

Independence: Nehru's Cabinet of 1947

BIRTH OF INDIA'S FREEDOM
NATION WAKES TO **STATE VISIT TO KARACHI** **FRENZIED ENTHUSIASM**
IN ROMRAY



Model United Nations at Illinois XXII

Table of Contents

- 1. Letter from the Director**
- 2. Introduction**
- 3. History: Independence and the partition**
- 4. Indian Economy**
- 5. The People of India**
- 6. Princely States**
- 7. Indian Economy**
- 8. Indian Army Post-World War II**
- 9. The Plan Ahead for the Committee**
- 10. Characters**
- 11. Citations**

Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Model United Nations at Illinois of 2016 and more specifically, Nehru's Cabinet of 1947 which you will be participating in. My name is Abhinav Dixit and I will be serving as your Simulation Director for this exciting committee. My goal is to make sure everyone here enjoys the committee and, most importantly, finds it to be an enriching educational experience.

I know each and every delegate will put in considerable amount of time and energy while researching for this committee. Nevertheless, I will give you a small taste of what you can expect in this conference. After more than two centuries, India has finally gained independence from the British Raj. However, this has come at a very large cost. The country has become severely divided between Hindus and Muslims. Tensions have increased to such an extent that a partition of the country has been agreed. Additionally, the country is divided on how it wants to run and what political and economic system should be in place. A preliminary constitution is essential to get some clarity and stability and to fend off any unwarranted interest from the outside world. However, it is important that you think on your feet as the committee will regularly have twist and turns as would be expected from a simulations committee. To achieve your goals in this committee will take much political manoeuvring, creative innovation, and utmost urgency. This is why I like Model UN so much.

As your Simulation Director, I invite you to join me on this thoroughly educational experience of the subcontinent's history during this year's conference. I look forward to observing how you will grapple with issues and events, and create unique solutions to some

of the greatest problems faced by people of that time. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, let me know via email at dixit4@illinois.edu. I cannot wait to see you all in March.

May lights guide you home.

Best,

Abhinav

P.S. A good way to start your research will be to go through the complete background of the Indian freedom struggle. That will form the base to everything else.



Map of India before independence. All the states/provinces have been marked with their modern names. However, they have been drawn in accordance to their state in 1947. Please refer to this map whenever a place has been mentioned in the guide and you do not know of its location. Do note that Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka (also known as Ceylon) are not parts of India; they are neighbouring countries. Map not to scale.

Introduction

British presence in India began in the beginning of the 17th century. The East India Company was formed by the British as a trading company in Asia and India in 1600. The East India Company allowed British imperialism to expand in India. By the end of the 17th century, India became the main focus of the East India Company. Woven cotton became a major export from India and by the first half of the 18th century, strong trading points were established by the British along the coast of India.

Over the course of the second half of the 18th century, the British placed military forces in India, eventually conquering the country. In 1858, the Raj was formally established in India, taking control away from the East India Company and placing it in the hands of the British Crown. India was used as a way to further British economic interests. Although the British invested in Indian infrastructure and commercial agriculture, many Indians were left in poverty due to high taxes and famine.

Formal Indian opposition to British rule began with the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885. The Congress became split on whether violence should be used against the Raj. Mahatma Gandhi, who was a major force in the Indian National Congress, asserted his philosophies of non-violence and civil disobedience while overseeing several movements against the Raj with some success. Two world wars and multiple freedom struggles later; India has finally become independent.

Fast-forwarding to the present; the year is 1947. The date? 16th August 1947. It has been 24 hours since India got independence from the British Raj. Colonial rule has been anything but pleasant and the post-independence India isn't as rosy a place as many imagined it to be. The country has been stripped of its resources, there is crippling poverty everywhere and the army

is paper thin. Additionally, there is a lot of intra-country tension between different groups of people. The untouchables (now known as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes) have been victims of unspeakable crimes and continue to be so. There have also been tensions between Hindus and Christians where many Hindus have been tortured and forced to convert by their colonial rulers. However, the worst relationship by far is between the Hindus and Muslims. So much so that instead of celebrating the birth of the nation of India, the two groups have divided the country, literally. Rising tensions between the two groups over the past years has led to unimaginable violence. This violence has led to the birth of two countries based on religion, in accordance with the Two Nation Theory, with Muslims in India moving to Pakistan and Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan moving to India. Experts believe this to be the biggest human migration in the history of humanity. People everywhere can only hope and pray that the disruption this creates is minimal. Additionally, a number of provinces, like Kashmir and Hyderabad, are torn between siding with Pakistan or India. The country also has a struggling army and no constitution to run on. The world awaits with guarded curiosity as to what direction Nehru and his ministers will take India in.

