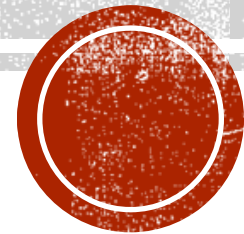


SHIMLA DEPUTATION

1906

Habib Ali



INTRODUCTION

- The Shimla Deputation of 1906 was the first organized effort of Indian Muslims to present their demands to the British rulers collectively.
- The deputation laid the foundation for the **separate political identity** of Muslims in colonial India.
- After the **War of Independence in 1857**, Muslims faced social, political, and economic setbacks.
- **Location:**
 - Shimla, the summer capital of British India.
- **Leaders:**
 - About 35 prominent Muslim leaders under the leadership of **Sir Agha Khan III**.
- 35 Muslim Delegation met **Lord Minto**, the Viceroy of India.



CAUSES OF THE DEPUTATION

- **Hindu dominance in Congress:**
 - Congress demanded representative institutions based on population, which would disadvantage Muslims as a minority.
- **Muslim backwardness:**
 - Muslims lagged behind in education, jobs, and politics.
- **Sir Syed's vision:**
 - His guidance to avoid Congress politics and instead seek British patronage influenced Muslim leadership.
- **Partition of Bengal (1905):**
 - Welcomed by Muslims but strongly opposed by Hindus, it revealed the widening gap between the two communities.
- **Need for representation:**
 - Muslims wanted safeguards in upcoming constitutional reforms promised by the British.



DEMANDS OF THE DEPUTATION

- **Separate Electorates:**
 - Muslims should vote only for Muslim candidates.
- **Adequate Representation:**
 - Proportionate seats in councils, services, and administration.
- **Protection of Interests:**
 - Safeguards for Muslim educational, cultural, and political identity.
- **Recognition of Muslims as a separate community:**
 - Muslims should be treated as a political entity distinct from Hindus.



OUTCOMES

- Lord Minto accepted the demands sympathetically, calling them "reasonable."
- The deputation paved the way for the **1909 Morley-Minto Reforms**, which introduced **separate electorates** for Muslims.
- Encouraged Muslims to form a **separate political organization**, leading to the establishment of the **All India Muslim League (December 1906, Dhaka)**.



SIGNIFICANCE

- Marked the **formal entry of Muslims** into politics as a separate community.
- First step towards **Muslim nationhood**.
- Created political consciousness among Muslims.
- Strengthened Muslim trust in the British government compared to Hindus.
- Laid the foundation for the **Two-Nation Theory** and ultimately the **Pakistan Movement**.



CONCLUSION

- The Shimla Deputation was a **turning point** in Muslim politics.
- It not only secured constitutional recognition for Muslims but also set the stage for the creation of the **All India Muslim League** and the eventual struggle for **Pakistan**.



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