

# Nationalism in subcontinent The ideology of Pakistan

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# **Introduction – Understanding Muslim Nationalism**

- **Definition of Nationalism:**
- A political ideology centered around the interests, culture, language, and identity of a specific nation or group.
- **Muslim Nationalism:**
- The idea that Muslims in the Indian Subcontinent are a distinct nation due to their unique religion, culture, and historical legacy.
- Emerged as a response to the dominance of Hindu majority and British colonial policies.
- **Importance:**
- Played a pivotal role in the creation of Pakistan in 1947.
- Influenced political thought, identity, and state formation in South Asia.

# 1. Background: 1857 and the Decline of Muslim Power

- The 1857 War of Independence marked a sharp decline for Muslims in India. The British blamed them for initiating the revolt, especially due to the symbolic leadership of the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar. After the failure of the rebellion, Muslims faced:
- Loss of political influence
- Targeted repression by the British
- Economic decline and exclusion from civil services
- This led to a growing sense of marginalization and identity crisis among Indian Muslims

# Rise of Muslim Nationalism through the Aligarh Movement

- Sir Syed Ahmad Khan responded to the post-1857 Muslim decline by launching the Aligarh Movement, aiming to modernize Muslim society through:
- Modern education: Founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College (1875) → later became Aligarh Muslim University (1920)
- Promoting Urdu language and reformist ideas
- Encouraging loyalty to the British to secure Muslim interests
- Advocating for political separatism from Indian National Congress
- The movement laid the foundation for Muslim political identity and gave rise to a new educated Muslim middle class.

# Formation of the All-India Muslim League (1906)

- Created in Dhaka to safeguard Muslim political rights
- Emerged from the intellectual environment of Aligarh and Muslim Educational Conferences
- Pushed for separate electorates and representation for Muslims
- Became the primary political platform for Muslim nationalism

# **Key Ideologies: Allama Iqbal & Muhammad Ali Jinnah**

- Allama Iqbal (1930 Allahabad Address): Proposed a separate Muslim state in northwest India; emphasized Islam as a complete way of life.
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah: Former Congress leader who became the leader of the Muslim League; demanded Pakistan through the Lahore Resolution (1940).
- Their vision was based on the Two-Nation Theory, arguing that Hindus and Muslims were distinct nations, and Muslims required a separate homeland.

# Toward Partition: Muslim Nationalism Triumphs

- Key events that pushed Muslim nationalism toward statehood:
- 1937 Elections: Congress refused to share power, alienating Muslims
- 1940 Lahore Resolution: Official call for separate Muslim states
- 1946 Direct Action Day: Communal violence escalated
- 1947 Partition of India: Muslim League succeeded in its demand for Pakistan

# Legacy of Muslim Nationalism

- Led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947
- Shaped the ideological foundation of Pakistan as an Islamic republic
- Left lasting impacts on India-Pakistan relations and South Asian politics
- Sparked debate: Was it identity protection or political division?

# Summary

- Phase
  - 1857 Aftermath
  - 1875–1906
  - 1906
  - 1930–1940
  - 1947
- |                | Key Development                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1857 Aftermath | Decline of Muslim power           |
| 1875–1906      | Aligarh Movement reforms          |
| 1906           | Formation of Muslim League        |
| 1930–1940      | Iqbal's vision, Lahore Resolution |
| 1947           | Creation of Pakistan              |

# Conclusion

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# Conclusion

- Muslim nationalism in the Indian Subcontinent was not a sudden movement, but the result of a gradual awakening among Muslims following their decline after the 1857 War of Independence. The Aligarh Movement, led by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, played a crucial role in reshaping Muslim identity through modern education, social reform, and political awareness.
- Over time, this identity evolved into a political ideology — shaped by thinkers like Allama Iqbal and actualized by leaders like Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The Two-Nation Theory became the ideological foundation of Muslim nationalism, asserting that Muslims were a separate nation deserving of their own state.

- The culmination of this process was the creation of Pakistan in 1947, altering the political map of South Asia. While it successfully established a homeland for Muslims, it also left behind complex legacies — including partition violence, communal tensions, and debates about nationalism, identity, and secularism in both Pakistan and India.
- In essence, Muslim nationalism was both a response to marginalization and a vision for political self-determination, which reshaped the history and geopolitics of the entire region.