

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Subject : History

Chapter : 14

Chapter Name : