

# Interlink Between Communal Unrest, Partition and Border Area Crisis of the 1947 Indo-Pak Partition

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**Abstract:** *The infamous partition of 1947 between India and Pakistan brought several anomalies between the two nations of India and Pakistan. The partition brought communal unrest between these two nations along with the border area crisis. The partition that took place in the year 1947, exactly at the dawn of Indian independence had been a crucial aspect in the history of the nation because many a lives had been lost due to several battles and attacks on the both side of the nation. The previously one nation unity came to an end after the independence when the Muslim community demanded for a separate country of their own. In those days, community hatred between two religions, namely Hinduism and Muslim, was in peak collision which resulted in many deaths. It needed to be mentioned that partition of 1905 was also significant for the 1947 partition. After the partition East Bengal became one of the five provinces of Pakistan. But the significant that arose at that time was the border area crisis and communal unrest, and all these had links with the partition scenario of 1947. Interlinks, between these three aspect becomes much more crucial for the understanding of the totality of the scenario.*

**Keywords:** unrest, community contradictions, controversies, bloodshed, uncertainty over boundary, disagreement

## 1. Introduction

Partition is a particular kind of separation where one combined part gets divided into two halves. Such particular phenomenon came across India in the year 1947 when India was divided into two parts, the major part became the Republic of India and the other part that separated from the mainland came to be known as Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The partition of India was eminent and was knocking at the door since the **Sepoy Mutiny in 1857**. During the mutiny it was eminent that, Hindu soldiers had a different perspective over the Muslim soldiers. There was a particular hatred between the two religious communities as their ideals were different. The **Muslim League** was also responsible for the partition. Thus it was a fact that the communal anomalous feelings between this two nations proved to be the reason behind such a particular event in the eve of India's independence in the month of August 1947, just after the independence of India from the Britishers. However, it needed to be mentioned that, the British rule was also responsible for steering in the hatred between this two communities living in India. The brotherhood between these two nations however was also significant in earning India its independence. But after the complete freedom in India's administration in 1947, resulted in a auspicious demand of the Muslim communities to provide them a particular piece of land of their own. But the partition did not come without bloodshed. Many a people died because of the communal unrest and uncertainty over the particular territories and land possession. As there was no set parameter to demarcate the boundaries of these two nations, there was unsettlement. As a consequence of such a condition, both the community members exchanged tremendous amount of hatred and outrages against each other. In those initial phases of partition almost two million people died because of the communal unrest.

This article intends to bring forward such issues regarding Partition in 1947. This article intends to highlight the key issues behind partition after the independence of India. This

article would also point out certain contradictions between Hindus and Muslims. The article would also discuss about the peculiarities of Partition and the difficulties that those people faced for certain breakdown in relation after the independence of India in the year 1947. The present article would focus on the intervention of the Britishers to bring about the partition between these two nations. The article would also through light on the key aspects of communal riots and uneasiness between the community members of the nation of India and Pakistan. However, the key argument of the article would be to highlight the interconnected nature of Partition, communal unrest and boundary crisis between India and newly formed country of Pakistan.

It had been noted that since the arrival of the Moghul Empire into India. Muslims became a prominent religious community in India. However, with the turn of time, Muslims became less powerful after the fall of Moghul Empire. The rise of British administration all over India subdued the dominance of the Muslim communities and established a Christian rule over India. But as the time went along, the Britishers witnessed the existence of two prominent religious communities in India at that time was Hinduism and Muslim. The English policy of divide and rule also started to be exercised soon after their introduction to power and authority over India. The British Empire injected hatred between these two religious communities in India. In fact they were the chief executer of hatred in these communities. Several incidents and events injected hatred between them which resulted in much aggravated debate between these two communities from the early nineteenth century. The Britishers tried to disable the bond between this communities as this could become harmful for them to rule and exercise authority over India. Thus Britishers were the one of the main reasons behind such communal unrest between Hindu and Muslims in India. It would be worthwhile to mention that British Empire divided Bengal in 1905, way before the independence of India. By doing this the Britishers had injected severe hatred between these two communities from the earliest time. And a consequence of

such action, the Muslim community member demanded their own piece of land right away after the independence of India from the Britishers in the year 1947.

