt to transcend the limits and keep Bengal united with the status of an independent state. However, his move for a United Independent Bengal floundered.