

GEmergence of Bangladesh (1971)



THE PARTITION OF BENGAL, EAST
BENGAL, THE EMERGENCE OF
BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR
RAHMAN, TO THE BANGLADESH
LIBERATION WAR (1945 – 1971)

The Partition of Bengal (1946-47)



- THE ROAD TO PARTITION (1946-1947)
 - THE CABINET MISSION
 - A THREE TIER PLAN
- JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S OBJECTIONS AFTER SEEMINGLY AGREEING TO THE PLAN NOW TRIGGERS A NEW PHASE
- AUGUST 1946: THE CALCUTTA COMMUNAL RIOTS
- OCTOBER 1946: NOAKHALI COMMUNAL RIOTS
- OCTOBER 1946: BIHAR COMMUNAL RIOTS
- MARCH 1947: PUNJAB COMMUNAL RIOTS
- APRIL 1947: HINDU MAHASABHA CALLS FOR PARTITION OF BENGAL

The Partition of Bengal (1946-47)



- 20 JUNE, 1946: BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY VOTES FOR PARTITION OF BENGAL
 - MUSLIM MLAs VOTE SEPARATELY FOR PAKISTAN
 - HINDU MLAs VOTE SEPARATELY FOR INDIA
 - RADCLIFFE BOUNDARY COMMISSION
- NO POPULAR REFERENDUM
- ONLY KOLKATA AND NOAKHALI HAD SEEN COMMUNAL VIOLENCE
- RANGPUR/DINAJPUR/MYMENSINGH; HINDU AND MUSLIM FARMERS/PEASANTS HAD OPPOSED PARTITION

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East Bengal, the emergence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman & the road to the Liberation War (1947 – 1971)



- FEBRUARY – MARCH 1948: IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF CONTENTION
 - LANGUAGE
- JINNAH DECLARES THAT 'URDU' SHOULD BE LANGUAGE OF PAKISTAN
- EAST BENGALIS CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY POPULATION BUT THIS IS IGNORED
- INCREASINGLY BECOMING CLEAR THAT A NEW DISCRIMINATORY WAVE IS FORMING AND THAT THE ISSUE OF LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR EAST BENGALIS

East Bengal, the emergence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman & the road to the Liberation War (1947 – 1971)



- EAST PAKISTAN STUDENTS' LEAGUE: FORMED BY SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN AT DHAKA UNIVERSITY
- TEACHERS, STUDENTS, INTELLECTUALS AND PROGRESSIVES JOIN HANDS TO TAKE DEMAND ONTO THE STREETS
 - SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN LEADS THE PROTESTS AND IS ARRESTED
 - MARCH 1948: JINNAH VISITS DHAKA, DEMANDS THAT URDU BECOME THE 'NATIONAL' LANGUAGE OF PAKISTAN
- 54% OF POPULATION IS BENGALI-SPEAKING!

East Bengal, the emergence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman & the road to the Liberation War (1947 – 1971)



➤ LANGUAGE GROUPS IN PAKISTAN AS PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION (1951)

- BENGALI – 54.6%
- PUNJABI – 28.4%
- PUSHTO – 7.1%
- URDU – 7.2%
- SINDHI – 5.8%
- ENGLISH – 1.8%

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- 1950: COMMUNAL RIOTS IN EAST BENGAL
AGAINST HINDUS
- INSTIGATED BY PUNJABI (WEST PAKISTAN)
OFFICIALS IN EAST BENGAL
- SEEN AS A TACTIC TO REDUCE BENGALI-
SPEAKING POPULATION OF EAST BENGAL
- COMMUNAL RIOTS IN WEST BENGAL AGAINST
MUSLIMS
- LEADS TO ARRIVAL OF NON-BENGALI MUSLIMS
IN EAST BENGAL

23 JUNE 1949: AWAMI MUSLIM LEAGUE
FORMED WITH SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN AS
JOINT SECRETARY

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- THERE WAS A GROWING REALIZATION THAT AS UNDER THE BRITISH RAJ THERE WAS NOW DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BENGALIS
- PRACTICED BY THE PUNJAB ELITES WHO CONTROLLED THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
- QUESTION OF THE SALE OF JUTE FROM EAST BENGAL TO WEST BENGAL BLOCKED BY OFFICIALS
- INCREASING ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION OF EAST BENGAL AND EAST BENGALI RESOURCES
- A NEW COLONIALISM INSTITUTED BY WEST PAKISTAN
- ISLAM IN REALITY NOT A BINDING FORCE AFTER ALL BETWEEN EAST BENGAL AND WEST PAKISTAN