History: Independence and the partition

Partition of Bengal:

The Partition of India is not the first of its kind. A similar event can be traced back to the Partition of Bengal. In 1905, the viceroy, Lord Curzon, divided the largest administrative subdivision in British India, the Bengal Presidency, into the Muslim-majority province of “East Bengal and Assam” and the Hindu-majority “province of Bengal”. Curzon's act, the Partition of Bengal was to transform nationalist politics as nothing else before it. The Hindu elite of Bengal, among them many who owned land in East Bengal that was leased out

to Muslim peasants, protested fervidly. The large Bengali Hindu middle-class felt that Curzon's act was punishment for their political assertiveness. The pervasive protests against Curzon's decision took the form predominantly of the *Swadeshi* ("buy Indian") and involved boycott of British goods. Sporadically—but flagrantly—the protesters also took to political violence that involved attacks on civilians. The violence, however, was not effective, as most planned attacks were either pre-empted by the British or failed. The rallying cry for both types of protest was the slogan *Bande Mataram* ("Hail to the Mother"). The unrest spread from Calcutta to the surrounding regions of Bengal when Calcutta's English-educated students returned home to their villages and towns. The religious stirrings of the slogan and the political outrage over the partition were combined as young men took to bombing public buildings, staging armed robberies, and assassinating British officials. Since Calcutta was the imperial capital, both the outrage and the slogan soon became nationally known.

The overwhelming, but predominantly Hindu, protest against the partition of Bengal and the fear, in its wake, of reforms favoring the Hindu majority, now led the Muslim elite in India, in 1906, to meet with the new viceroy, Lord Minto, and to ask for separate electorates for Muslims. In conjunction, they demanded proportional legislative representation reflecting both their status as former rulers and their record of cooperating with the British. This led, in December 1906, to the founding of the All-India Muslim League in Dacca. The League was in favor of his partition plan. The Muslim elite's position, which was reflected in the League's position, had crystallized gradually over the previous three decades, beginning with the 1871 Census of British India, which had first estimated the populations in regions of Muslim majority. In the three decades since that census, Muslim leaders across northern India, had intermittently experienced public animosity from some of the new Hindu political and social groups. For example, distraught at the 1871 census' Muslim numbers, some organizations

held "reconversion" events for the purpose of welcoming Muslims back to the Hindu fold. It was not lost on many Muslims, for example, that the rallying cry, "Bande Mataram," had first appeared in the novel *Anand Math* in which Hindus had battled their Muslim oppressors. Lastly, the Muslim elite were aware that a new province with a Muslim majority would directly benefit Muslims aspiring to political power.

Two-Nation Theory:

The two-nation is the ideology that the primary identity and unifying denominator of Muslims in the South Asian subcontinent is their religion, rather than their language or ethnicity, and therefore Indian Hindus and Muslims are two distinct nations, regardless of ethnic or other commonalities. The two-nation theory was a founding principle of the Pakistan Movement (i.e. the ideology of Pakistan as a Muslim nation-state in South Asia), and the eventual partition of present day India.

The ideology that religion is the determining factor in defining the nationality of Indian Muslims was undertaken by Muhammad Ali Jinnah (the eventual founder of Pakistan), who termed it as the awakening of Muslims for the creation of Pakistan. It is also a source of inspiration to several Hindu nationalist organizations, with causes as varied as the redefinition of Indian Muslims as non-Indian foreigners and second-class citizens in India, the expulsion of all Muslims from India, establishment of a legally Hindu state in India, prohibition of conversions to Islam, and the promotion of conversions or reconversions of Indian Muslims to Hinduism.

Two years later, the Government of India Act 1935 introduced provincial autonomy, increasing the number of voters in India to 35 million. More significantly, law and order issues were for the first time devolved from British authority to provincial governments

headed by Indians. This increased Muslim anxiety about eventual Hindu domination. In the Indian provincial elections, 1937, the Muslim League turned out its best performance in Muslim-minority provinces such as the United Provinces, where it won 29 of the 64 reserved Muslim seats. However, in the Muslim-majority regions of the Punjab and Bengal regional parties outperformed the League. The Congress (the only major national party in India at that time), on the other hand, with 716 wins in the total of 1585 provincial assembly seats, was able to form governments in 7 out of the 11 provinces of British India. In its manifesto, the Congress maintained that religious issues were of lesser importance to the masses than economic and social issues, however, the election revealed that the Congress had contested just 58 out of the total 482 Muslim seats, and of these, it won in only 26. In UP, where the Congress won, it offered to share power with the League on condition that the League stop functioning as a representative only of Muslims, which the League refused. This proved to be a mistake as it alienated the Congress further from the Muslim masses. In addition, the new UP provincial administration promulgated cow protection and the use of Hindi.

The Muslim League conducted its own investigation into the conditions of Muslims under Congress-governed provinces. The findings of such investigations increased fear among the Muslim masses of future Hindu domination. The view that Muslims would be unfairly treated in an independent India dominated by the Congress was now a part of the public discourse of Muslims. With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the viceroy of India, Lord Linlithgow, declared war on India's behalf without consulting Indian leaders, leading the Congress provincial ministries to resign in protest. The Muslim League, which functioned under state patronage, in contrast, organized "Deliverance Day," celebrations (from Congress dominance) and supported Britain in the war effort. When Linlithgow, met with nationalist

leaders, he gave the same status to Jinnah as he did to Gandhi, and a month later described the Congress as a “Hindu organization”.

