



Smart Revision

Gandhi-Jinnah Talks 1942

Q: Why did the Gandhi-Jinnah Talks fail in 1944? [7]

Ans: Throughout September 1944 the two met to consider the future of India but the talks broke down for a number of reasons.

One of the reasons was that Gandhi wanted the League to give immediate support to Congress in its struggle to remove British out of India. Only after the British left the partition would be considered. Jinnah wanted to secure the partition before the British left India. Why should congress agree to the partition once they left? So this was the one reason for which the talks broke down.

Another reason was that Gandhi wanted the central govt. to have control over key areas such as defence and foreign policy. But Jinnah wanted these matters to be in the hands of the provinces. Moreover Gandhi was not in favour of partition, and he considered himself to be speaking for whole of the India and couldn't accept the position of Muslims as being a separate nation. Hence independence for all Indians as a united nation was on his agenda but Jinnah reminded him that in reality he was just the spokesman of Congress and wanted just to have Hindu Raj in India.

Gandhi gave the impression that he did not support 'The Two Nation Theory' according to which Muslims and Hindus were two separate nations, whereas this had now become an official League policy. So this was another reason for which the talks failed.