The Communal unrest between India and Pakistan could be seen in the archival records of railway traveling. Several trains were attacked while running on the track because of community hatred existing between this two community members. It needed to be pointed out that, railways were the sole medium of huge mass travelling in the time of partition. But the railways turned out to be nightmare for the people traveling across the nation and trying to cross the undefined border area of newly established Pakistan. Muslims were attacked in the Hindu provinces and Hindus were attacked by the Muslims in several stations. Many a Muslim community member chose to go to the newly established nation, Pakistan, specifically for the Muslim communities to live there. Thus many a Muslim and Hindu community member shifted from one place to another but they were attacked midway into their journey. For this reason there were no intermediate stoppages of trains in the journey because stoppage into a particular would result in bloodshed and fatalities.

People traveled like luggage piled up into a compartment and travelled like animals stacked into a corner. The photographs and literature of the partition very accurately presents the hardships of the people traveling to the other side of the particular land after partition. There were fewer amounts of trains running in those times because of the fear of getting attacked people traveled with their hurts out in front of them, struggling for a breather. People feared to get down from the train in some particular station area. The literature and the historical account of the railway travel prove the fact that there were tremendous amount of uneasiness between the people residing and trying to cross into another part of the land. It needed to be mentioned that, trains in those times were ran by the Government of India, specifically for the transport of the community members to their own likelihood place for a sustainable living with a peaceful attitude after such turmoil for the independence of Indian nation, which came in the year 1947. The lesser amount of trains indicated the fact that, there were no particular railway organizations working at that time to manage all the workloads of the railway management. Trains reduced and increased their speed according to places it run by to reach another place or part. Many a stories of bloodshed and fatalities occurred in those lines because of the unprecedented nature of the attacks. Many a anecdotes came in front, people feared to come out of their bogies after the train reached a particular destination. People even feared to drink water from the water tanks because they would suspect of poison being mixed in those water. Such was the condition of the people at that time.

The introduction of party also meant a border area crisis among these people living nearer the boundaries of both the nations. At the time of Partition Pakistan was given five provinces which included East Bengal or the present day Bangladesh. Even after the separation and division of such places there were crises regarding the exact end point of that particular nation. Communal unrest was exactly based on such certain Issues and they attacked men from the given

boundaries of their own province. In Amritsar, one of the provinces of India, there it was written that, "This is Amritsar the territory of India". This particular aspect indicated the fact that, there was a tremendous hyper tension between the newly established Pakistan province and Indian people. There were further tension in the East Bengal or the present day Bangladesh also regarding the administration of Pakistan from a far away distance. The distance between Pakistan and present day Bangladesh had been the chief issue regarding such inadequacies in management and that's why Bangladesh or the then East Bengal started to revolt against such rule from the earliest days and demanded freedom from the Pakistani rule.

It would be worthwhile to mention that, Pakistan and India had been connected by land through a division of places. There had been interlinked since the partition because of the land connection and for this reason trespassing became a very crucial object just after the partition in 1947. There were no fencing at that particular moment of time, and for this reason many of the refugees crossed borders and fled from Pakistan. And several Muslim communities also went to the other side with the hope and desire to find peace and solace among their own community members. But crossing boundaries was not easy at that time; the only medium of travelling to Pakistan was the train medium arranged by the government of India for the safe travel people desiring to move to Pakistan. As already mentioned, the safe travels of these communities were not safe as there was a tremendous hatred between the two nations at that particular point of time. People of one country could not bear the view of another country. There were such animosities between the two nations. However, people stacked up on the rare trains moving towards Pakistan and went to the other part for their comfort and easiness.