Lahore Resolution & Quit India Resolution:

In March 1940, in the League's annual three-day session in Lahore, Jinnah gave a two-hour speech in English, in which were laid out the arguments of the Two-nation theory, stating, in the words of historians Talbot and Singh, that "Muslims and Hindus ... were irreconcilably opposed monolithic religious communities and as such no settlement could be imposed that did not satisfy the aspirations of the former." On the last day of its session, the League passed, what came to be known as the *Lahore Resolution*, sometimes also "Pakistan Resolution", demanding that "the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in majority as in the North-Western and Eastern zones of India should be grouped to constitute independent states in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign." Though it had been founded more than three decades earlier, the League would gather support among South Asian Muslims only during the Second World War.

In March 1942, with the Japanese fast moving up the Malayan Peninsula after the Fall of Singapore, and with the Americans supporting independence for India, Winston Churchill, the wartime Prime Minister of Britain, sent Sir Stafford Cripps, the leader of the House of Commons, with an offer of dominion status to India at the end of the war in return for the Congress's support for the war effort. Not wishing to lose the support of the allies they had already secured—the Muslim League and others—the Cripps offer included a clause stating that no part of the British Indian Empire would be forced to join the post-war Dominion. As a result of the proviso, the proposals were rejected by the Congress, which, since its founding as a polite group of lawyers in 1885, saw itself as the representative of all Indians of all

faiths. After the arrival in 1920 of Gandhi, the preeminent strategist of Indian nationalism, the Congress had been transformed into a mass nationalist movement of millions. In August 1942, the Congress launched the Quit India Resolution which asked for drastic constitutional changes, which the British saw as the most serious threat to their rule since the Indian rebellion of 1857. With their resources and attention already spread thin by a global war, the nervous British immediately jailed the Congress leaders and kept them in jail until August 1945, whereas the Muslim League was now free for the next three years to spread its message. Consequently, the Muslim League's ranks surged during the war, with Jinnah himself admitting, "The war which nobody welcomed proved to be a blessing in disguise." Although there were other important national Muslim politicians such as Congress leader Abul Kalam Azad, the British were to increasingly see the League as the main representative of Muslim India.

Direct Action Day:

In 1946, new elections were called in India. Earlier, at the end of the war in 1945, the colonial government had announced the public trial of three senior officers of Subhas Chandra Bose's defeated Indian National Army (INA) who stood accused of treason. Now as the trials began, the Congress leadership, although ambivalent towards the INA, chose to defend the accused officers. The subsequent convictions of the officers, the public outcry against the convictions, and the eventual remission of the sentences created positive propaganda for the Congress, which only helped in the party's subsequent electoral victories in eight of the eleven provinces. The negotiations between the Congress and the Muslim League, however, stumbled over the issue of the partition.

The 1946 elections had resulted in the Muslim League winning 90 percent of the seats reserved for Muslims. Thus the 1946 election was effectively a plebiscite where the Indian Muslims were to vote on the creation of Pakistan; a plebiscite which the Muslim League won. This victory was assisted by the popularity of the Muslim League by the rural peasantry of Bengal as well as the support of the landowners of Sindh and Punjab.

The Congress, which initially denied the Muslim League's claim of being the sole representative of Indian Muslims, was now forced to recognize that the Muslim League represented Indian Muslims. The British had no alternative except to take Jinnah's views into account as he had emerged as the sole spokesperson of India's Muslims.

Jinnah proclaimed 16 August 1946 as the 'Direct Action Day', with the stated goal of peacefully highlighting the demand for a Muslim homeland in British India. However, on the morning of the 16th, armed Muslim gangs gathered at the Ochterlony Monument in Calcutta to hear the Muslim League's appointed Chief Minister of Bengal. In his speech, he did not explicitly incite violence but he certainly gave the crowd the impression that they could act with impunity, that neither the police nor the military would be called out and that the ministry would turn a blind eye to any action they unleashed in the city. That very evening, in Calcutta, Hindus were attacked by returning Muslim celebrants, who carried pamphlets distributed earlier showing a clear connection between violence and the demand for Pakistan, and implicating the celebration of Direct Action Day directly with the outbreak of the cycle of violence that would be later called the "Great Calcutta Killing of August 1946". The next day, Hindus struck back and the violence continued for three days in which approximately 4,000 people died (according to official accounts), Hindus and Muslims in equal numbers. Although India had had outbreaks of religious violence between Hindus and Muslims before, the Calcutta killings was the first to display elements of "ethnic cleansing", in modern

parlance. Violence was not confined to the public sphere, but homes were entered and destroyed and women and children attacked. Although the Government of India and the Congress were both shaken by the course of events, in September, a Congress-led interim government was installed, with Jawaharlal Nehru as united India's prime minister.