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- 21 FEBRUARY 1952: MOVEMENT FOR THE DEMAND OF BENGALI AS STATE LANGUAGE REACHES CRITICAL MASS
- DURING MASS DEMONSTRATIONS FIVE MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE KILLED
- SHAFIUR, JABBAR, BARKAT, RAFIQUE AND ABDUL SALAM
- STUDENTS BUILD A *SHAHEED MINAR* (MARTYR'S COLUMN) TO HONOUR BARKAT
- THE UNITED NATIONS WILL EVENTUALLY ADOPT 21 FEBRUARY AS 'UNIVERSAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY'

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- THE MUSLIM LEAGUE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF EAST BENGAL HAS BEEN DISCREDITED
- A UNITED OPPOSITION FORMS; COMPOSED OF THE AWAMI MUSLIM LEAGUE (THE TERM 'MUSLIM' IS DROPPED IN 1955), THE K.S.P. OF AK FAZLUL HUQ
 - OTHER PARTIES
- THE U.F. OPPOSITION OVERWHELMINGLY WINS THE PROVINCIAL EAST BENGAL ELECTIONS IN 1954
- HOWEVER, THE GOVERNOR OF EAST BENGAL DISSOLVES THE GOVERNMENT

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- 'ONE UNIT' CONTROVERSY; GROUP ALL PROVINCES OF WEST PAKISTAN INTO ONE, THEREBY DENY EAST BENGAL HER WEIGHTAGE IN POPULATION
- INCREASING ANGER AT DISCOURAGING THE CELEBRATION OF THE BENGALI NEW YEAR
- THE CELEBRATION OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
- AT MEETING OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN CONDEMNS THE ASSOCIATION OF 'BENGAL' AND 'BANGLADESH' WITH SEDITION AS CHARACTERIZED BY THE WEST PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

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- BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN
- BORN IN 1920, TUNGIPARA (PRESENT-DAY
GOPALGANJ DISTRICT)
 - GOPALGANJ MISSION SCHOOL
 - ISLAMIA COLLEGE (CALCUTTA)
- JOINS THE ALL-INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF H.S. SUHRWARDY
- ENROLLED IN DHAKA UNIVERSITY POST-1947
 - BECOMES INVOLVED IN THE LANGUAGE
MOVEMENT AND THE AGITATION FOR THE
RIGHTS OF DHAKA UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

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- 1955-1957: GOVERNOR'S RULE REVOKED
 - DIFFERENCES EMERGE BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE AWAMI LEAGUE BETWEEN H.S. SUHRAWARDY AND M. BHASHANI
- THE AWAMI LEAGUE SPLITS; THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY OF M. BHASHANI EMERGES
- REGARDLESS, THE AWAMI LEAGUE, THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY WERE ON THE SAME PAGE AS TO INCREASING DEMANDS FOR REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR EAST BENGAL

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- MARCH 1956: THE CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN IS PROMULGATED
- CONCEDES BENGALI AS ONE OF THE STATE LANGUAGES BUT ALSO CHANGES THE NAME OF EAST BENGAL TO 'EAST PAKISTAN'.
- 25 AUGUST, 1955: "THEY WANT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF EAST BENGAL INTO EAST PAKISTAN. WE HAVE ALWAYS DEMANDED THAT THE NAME 'BENGAL' BE USED. THERE IS A HISTORY BEHIND BENGAL. THERE IS A TRADITION, A HERITAGE. IF THIS NAME IS TO BE CHANGED WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO BENGAL AND ASK THE PEOPLE OF BENGAL WHETHER THEY ARE READY TO HAVE THEIR IDENTITY CHANGED."

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- 7 OCTOBER, 1958: PAKISTAN PRESIDENT ISKANDER MIRZA CANCELS THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARES MARTIAL LAW
- CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IS NOW DEAD
- AYUB KHAN, A GENERAL, EVENTUALLY TAKES OVER AS DICTATOR UNDER THE GUISE OF "BASIC LAW DEMOCRACY"
- THERE ARE BANS ON PUBLIC MEETINGS, PROCESSIONS
- H.S. SUHRAWARDY & SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN HOLD MASS MEETINGS ACROSS EAST BENGAL
- SUHRAWARDY IS FORCED INTO EXILE; AND PASSES AWAY IN LEBANON

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- 1964: COMMUNAL RIOTS INSTIGATED BY WEST PAKISTAN OFFICIALS
- SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN COORDINATES AN ALL-PARTY COUNCIL TO RESIST COMMUNAL RIOTING AND TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITY OF HINDUS AND MUSLIMS IN EAST BENGAL
- HE IS ARRESTED AGAIN FOR 'SEDITION' FOR A YEAR
- AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1965: WAR BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND REPUBLIC OF INDIA; FOUGHT ENTIRELY ON WEST PAKISTAN – INDIA BORDER

