



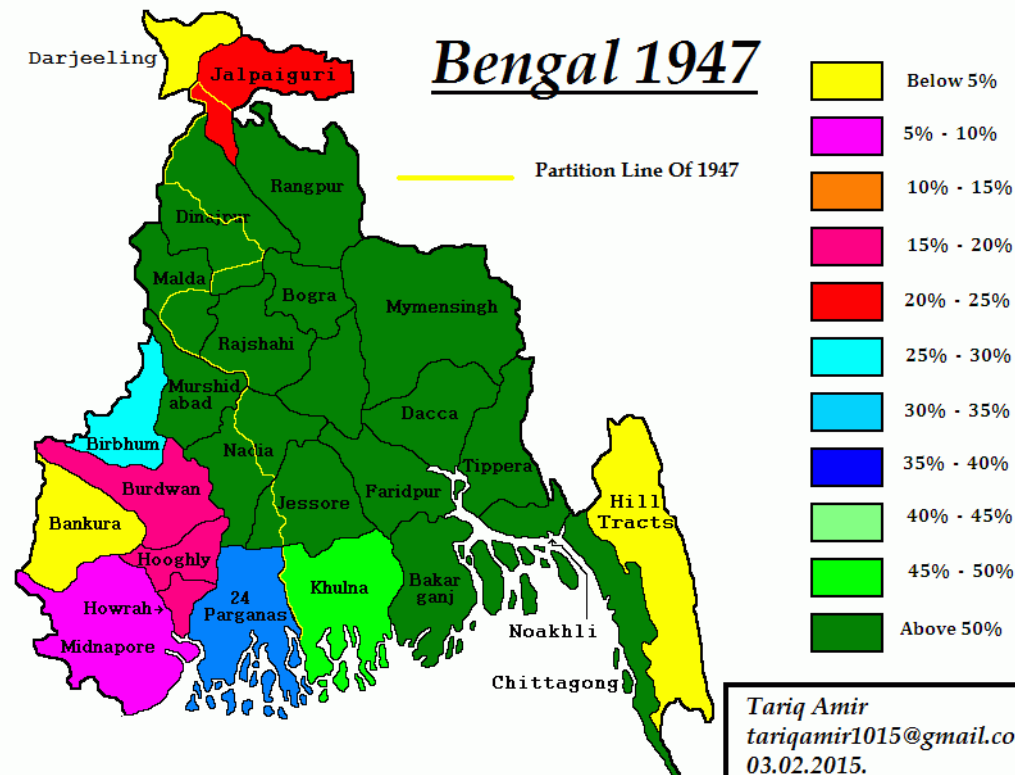
PARTITION OF BENGAL, 1947

THE KEY EVENT IN PARTITION OF INDIA ON THE BASIS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY



BENGAL IN 1947

Bengal				
	Districts	Total Population	Muslim Population	Muslim %
01	Burdwan	1,890,732	336,665	17.81
02	Birbhum	1,048,317	287,310	27.41
03	Bankura	1,289,640	55,564	4.31
04	Midnapur	3,190,647	246,559	7.73
05	Hooghly	1,377,729	207,077	15.03
06	Howrah	1,490,304	296,325	19.88
07	24 - Parganas	3,536,386	1,148,180	32.47
08	Calcutta	2,108,891	497,535	23.59
09	Nadia	1,759,846	1,078,007	61.26
10	Murshidabad	1,640,530	927,747	56.55
11	Jessore	1,828,216	1,100,713	60.21
12	Khulna	1,943,218	959,172	49.36
13	Rajshahi	1,571,750	1,173,285	74.65
14	Dinajpur	1,926,833	967,246	50.20
15	Jalpaiguri	1,089,513	251,460	23.08
16	Darjeeling	376,369	9,125	2.42
17	Rangpur	2,877,847	2,055,186	71.41
18	Bogra	1,260,463	1,057,902	83.93
19	Pabna	1,705,072	1,313,968	77.06
20	Malda	1,232,618	699,945	56.79
21	Dacca	4,222,143	2,841,261	67.29
22	Mymensingh	6,023,758	4,664,548	77.44
23	Faridpur	2,888,803	1,871,336	64.78
24	Bakarganj	3,549,010	2,567,027	72.33
25	Tippera	3,860,139	2,975,901	77.09
26	Noakhli	2,217,402	1,803,937	81.35
27	Chittagong	2,153,296	1,605,183	74.55
28	Chittagong Hills	247,053	7,270	2.94
Total		60,306,525	33,005,434	54.73