The Final Steps:

Vallabhbhai Patel was one of the first Congress leaders to accept the partition of India as a solution to the rising Muslim separatist movement led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He had been outraged by Jinnah's Direct Action campaign however, he was also aware that Jinnah did enjoy popular support amongst Muslims, and that an open conflict between him and the nationalists could degenerate into a Hindu-Muslim civil war of disastrous consequences. The continuation of a divided and weak central government would in Patel's mind, result in the wider fragmentation of India by encouraging more than 600 princely states towards independence. Between the months of December 1946 and January 1947, Patel worked with civil servant V. P. Menon on the latter's suggestion for a separate dominion of Pakistan created out of Muslim-majority provinces. Communal violence in Bengal and Punjab in January and March 1947 further convinced Patel of the soundness of partition. Patel, a fierce critic of Jinnah's demand that the Hindu-majority areas of Punjab and Bengal be included in a Muslim state, obtained the partition of those provinces, thus blocking any possibility of their inclusion in Pakistan. Patel's decisiveness on the partition of Punjab and Bengal had won him many supporters and admirers amongst the Indian public, which had tired of the League's tactics, but he was criticized by Gandhi, Nehru, secular Muslims and socialists for a perceived eagerness to do so. When the plan was formally proposed on 3 June 1947, Patel gave his approval and lobbied Nehru and other Congress leaders to accept the proposal.

Following Gandhi's denial but Congress' approval of the plan, Patel represented India on the Partition Council, where he oversaw the division of public assets, and selected the Indian council of ministers with Nehru. However, neither he nor any other Indian leader had foreseen the intense violence and population transfer that would take place with partition.

In June 1947, the nationalist leaders, including Nehru and Abul Kalam Azad on behalf of the Congress, Jinnah representing the Muslim League, B. R. Ambedkar representing the untouchable community, and Master Tara Singh representing the Sikhs, agreed to a partition of the country along religious lines in stark opposition to Gandhi's views. The predominantly Hindu and Sikh areas were assigned to the new India and predominantly Muslim areas to the new nation of Pakistan; the plan included a partition of the Muslim-majority provinces of Punjab and Bengal. The communal violence that accompanied the announcement of the Radcliffe Line, the line of partition, was even more horrific.

On 14 August 1947, the new Dominion of Pakistan came into being, with Muhammad Ali Jinnah sworn in as its first Governor General in Karachi. The following day, 15 August 1947, India, now a smaller Union of India, became an independent country with official ceremonies taking place in New Delhi, and with Jawaharlal Nehru assuming the office of the prime minister, and the viceroy, Louis Mountbatten, staying on as its first Governor General; Gandhi, however, remained in Bengal, preferring instead to work among the new refugees of the partitioned subcontinent.

Princely States

At the time of independence, India was divided into two sets of territories, the first being the territories of "British India," which were under the direct control of the India Office in London and the Governor-General of India, and the second being the "Princely states," the

territories over which the Crown had suzerainty, but which were under the control of their hereditary rulers. In addition, there were several colonial enclaves controlled by France and Portugal. The integration of these territories into Dominion of India, that had been created by the Indian Independence Act 1947 by the British parliament, was a declared objective of the Indian National Congress, which the Government of India pursue starting from this point onwards. At the time of independence there are 562 princely states that still need to accede to either India or Pakistan.

Hyderabad:

While the government is confident that most princely states will accede peacefully to India (or Pakistan if it's bordering the same country), trouble seems to be brewing in the two most important princely states of them all, Hyderabad and Kashmir

Hyderabad is a landlocked state that stretched over 82,000 square miles in south-eastern India. While 87% of its 17 million people were Hindu, its ruler Nizam Osman Ali Khan, was a Muslim, and its politics were dominated by a Muslim elite. The Muslim nobility and the Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen, a powerful pro-Nizam Muslim party, insisted Hyderabad remain independent and stand on an equal footing to India and Pakistan. Accordingly, the Nizam in June 1947 issued an announcement stating that on the transfer of power, his state would be resuming independence. The Government of India rejected this, terming it a "legalistic claim of doubtful validity". It argued that the strategic location of Hyderabad, which lay astride the main lines of communication between northern and southern India, meant it could easily be used by "foreign interests" to threaten India, and that in consequence, the issue involved national-security concerns. It also pointed out that the state's people, history and location

made it unquestionably Indian, and that its own "common interests" therefore mandated its integration into India.

The Nizam was prepared to enter into a limited treaty with India, which gave Hyderabad safeguards, such as a provision guaranteeing Hyderabad's neutrality in the event of a conflict between India and Pakistan. India rejected this proposal, arguing that other states would demand similar concessions. A temporary Standstill Agreement was signed as a stopgap measure, even though Hyderabad has not yet agreed to accede to India.

The Nizam was also beset by the Telangana Rebellion, led by communists, which started in 1946 as a peasant revolt against feudal elements; and one which the Nizam was not able to subjugate. Thus, Hyderabad has not yet decided which way it will swing. A quick resolution to this problem is vital because Pakistan will take interest in the negotiations too.

Hyderabad's location is right in the middle of mainland India and an accession to India is the only viable option for the government.

Jammu & Kashmir:

At the time of the transfer of power, the state of Jammu and Kashmir (widely called "Kashmir") was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, a Hindu, although the state itself had a Muslim majority. Hari Singh was equally hesitant about acceding to either India or Pakistan, as either would have provoked adverse reactions in parts of his kingdom. The case here is exactly opposite to the one faced in Hyderabad. He signed a Standstill Agreement with Pakistan and proposed one with India as well, but announced that Kashmir intended to remain independent. However, his rule was opposed by Sheikh Abdullah, the popular leader of Kashmir's largest political party, the National Conference, who demanded his abdication.

