

Communalism to a highly significant extent was the cause of the Partition of India in 1947. It's rise in the 30's and 40's was due to the ignorance and arrogance of the Hindu Congress towards the All India Muslim League, and the Muslim League's distrust of Congress and subsequent pursuit of Pakistan. The two communities lack of compromise meant that if any development in India was to occur, it was to be accompanied with partition.

The 1937 elections resulted in the communalism which would partition India. Congress had swept 70% of the vote and set up governments in most provinces. The Muslim League however hadn't

failed as well but did win seats in areas such as United Provinces.

Congress had refused to share power with the League, they adopted a policy so that only Muslims who joined the Hindu dominated Congress or were independents could join in potential coalition governments. They were in effect smothering the League before it gained strength.

This led Jinnah to either submit to Congress or pursue a communal line. Jinnah's tactical pursuit of this line created a deep division between Hindus and Muslims.

In order to gain support Jinnah adopted the religious cry of "Islam in danger." He also played up alleged incidents such as music being played outside

of Mosques and the Congress congress in its governments in provinces to stir up mass Muslim support. It worked. Walpert states "Once that seed of distrust was planted nothing could dislodge it... Jinnah could now turn his League into a body powerful enough to tear the subcontinent apart." This effectively shows how the communal tensions created in the 1937 elections would lead to the partition of India.

The effects of World War II would also ensure that communalism ~~was~~ divided India. This is because WWII allowed the League to gain significant power and more effectively cement the divide

between Hindus and Muslims.

The "Day of Deliverance" was significant as it created a political vacuum which the League could take advantage of. The League went in the opposite direction of Congress and supported the British, whilst Congress was against the British for putting them into the war without their consultation.

The support of the British paid dividends for the League as the British now recognised them and ensured that they wouldn't be bypassed in future discussions.

Cripps Mission of 1942 added to the communal division, as it stated that states not wanting to be part of new federation could "opt out." This led Jinnah and the League to continue the pursuit

of Pakistan, which was established in the 1940 Lahore Resolution. Wolpert states that "Cripps was a blow to the concept of Indian unity, an apple of discord likely to generate growing trouble." From this point onwards, the communal division now recognised by Britain would make the Muslim League uncompromising in its pursuit of Pakistan. Congress had been equally uncompromising with the Cripps mission, felt the British had given unsuitable power to a minority which could veto any developments in Indian independence.

This was true, from Cripps onwards the League had the power and did veto proposals which didn't coincide with the Muslim ambitions.

This meant that if India was to gain independence, partition would be necessary in order to achieve it.

As the British were equally eager to hand over independence, due to India no longer being an economic asset and the appointment of new Labour Government who were "ideologically inclined to grant independence to India"; their attempts to reposition the Muslim stance on Pakistan were weak, due to their desire to leave.

The British too had an effect in creating and cementing the communal division which would cause partition. Historian Maseelos suggests that the British had used

divide and conquer tactics in WWII in order to delay or deny independence. However true, this division the helped to create meant their attempts to reverse it in the future were futile.

The communal division between Congress and Muslim League meant proposals and missions by British continually failed. The non-agreement at Simla stopped the imminent independence of India, thus revealing the need for Partition. They had disagreed because Jinnah claimed only Muslim League members could represent Muslim members of the Council, Azad could not because he was a "show case Muslim." Congress refused this because it would concede that they didn't represent all of India.

The interim government established on September 2nd further proved the need for partition. The League's use of non-cooperation tactics in the finance cabinet (by Khan) was an opportunity used to show the two different communities in India could never work together.

The 1946 elections had also proved the definite division, as there was a polarisation of votes. Muslims had voted for the League, whilst Hindus had voted for Congress.

The failure of the 1946 Cabinet Mission motivated Jinnah to call on "Direct Action Day" in September 1946. The massive violence caused by the riots further showed the



communal tensions. It revealed to the British that partition was needed in order to stem civil war between the Hindus of India and the Muslims of India. Thus the communal tensions brought about the partition of India.

In Conclusion, Communalism in the 30's and 40's to a significantly large extent ensured the partition of India in 1947. The League's uncompromising stance on the nation of Pakistan meant they would stop at nothing to achieve it. The fear of a Hindu Raj and the tactics used by the League to enhance the fear would lead to a mass Muslim support for

Pakistan. The distrust between the Hindus and Muslims, created by the Hindu Congress' cronyism meant Muslims would obstruct any future proposal for an independent India which didn't give Muslims their own state. In conjunction with the violent rioting between the two communities, it's evident that the communal tensions ensured the partition of India.