HISTORY



How the Bengal Province of Indian Sub-Continent partitioned under British Rule

1905
Bengal
Partition

1911
Annulment
of Bengal
Partition

1947
Partition
of
Bengal



LEADING FINDINGS



- Bengal Partition, both at 1905 and 1947, was fueled by religious difference among Bengalis.
- The Bengal Hindu Leaders, opposed the Bengal Partition in 1905 and brought about its annulment in 1911, demanded the partition of Bengal in 1947.
- The Muslims welcomed the partition of Bengal in 1905, and they ended up opposing the partition of Bengal in 1947.

ORIGIN OF BENGAL NATIONALISM AND EVOLUTION

- The basis was laid down during the rule of **independent Sultans of Bengal**.
- The Hindu-Muslim conflict during British rule gave rise to Indian nationalism and Indian Muslim nationalism.
- Bengali Hindus opted for distinct Bengal recognition besides nurturing **Indian nationalism**.

INDIAN MUSLIM NATIONALISM

- Bengali nationalism faced crisis after the partition of Bengal in 1905 and the following events.
- The rise of *Indian Muslim nationalism* in Bengal.
- A defense for Bengal nationalism.
- The idea of maintaining the independent status and the national distinctiveness of the Bengalis within the framework of Greater India.

BENGAL PACT, 1923

- Swaraj Party formed by C.R. Das to preserve the interest of Bengal nation.
- C.R. Das, Fazlul Haq and H.S. Suhrawardy entered into an agreement to settle Hindu Muslim problem in Bengal.
- To preserve the Bengal nationalist identity in all India context.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN BENGAL

- Provincial autonomy in Bengal introduced in 1937
- The political supremacy of the Muslim majority was established in Bengal.
- Abolition of Zamindari system by Fazlul Haq ministry.
- Influenced the Hindu leaders to confide in Indian nationalism instead of Bengal identity.

DEMAND OF PARTITION- BENGAL AND INDIA

- Bengal leaders leaned to Muslim nationalism to defend Bengal nationalism.
- In 1940, they demanded the Partition of India, to let Bengal form an independent sovereign state
- Hindu leaders demanded the partition of Bengal in 1947, to counteract the Division of India.

CONGRESS STRATEGY

- The **Cabinet Mission** argued with Jinnah on 16 April, 1946, that **consistent demand for Pakistan** would not allow its claim to Non-Muslim territories in consequence.
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- The **communal riot in Punjab**(March, 1947), accelerated the demand for the partition of the Punjab.
- Political strategy to counteract League's demand of Pakistan, with the partition of Bengal and Punjab, with the **stronger center remaining under control of congress**.

CONGRESS AS HINDU ORGANIZATION

- Congress put forward in press conferences and interviews to support partition of Punjab into two provinces and the same fate for Bengal on the rise of communal riots.
- This exposed the **Congress as the Hindu organization**, looking forward to saving the interest of the Hindu population of India.
- This in turn proved their subtle support for **division of India on communal basis**, the League's demand.

MOUNTBATTEN'S STRATEGY

- The resolution put forward by Congress was used by Mountbatten to convince them to accept the demand of partition of India.
- He infused the Hindu nationalism and favoritism in Congress leaders minds.
- Congress High Command (Nehru, Gandhi and Patel) accepted the proposal, with a view to weaken Pakistan demand and they asked for partition of Bengal and Punjab.
- Jinnah initially declined the proposal, but later on he couldn't compromise with the undivided India proposal and accepted the partition proposal.