There are rumors that Pakistan may attempt to force the issue of Kashmir's accession by cutting off supplies and transport links. Additionally, rumors about atrocities against the Muslim population of Poonch by the Maharajah's forces is causing civil unrest.

Jammu & Kashmir's location is also a very tricky one. It borders Pakistan, is rich with Himalayan resources, has a big Muslim majority and is very close to the capital, Delhi. It is clear that Pakistan will do all it can to win Kashmir. A delicate crisis is unfolding but neither country wants to set it off.

Indian Economy

The current Indian economy mostly comprises of agriculture and the textile industry.

However, under the British, economic progress was extremely slow. The economy grew at 1% every year for almost a century. Any progress that took place was only for the benefit of the British.

Most of the agriculture focused to cash crops like the cotton and Indigo plants. These raw materials would be taken back to Britain to be manufactured and the finished goods would be sold in India again. Excessive agriculture in some places has left the land unsuitable too. Additionally, most farmers depend upon the monsoon rains for their harvest. Bad rains mean that most of their crops fail. This leads to famines and droughts.

The next industry is textile. There were 394 cotton mills in India before partition, out of this 14 mills went to Pakistan. Remaining 380 mills were left in India. However, 40% of the cotton production came from the area now occupied by Pakistan. Thus India will be forced to import raw cotton to keep the mills alive. Despite all this, there is huge potential here for the industry. The mills are generally located around urban areas and that's where most people want

to go and work at the moment. With the right infrastructure in place, this industry could soon become an integral part of the economy.

There has been some growth in manufacturing too. This has come primarily from the [Tata Iron and Steel Company](#) (TISCO), headed by India's first and greatest industrialist, J.R.D. Tata. TISCO opened its plant at Jamshedpur in Bihar in 1908. It became the leading iron and steel producer in India, with 120,000 employees in 1945. TISCO has now become India's proud symbol of technical skill, managerial competence, entrepreneurial flair, and high pay for industrial workers.

Finally, India's lifeline has been the railways. India has the largest railway system in the world currently and most Indians agree that this was the best thing the British did in India. Most places in India are connected via the extensive railways, making transportation across the subcontinent easy for both freight and people. Flight travel is only a reality for the super-rich. Yet, like most other things, the railways too need to be updated and expanded to meet the current demand, especially in this period of mass migration.

The People of India

The current population of India is roughly 350 million people. Of this, approximately 65% are Hindus, 30% are Muslims, 2% Sikhs, 2% Christians, 0.5% Buddhists, 0.5% Jains. Almost 90% of the country lives in varying degrees of poverty and without the ability to read. The main language spoken is Hindi however, there are hundreds of other regional languages too. English is only being learned by people who have the resources to go to strong educational institutes, excluding most Indians in the process.

The country has a high birth and death rate, meaning that most of the population is young. As such, the work force tends to be both mobile and lively, but lacks great technical skill due to a

poor educational system. Most of the population lives in rural areas where agriculture is the primary source of income. However, people have started traveling to the urban centers of Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi in hopes of finding a better life in a post-independence India. People still rely primarily on the newspaper to keep them up-to-date with world events but the spread of radio has begun in earnest over the past two years.

The caste system is still very much in place, despite attempts to dismantle it over the past few decades. Many people still do not get jobs because of their caste or religion and there is no system in place to check that this does not happen. However, through the incredible work of Gandhi and Ambedkar, the ‘untouchables’ (otherwise known as Dalits) have finally had their voices heard and are being taken seriously in politics to even the national level. Their vote counts as much as another person’s and they have the potential to swing elections if they are not happy with a certain political party.

Indian Army Post-World War II

By the end of World War II, India had the largest volunteer army in history, with 2.5 million personnel. Indian soldiers bravely fought on three continents: Africa, Europe and Asia.

Fighting under the British Indian Army, over 87,000 soldiers lost their lives.

After World War II, over 1,648,772 men and women disbanded from the Indian Army. Only three infantry divisions, 1 armored division and 1 airborne division remained.

On July 1, 1947, it was announced that by August 15, 1947, the British Indian Army would be split into two armies, one for Pakistan and one for India, while four of the ten Gurkha regiments (ethnically from Nepal and famous for their courage in battle) were transferred to the British Army. The British Indian Army was composed of three Commands; Northern, Southern and Eastern. Upon the partition, two thirds of the Army and its assets went to India

and one third went to Pakistan. Also, the Northern Command (situated very close to Kashmir in Pakistani territory) went to Pakistan, while the Southern (situated in Pune, Maharashtra) and Eastern Commands (situated in Kolkata, West Bengal) went to India.

Currently, India has an estimate 100,000 soldiers of which the Gurkha regiments comprises of 6000 soldiers (6 regiments of 1000 soldiers each). The army as a whole is underdeveloped, even for its size with equipment, arms and training being outdated. India also has 33 naval ships, none more advanced than pre-war frigates, with close to 10,000 staff and sailors to operate them. Since the British RAF left India, the Indian Air Force has a paltry 16 outdated fighter aircrafts with approximately 5,000 Air Force employees.

