

Communalism and the Partition of India

Chapter 7: Communalism and the Partition of India · Topic 1

Key Concept

Communalism, prioritising religious community identity over national unity, grew due to various factors, including colonial policies of divide and rule.

The Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, increasingly advocated for a separate Muslim state, culminating in the demand for Pakistan.

Partition in 1947 led to massive population transfers, with millions of Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs relocating, accompanied by significant violence.

The partition's legacy continues to influence India-Pakistan relations and remains a significant, often painful, part of South Asian history.

Quick Revision Notes

- Communalism prioritises religious identity over national unity.
- Colonial 'divide and rule' policies contributed to this.
- The Muslim League, led by Jinnah, advocated for Pakistan.
- Partition occurred in 1947.
- It created India and Pakistan as separate nations.
- Massive population transfers occurred.
- Significant violence accompanied partition.
- Its legacy still influences India-Pakistan relations.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Muslim League's demand for Pakistan.
- 2 Discuss factors contributing to communalism.
- 3 Research the events of 1947 partition.
- 4 Explain the human impact of partition.
- 5 Discuss partition's lasting legacy.
- 6 Create a timeline of events leading to partition.