In many historical records and statistical data, the history of the Partition could be seen very easily and the tremendous ferocious nature of Partition could also be viewed in those records. Records were not only persevered in the history books and Government data and statistics regarding Partition, records could also be found in the several images regarding railway travel. There had been a particular literature based on the theme of Partition in the gamut of Indian literature. One of the most notable writers of Partition Literature is Kushwant Singh. In his famous and canonical text, "Train to Pakistan" he had noted down several aspects of railway travelling in the time of Partition in the year 1947. He shared the multiple experiences of railway traveling in those days. In his book, a picture of gloomy train, bloodshed and since of horror could be seen. He portrayed the railways in a gloomy manner and represented railways as the messenger for death and news carrier of deaths and sadness. He projected trains and blood trains carrying only dead bodies because of communal riots and attacks on the people over the boundary feud and religious tension between the two nations.

Thus it could be very well seen that the partition which was introduced in the year 1947 to grant a particular geographical area to the Muslim community for their own set of rules and administration. That particular grant of five provinces to Pakistan was also not without a debate.

However, the settlement of five provinces where most of the Muslim community would live and administer was settled in the Partition, only to be changed into a thing of crisis because of the unrest in the connected places of Indo-Pak border area.

After all these discussions it could be said that, there was a particular interlink between all this particular aspects. The Partition brought about in the year 1947, just after the independence of India from the Britishers rule. The partition was brought about because of the communal unrest between the Muslims and Hindu community members of both the nations. The partition and in other words the demand for partition could have never brought in the forefront if there was no communal riots and disagreement between the two communities. And thus it was only a factual incident as repeated in the several history books and records that the sole reason behind the partition was the disagreement and discomfort seen between both the communities and as a result the demand for partition and a separate piece of land for the sole rule of the Muslim community was demanded.

This particular demand, it could say, was triggered by the Britishers from the very beginning of their rule in India. From the beginning of the eighteenth century the British started to place themselves in the Indian mainland with the commercial purposes. But soon after their introduction, couple of decades later the British started to occupy places using their cunning nature and thus started to manipulate the innocent Indians. The Britishers started with little pacts and treaties but eventually they progressed so far that after the battle of Plassey in 1757, they became the sole ruler of Bengal and other associate states. And since then the authority of British empire became even more stronger. From that particular time they injected hatred between these two communities and became the sole responsible authorities behind such communal feuds. And such phenomenon resulted in the demand for a particular partition just after the independence of India from the British rule.

To conclude on the discussion it could be said that, there had been a chief and fundamental relationship between the Hindu and Muslim communities, which became responsible for the partition in 1947. The communal unrest and particular tension between the Hindu-Muslim rivalries resulted in the demand for the partition. Thus it could be said the sole reason behind the partition was the communal unrest. And this particular fact had been stressed in many a history book written over the theme partition and concerning partition activities. As a result of such communal disagreement, the Indian administration and the British administration also thought it better to offer the Muslim communities a particular piece of land for their own home rule and administration. The communal unrest brought about Partition in the year 1947 and Partition brought about boundary crisis and feuds, which went on for a long period of time. The boundary crisis because of the shear inability to demarcate particular plots of lands as the territories of that particular place became the reason for future tensions in the years to follow. Thus it could be said that there was a particular interlink between communal unrest, which brought about Partition and Partition as a consequence brought about boundary crisis. The communal unrest which

had been a constant phenomenon since the very old times resulted in the partition. Likewise the boundary crisis from that point of time, to be precise from 1947 became a crucial reason for several attacks on the people traveling across the nations. There were also several trespassing, terrorist attacks on peoples from such boundaries. Many a terrorist crossed the boundaries and crossed over to India to bring further communal unrest. This particular aspect had been going on since then and had been a concern for Indian nation and the citizens. Thus the issues of communal unrest, partition and boundary crisis had been the chief issues which impact India's life and community peace.

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