The Plan Ahead for the Committee

The committee faces three major problems which need to be resolved as soon as possible:

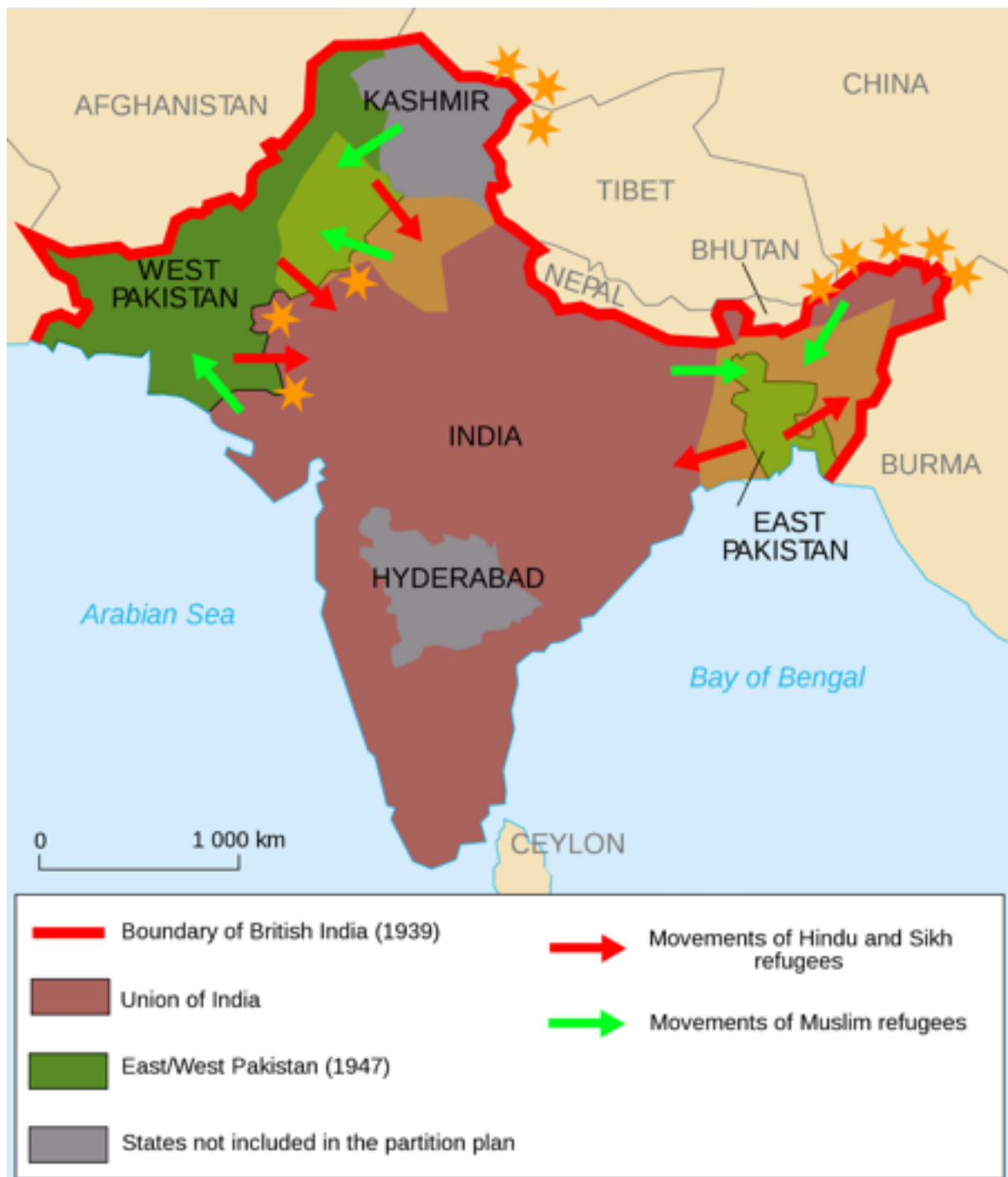
1) The Partition: As stated earlier, the partition on India is currently taking place and millions of people are crossing the borders of Rajasthan, Punjab and Bengal from both sides. The committee needs to make sure that adequate measures are undertaken so that displaced refugees and the injured are taken care off. Most people have left their homes and all their belongings and have just ran before they get caught in violence. As we have seen in the past, the violence is brutal and senseless; not even the woman or children are spared. If the committee doesn't act quickly, it will have the blood of countless people on their hands.

2) The Accession of Hyderabad and Kashmir: These two princely states have not yet been annexed by India or Pakistan. It is vital that both of them accede to India.

