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# CAUSES & CONSEQUENCES OF THE KHILAFAT MOVEMENT

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# INTRODUCTION

- The Khilafat Movement (1919–1924) was one of the most significant religious-political movements in colonial India.
- It emerged after World War I, when the Ottoman Empire faced disintegration and the institution of the Caliphate was under threat.
- For Indian Muslims, the Ottoman Sultan was not just a political ruler but also the **Khalifa (Caliph)** — the spiritual head of Islam.
- The movement aimed to:
  - Protect the institution of the Caliphate.
  - Safeguard the holy places of Islam (Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem).
  - Protest against harsh terms imposed on Turkey by the Treaty of Sèvres (1920).
- Indian Muslims felt betrayed by Britain, which had promised to respect the Caliphate in return for Muslim support during the war.
- The Khilafat issue became a platform for **political mobilization** and **Hindu-Muslim unity**, as Gandhi linked it with his Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Although it eventually failed, the movement awakened Muslims politically and played a key role in shaping their identity and future struggle.



# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **Ottoman Empire & the Caliphate**

- Sultan of Turkey was regarded as *Khalifa* (Caliph), spiritual head of Muslims worldwide.

- **World War I (1914–1918)**

- Ottoman Empire sided with Germany.
- Defeat led to disintegration and threat to abolish Caliphate.

- **Muslims in India:** deeply concerned about fate of Caliphate → religious-political awakening.



# CAUSES OF THE KHILAFAT MOVEMENT

## ▪ **A. Religious & Emotional Causes**

- The caliph was seen as a unifying figure for Muslims.
- Fear that the Caliphate's abolition would weaken Islam.

## ▪ **B. Political Causes**

- Harsh peace terms of the Treaty of Sèvres (1920) imposed on Turkey.
- Demand for protecting holy places of Islam (Mecca, Medina).
- British broken promises during WWI (Muslims supported Britain with the hope of safeguarding the Caliphate).

## ▪ **C. Indian Context**

- Growing political consciousness after Lucknow Pact (1916).
- Muslim leadership (Ali Brothers, Maulana Azad, etc.) saw Khilafat as a platform for unity.

## ▪ **D. Role of Leadership**

- Maulana Muhammad Ali & Shaukat Ali – spearheaded the Khilafat cause.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad – intellectual support.
- Gandhi supported Khilafat as part of Hindu-Muslim unity.



# CONSEQUENCES OF THE KHILAFAT MOVEMENT

- **01. Positive Consequences**

- **Political Awakening among Muslims**

- Brought Muslims into mass politics.
- Deepened political consciousness in rural and urban Muslims.

- **Hindu-Muslim Unity (short-lived)**

- Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement merged with Khilafat.
- Joint struggle against British rule.

- **Strengthening of Nationalist Struggle**

- Mass participation (students, peasants, traders, women).
- Boycott of British goods, titles, and institutions.



# CONSEQUENCES

- **02. Negative Consequences**

- **Failure of the Movement**

- 1924: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk abolished the Caliphate in Turkey.
- Emotional shock to Indian Muslims.

- **Hindu-Muslim Split**

- After withdrawal of Non-Cooperation (due to Chauri Chaura incident, 1922).
- Communal tensions resurfaced.

- **Rise of New Political Trends**

- Strengthened Two-Nation consciousness (Muslims realized their distinct identity & interests).
- Leaders like Jinnah criticized Gandhi's methods.

- **Suffering of Muslims**

- Thousands arrested, economy affected, leadership disillusioned.



# CONCLUSION

- Movement started with **religious cause** but had **political impacts**.
- Despite failure, it left **deep imprint on Muslim political identity** in India.
- It sowed seeds for later demands of **separate homeland (Pakistan Movement)**.



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**Thank you for your time and attention!**

**Hopefully, I will see you in the next class. Until then, take care, & have a great day!**