RESPONSE OF BENGALI HINDUS

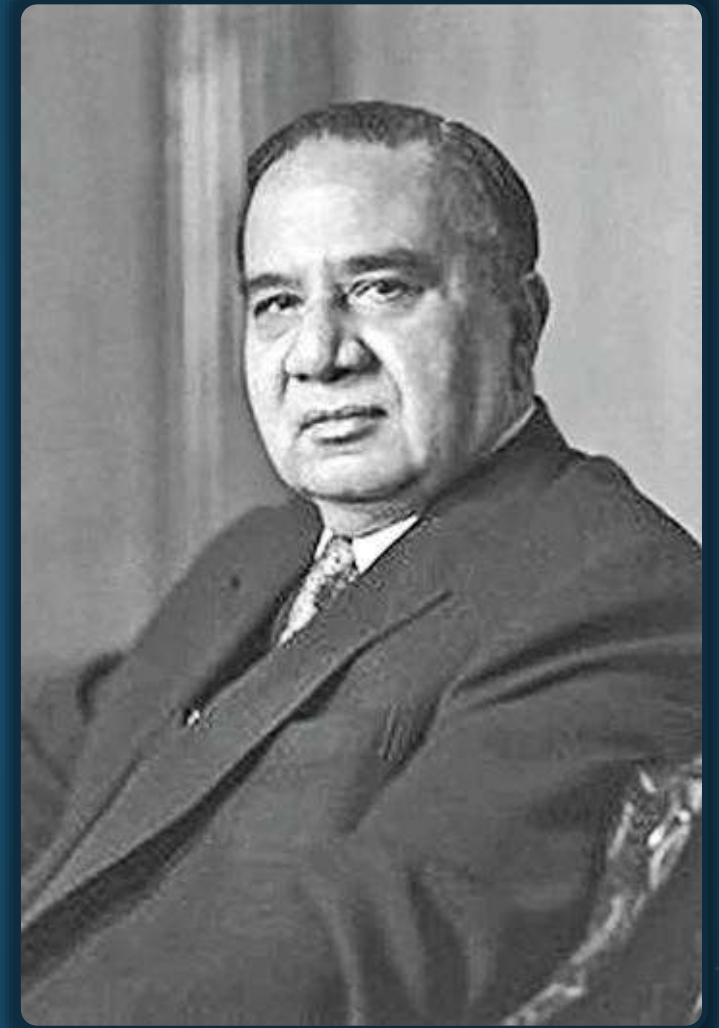
- Lead by Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee and his Hindu Mahasabhaite followers of Bengal.
- Congress leaders of West Bengal **supported** for partition.
- Congress leaders of East Bengal **apprehended the decision non-executable** on the long run.
- Hindu Mahashava was all **supportive** for Bengal partition for Hindu majority territory into a separate province.
- *Sarat Chandra Bose*, opposed to the move of Partition of Bengal.

MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENT BENGAL

- Muslim leaders of Bengal **opposed** the partition of Bengal on communal basis.
- **Autonomous Bengal** within the framework of Pakistan.
- Alternative scheme- a sovereign and independent Bengal state.
- **H.S. Suhrawardy, Abul Hashim and Sarat Chandra Bose** were the torch bearers in the scheme, to avoid joining either Pakistan or Hindustan, retain the Greater Bengal.

HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY

The pivotal leader who foresighted united Bengal.



ROLE OF H.S. SUHRAWARDY

- On 17 March, 1947, H.S. Suhrawardy said in a meeting that Pakistan was inevitable to come and Bengal would be a undivided part of it.
- On the verge of **inevitable partition of Bengal** by the demand of Hindu leaders, he adopted the scheme of a **sovereign, independent Bengal**.
- He pleaded the possibility of a prosperous Greater united Bengal and deprecated the demand of Hindu Mahashava for partition of Bengal.
- Met with Congress leader Gandhi and League leader Jinnah with the plead of united Bengal.

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT – GREATER BENGAL SCHEME

- Mr C.R. Das's formula
- Deprecation of Lahore Resolution
- Muslim league will hold the Government of Bengal Office.
- Bengal **shall not join** Pakistan or Hindustan.
- Seats for the Muslims, Hindus and the scheduled castes and other minorities shall be fixed according to their population ratios.
- **Central Bengal, Eastern zone and Western Zone**

CONGRESS OPPOSITION

- Congress High Command opposed the move of United Bengal – Sarat Bose's approach was declined
- He denounced **the 3rd June plan** – Partition of India, along with partition of Bengal and Punjab.
- The members of the Bengal legislative assembly got no option to express their minds other than the choice is limited to Hindustan and Pakistan.

LEAGUE'S OPPOSITION

- Maulana Akram Khan disapproved the idea of united Bengal.
- No plan except in consonance with Lahore Resolution would be accepted.
- Bengal provincial Muslim league working committee didn't support the greater Bengal scheme.
- Rejected by both provincial committee and League's high command.

FINAL DAYS

- Congress high command accepted 3rd June Plan.
- Jinnah gave assurance of acceptance of this plan by Muslim League.
- Suhrawardy accepted the verdict of the Muslim League council.

“

The agony is over. Independent sovereign Bengal has been stabbed in the back and Bengal will soon be partitioned. —.

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H.S. Suhrawardy