Hyderabad is located in the heart of India. If the state accedes to Pakistan or remains independent, it could lead to major consequences in the future. It would be counter-

productive geographically, economically and politically. Hyderabad is rich in resources (the Nizam is rumored to have an extremely vast fortune) and most of its citizens wish to be a part of India. We would have no choice but to go to war to reclaim that land. The Nizam could unleash his vast army and this would stretch our already thin army very dangerously. The same goes for Kashmir. The head of Kashmir, Hari Singh, wants to accede to India but majority of the Kashmiri population is Muslim and wants to join Pakistan. Pakistan is confident that she will get Kashmir and is likely to force the issue by sending its army sooner than later. Kashmir too is rich in resources however, fighting a war there will be very difficult for both sides. There are some of the tallest mountains in the world in Kashmir along with numerous rivers and valleys. Temperatures drop below freezing during winters, meaning any conflict will likely be both long and costly. However, the territory is vital to the betterment of the infant Indian state.

- 3) Economic and Social Future of India: Other than these two problems, the committee needs to set an agenda for the future too. How will the Indian economy operate? Be considerate of how choosing an economic path could lead to diplomatic positions as well. Will India be open to trade and privatization of its industries? How will the government regain its wealth and how will it reinvest it in the country? What rights will the citizens of India have? Will the caste system remain in place? These are just some of the thousands of questions that need answering. The committee's choices will influence how the world looks at India. Any misstep here could set the country back many more years. The members of the committee must act wisely.



Characters

Sardar Vallabhai Patel: Deputy Prime Minister

Vallabhai Patel is a lawyer, statesman and leader of the Indian National Congress during the struggle for independence. He is often called the “Iron Man of India” and is addressed by the term “Sardar” meaning leader in various Indian languages.

Patel was first inspired by Mahatma Gandhi when he organized a non-violent civil disobedience movement against the British Raj. This event led to him gaining political power first in Gujarat and eventually in the Indian National Congress. He is at the forefront of many actions and supported the Quit India movement. As the first home minister Patel strived to practice “Suraaj”, meaning good governance, and continues to do so as the Deputy Prime Minister. Patel was planning on running for the 1946 election but stepped down for Nehru at the request of Gandhi.

Given that Vallabhai Patel stepped down in the election, Nehru considers him his right hand man. His leadership gives him power over the other ministers and he has the ear of Gandhi. A devout Hindu and a capitalist at heart, he has always been in favor of the partition of India, unlike Nehru.

B.R. Ambedkar: Minister of Law

B.R. Ambedkar is an activist and social reformer who is fighting the caste system. The first untouchable to receive higher education, Ambedkar represents an untouchable who has broken the constraints typically placed upon his people. Right after completing his education he began his fight for social justice and equality. Ambedkar has a reputation of a scholar for research in law, economics, and political science.

B.R. Ambedkar attended Columbia University and the London School of Economics. He worked on campaigns and negotiations for the independence movement and published journals about the rights and freedoms of Dalits. Ambedkar served as the Principal of the Government Law College, and the Chairman of Governing Body of Ramjas College. He founded the Independent Labour party in 1935 and then became India's first Law Minister.

Along with this position Ambedkar became the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee.

He has extreme popularity in the untouchable and minority communities as well as strong influence over the constitution. Ambedkar is considered a controversial figure given his strong opinions that often disagree with Gandhi. This argument was cleared up with the Poona Pact. He has written “The Annihilation of Caste” which mocked Hindu orthodox leaders. All this leaves him in an interesting position of power.

Baldev Singh: Minister of Defense

Baldev Singh is a Sikh political leader part of the Panther Party. He represented the group during the Cripps Mission and believed that India should remain united. Even so, he believed that if the partition were to happen, he wanted to protect the Sikhs from Muslim domination.

Singh directly commands the Indian army, navy and air force and garners the support of the Sikh community. It is important to note, however, that along with the support comes the obligation to protect the small community in a diverse India.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Minister of Education

Born in Saudi Arabia, Azad became the leader of the Khilafat movement (an agitation by Muslims against the British to keep the authority of the head of the Ottoman empire after WW1). He believed in Gandhi’s ideals and lifestyle. Azad served as the President of the INC and was imprisoned for three years during the Quit India rebellion. In 1946, Azad resigned from the presidency and nominated Nehru.

Azad strongly condemns the separation of Muslims and Hindus and therefore is the face of communal harmony in India. He has the support of the remaining Muslim community within India as long as it provides stability for the group. He must work closely with B.R. Ambedkar to layout a fair and effective education system for India that could erase caste and religious boundaries in the future. He has traditionally clashed with Sardar Patel in an effort to protect the interests of Muslims.

Amrit Kaur: Minister of Health

Amrit Kaur attended Oxford University and later joined the INC. She co-founded the All India Women's Conference in 1927, and became its secretary in 1930. She then became its president in 1933. She is also the first woman and Christian to have a cabinet role within any national government of India. Theoretically, Kaur is the head of every medical facility in the country after the government seized control in the scramble after independence.

Kaur has the support of women unafraid to flout cultural norms and Christians, who she has protected in the past. Given that she is the head of the medical facilities, Kaur must work to protect the sick and wounded in a country continuously stifled by violence. She has the ear of Nehru and is popular nationwide for her work.

R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Minister of Finance

R.K. Shanmukham Chetty is an economist who believed in constitutional rather than a confrontational way during the struggle for freedom, preferring legal justification for action rather than bold ideology. Chetty studied Madras Christian College, became Councilor of the

Justice Party, and later the Vice-Chairman of the Coimbatore Municipality. He was also elected to the Madras Legislative Council and to the Central Legislative Assembly.

