



Smart Revision
Direct Action Day

Q: What was the 'Direct Action Day'? [4]

Ans: On 16th August Direct Action Day was called by the Muslim League. Muslims just wanted a peaceful protest against both Congress and British. Quaid asked for a peaceful protest but the demonstration changed into violence in which up to 4000 died in the 'Great Calcutta Killing'.

The British might pull out and leave India to sort out its own problems; resultantly, the overwhelming power of the Congress may suppress the Muslims and the establishment of Pakistan was also opposed by both British and Congress so, Muslims started this peaceful demonstration which later turned into a violent demonstration.

Q: Why did Muslim League called for 16th August 1946 to observe Direct Action Day? [7]

Ans: There were some reasons that led the ML towards calling Direct Action Day:

One of the reasons was that by 1946 it was clear that British withdrawal was imminent. The Muslim feared that the British might just pull out and leave India to sort out its own problems. If that happened, the Muslims would surely suffer at the hands of the overwhelming Hindu majority. It was known that the British were increasingly frustrated at the failure of Indians to cooperate together. It was also known that most labour members were more sympathetic to congress position than the idea of Pakistan. So due to this fear ML declared direct action day on 16 August 1946.

Another reason was that Jinnah stated that up till now the Muslim League had negotiated peacefully with the British and Hindus, both of whom had 'held a pistol' at them. Now it was time for the Muslim League to use their 'pistol'. He declared that the Muslims were not reliant on 'any group for help but would seek independence themselves. So due to this idea of Jinnah ML called for Direct Action Day to show strength of Muslim feelings.