



Smart Revision

KHILAFAT MOVEMENT

At the beginning of 1st world war (1914) seat of Khilafat was held by Turkey (Ottoman Empire). In the first world war, the Turks had fought on the side of the Germany and Austrian Empire against Britain, France and Russia. British wanted Indian Muslims to fight in the war against the Turks, but they knew that British would respect the rights of the Khalifa and Turkish Empire would be maintained. As a result of this promise thousands of Muslims joined the British Army. Turkish side defeated at the end of the war. Muslims all over the world were concerned with how Turkey would be treated. Istanbul had been the home of Caliphate and the Turkish Sultan was recognized as the Khalifa or caliph. The Allies hoped to destroy the Ottoman Empire by encouraging Turkey to become a nation rather than an empire. The treaty of Versailles set out to divide Germany into two parts.

KHILAFAT COMMITTEE: The Muslims of India decided to launch a movement for the safeguard of the institution of Caliphate and to manifest their resentment over actions the Allies had taken in Turkey. A "Khilafat Committee" was set up in 1919 to conduct and to organize the Khilafat movement with Maulana Shaukat Ali as its General Secretary. Congress also supported this movement under Abdul Kalam Azad. This movement was launched to pressurize the British into keeping their promises.

In November 1919 the 1st Khilafat Conference was held in Delhi. Gandhi was also present at the Conference. A resolution was also passed asking the Muslims as religious duty to adopt the policy of non-cooperation with the British.

In December 1919 the 2nd Khilafat Conference was held in Amritsar. At the same time both Congress and Muslims League were also meeting in the city. It was agreed that all three organizations should work together to oppose plans to dismember the Turkish Empire.

Khilafat Delegation: The Khilafat Delegation left for England in March 1919 under the leadership of Maulana Mohammed Ali Johar and met the Prime Minister Lloyd George. The Prime Minister refused to accept any arguments extended by the Khilafat Delegation and it failed without achieving its purpose. While the delegation was still in Europe the terms of the Treaty of Sevres with Turkey was reduced only to Turkish origin area. Allies divided the non-Turkish part of Ottoman Empire among themselves.

Non-Cooperation Movement : In August 1920 a full scale Non-Cooperation Movement was launched in with the collaboration with Gandhi. Gandhi came forward with their full support for the movement. Indians were asked to give up Government. Services, renounce title and boycott courts

of law and British goods, walk out of schools and colleges. Gandhi assured the people that if this movement would be in a united, disciplined and non-violent fashion, they would attain "Swaraj or Self-Rule" within a year. The Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movement took the shape of mass movement. This was the most serious political threat that the British faced after the War of independence 1857. Hindu-Muslim unity was at its height.

The congress cleverly decided to use Muslim agitation to press the British for the further concession on self-rule and to show the Muslims that the Hindu-Muslim unity was beneficial.

Quaid-e-Azam was not in favour of Gandhi's non-cooperation program because he thought that it might be violent, so he resigned from Congress in 1920.

HIJRAT MOVEMENT : It was a by-product of Khilafat Movement. In 1920 Abdul Kalam Azad and Maulana Abdul Bari gave a call for Hijrat Movement and urged the Muslims to migrate to a place where they can freely practice their religion, they called India as 'dar-ul-Harb'. Nearly 18000 Muslims mostly from Sind, NWFP and Punjab after selling their land and properties, migrated to Afghanistan. The Afghan Government welcomed them in the beginning but afterwards refused to accept them. Many people perished in the way and those who returned back to India to find them homeless and doomed forever. As a result of this all Muslims became backward in all fields of life. This migration to Afghanistan is known as the, "Hijrat Movement" in the history of India.

CHAURA CHAURI INCIDENT: The non-cooperation movement was leading to violence and losing its momentum. In Feb. 1922 at Chaura Chauri in a village near UP a trouble erupted between the police and the demonstrating procession. The hostile mob set fire to the police station where 22 policemen were burnt alive. Gandhi was so upset that he immediately and unilaterally called off non-cooperation movement doing great deal of damage to the entire Khilafat Movement.

REASONS FOR THE FAILURE OF KHILAFAT MOVEMENT:

* The non-violence, non-cooperative movement turned into violence. After the Chaura Chauri incident in February 1922, Gandhi himself called off the Non-Cooperation movement which caused a severe blow to the Khilafat Movement.

* Gandhi and other Muslim's leader of the movement were arrested in 1922 with the arrest of leaders the movement lost its momentum.\

* Although the Khilafat Movement was the first movement in which Hindus and Muslims worked together, their unity was probably always doomed to failure. The Hindu aim for self rule was not really an objective of the Muslims and Hindus were prepared to support the Muslims in protecting their religious right only as long as it helped move India towards the self-rule.

* Hijrat Movement at critical stage was another blow for Muslims. Hijrat to Afghanistan where the Muslims were shocked by the lack of support from the Afghan government.

* On 3rd March 1924 the final and deadly blow was struck at the Khilafat movement by Mustafa Kamal Ata Turk Pasha who exiled Khalifa, Muhammad VI and abolished Khilafat and established nationalist government of Turkey.



June 2009:

b) Explain the reasons for the failure of the Khilafat Movement?

June 2006:

b) Explain why the Khilafat Movement had failed by 1924?

Nov 2008:

c) 'The Khilafat Movement failed by 1924 of poor leadership.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer?