Chetty's work focuses both on domestic policy and constitutional drafting with Ambedkar. He has aroused nationalistic anger due to his policy positions often favoring working alongside former British overlords instead of against them.

C. Rajagopalachari: Minister of Home Affairs and States

C. Rajagopalachari is a lawyer and activist who was one of the leaders of the INC during the struggle for independence. Rajagopalachari was the chairman of the Salem Municipality and was elected to the Congress Working Committee. He served as the General Secretary of the party. Rajagopalachari was a member of the Civil Disobedience Enquiry Committee and later elected President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee.

C. Rajagopalachari has the entire Indian police force under his power and must work to minimize the loss of lives due to partition and political disturbance inside the country. In addition to maintaining law and order, almost all domestic policy somehow affects his ministry, especially in these times of turmoil.

Jairamdas Daulatram: Minister of Food and Agriculture

Jairamdas Daulatram is a prominent Sindhi whose native land is now in the newly created Pakistan. He has grown in prominence over the years and is one of the foremost leaders of the Indian National Congress. He played a big role during the Non-Cooperation Movement,

Salt Satyagraha and the Quit India movement. He has close ties with Mahatma Gandhi who influenced him into getting more involved with the freedom struggle.

Syama Prasad Mukherjee: Minister of Industries and Supplies

Syama Prasad Mukherjee is a conservative Bengali who was part of Bengal Legislative Council as an INC candidate from Calcutta University. He also became President of Hindu Mahasabha in 1940. He has been a vocal supporter of the partition of Bengal to prevent the inclusion of its Hindu-majority areas in a Muslim-dominated East Pakistan. He was also an extremely vocal opponent of the Quit India Movement. Such decisive positions often make him a controversial figure. His ministry works to encourage the growth of the India economy management of national resources, encouragement of business growth and government policy.

Jagjivan Ram: Minister of Labor

Jagjivan Ram is a leader of the Dalit community and one of the youngest ministers in the cabinet. Given his background, he has often found supporters in the depressed classes of India. His most famous achievement was his work in establishing the All-India Depressed Classes League. Ram has incredible popularity among the Dalits and has contributed immensely to their causes during the freedom struggle. He also has vast knowledge of Bihar because of his work and his nomination to the Bihar Council.

Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Minister of Communications

Rafi Ahmed Kidwai is often described as an Islamic socialist who grew in popularity due to his involvement in the Khilafat Movement. A Minister for Revenue and Prisons in Govind Ballabh Pant's (a popular freedom fighter) cabinet in UP. His was the first state to remove the extremely unpopular *zamindari* system (A system of loaning out land to poor peasants and then charging exorbitant rents through a middle man). Has the ear of Nehru, but must work to maintain the relationship.

C. H. Bhabha: Minister of Commerce

C.H. Bhabha, a Parsi business man, is not very well known and has little experience with politics, working his entire life in business settings. Before joining the government, Bhabha was a director in the Oriental Insurance Company. He was in charge of "Works, Mines and Power" in the interim government, which served as his introduction into the political sphere of the country. He has close relations with Azad, who helped him get a position on the current cabinet.

K. C. Neogy: Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation

K.C. Neogy is from Bengal and has had vast experience as a career administrator. He was the Chairman of the Planning Advisory Board, Indian Railway Enquiry Committee and was also the member of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1920 representing Bengal. Has good relations with the president, Rajendra Prasad. His ministry works to smooth the transition of Indian independence by supporting refugees and those misplaced given the situation. This includes both short term solutions, such as medical services, and longer term ones, such as housing.

Mohanlal Saxena: Minister without portfolio

Currently without a designated portfolio but is on the cabinet due to his vast administrative experience. Saxena, is an author and a politician from Uttar Pradesh. He was a member of the United Provinces Legislative Council and was also a member of the Central Legislative Assembly. Some rumors suggest that he will have a say in the new constitution. Other rumors suggest that he may be kept as a backup in case something happens to one of the other ministers. Regardless, his opinions will matter.

Citations

- <http://www.statueofunity.in/about-sardar-vallabhbhai-patel.html>
- <http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/b-r-ambedkar-3657.php>
- <http://www.sikh-history.com/sikhhist/personalities/sewadars/baldev.html>
- <http://www.mapsofindia.com/who-is-who/history/maulana-abul-kalam.html>
- <http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/maulana-abul-kalam-azad-5282.php>
- <http://www.iloveindia.com/indian-heroes/r-k-shanmukham-chetty.html>
- <http://www.bjp.org/dr-syama-prasad-mookerjee>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/88aug/obrien.html>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/East-India-Company>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/independence1947_01.shtml
- <http://www.susmitkumar.net/index.php/hitler-not-gandhi-was-the-reason-for-the-1947-indian-independence>
- <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/india-and-pakistan-win-independence>
- Lumby, E.W.R. (1954), The Transfer of Power in India, 1945–1947, London: George Allen and Unwin
- <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/army-history-6.htm>