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- THERE IS ONLY ONE UNDER-STRENGTH, ILL-EQUIPPED DIVISION LEFT TO GUARD EAST PAKISTAN
- THERE IS ANGER ACROSS EAST BENGAL, EVEN 'PRO-PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT' ELEMENTS NOTICE THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS EAST BENGAL
- ALSO, INDIA DOES NOT LAUNCH ANY ATTACKS INTO EAST BENGAL

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- THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF
EAST BENGAL AND FLOW OF ITS RESOURCES
TO WEST PAKISTAN
- 5 FEBRUARY 1966: PRESENTATION OF THE
SIX-POINT DEMAND TO OPPOSITION PARTIES
 - BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE
- 1 MARCH, 1966: ELECTED PRESIDENT OF
THE AWAMI LEAGUE
- THE AGARTALA CONSPIRACY CASE (1968)
 - TRIAL LEADS TO SPONTANEOUS MASS
DEMONSTRATIONS
- FEBRUARY 1969: SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN
ACCLAIMED AS 'BANGABANDHU' AFTER
RELEASE IN FRONT OF OVER A MILLION
PEOPLE

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- FEB-MARCH 1969: AYUB REFUSES TO CONSIDER THE 6-POINT DEMANDS, INCLUDING FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES
 - REPRESENTATION BASED ON POPULATION
- MARCH 1969: AYUB RELINQUISHES POWER
- YAHYA KHAN IS NEW MILITARY DICTATOR
 - PROMISE OF NEW ELECTIONS
- DECEMBER 1969: BANGABANDHU ANNOUNCES THAT 'BANGLADESH' SHOULD BE USED INSTEAD OF 'EAST PAKISTAN'

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- NOVEMBER 1970; CYCLONE IN EAST BENGAL LEAVES NEARLY A MILLION PEOPLE DEAD
- WEST PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR VERY SLOW RESPONSE IN TERMS OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
- 7 DECEMBER, 1970: ELECTIONS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
- AWAMI LEAGUE WINS 151/153 OF SEATS FROM EAST PAKISTAN
- 268/279 OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SEATS
 - A MAJORITY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
- JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1971; TALKS BETWEEN AWAMI LEAGUE, YAHYA AND PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

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- 1 MARCH, 1971: REINSTATEMENT OF MARTIAL LAW
 - 7 MARCH SPEECH BY BANGABANDHU
- 8 MARCH: NON – COOPERATION LAUNCHED
- 15 – 25 MARCH: MILITARY UNITS FROM WEST PAKISTAN ARRIVE IN EAST BENGAL
- 25 MARCH: YAHYA KHAN UNEXPECTEDLY LEAVES DHAKA
- FULL-SCALE WAR IS DECLARED ON THE PEOPLE OF EAST BENGAL OVERNIGHT 25/26 MARCH WITH ATTACKS ON DHAKA UNIVERSITY

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- BANGABANDHU DECLARES THE INDEPENDENCE OF EAST BENGAL AS THE "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH"; CALLS ON PEOPLE TO FIGHT FOR LIBERATION
- BANGABANDHU ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO PAKISTAN
- APRIL 1971; PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED
- APRIL, 1971: BENGALI DIPLOMAT IN UNITED STATES DEFECTS TO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
- MARCH-MAY, 1971: BENGALI DIPLOMATS IN REPUBLIC OF INDIA DEFECT TO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

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- PAKISTAN ARMY ENGAGES IN GENOCIDAL WARFARE AGAINST BENGALI PEOPLE
 - BACKED BY LOCAL COLLABORATORS
- LIBERATION WAR RAGES, MARCH – APRIL 1971
- MILLIONS SEEK REFUGE IN NEIGHBOURING REPUBLIC OF INDIA
 - INDIAN GOVERNMENT BECOMES INVOLVED
 - MRS. INDIRA GANDHI EMBARKS ON INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION

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- 'MUKTI BAHINI' – FREEDOM FIGHTER UNITS TRAINED AND SHELTERED IN INDIA START TO RETURN HOME TO ENGAGE PAKISTAN ARMY
 - THE SECTOR COMMANDS
- THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR
 - SOVIET SUPPORT FOR INDIA AND BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR
- DECEMBER, 1971 PAKISTAN TRIES TO PREEMPTIVELY STRIKE INDIA
- INDIA-PAKISTAN WAR BREAKS OUT;
- INDIA- MUKTI BAHINI FORCES LAUNCH ATTACK ON STRATEGIC POINTS IN BANGLADESH

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- MURDER OF INTELLECTUALS BEFORE
SURRENDER BY PAKISTAN MILITARY &
COLLABORATORS
- 16 DECEMBER, 1971: LIBERATION OF
DHAKA, ESTABLISHMENT OF BANGLADESH
- JANUARY 1972; RETURN OF BANGABANDHU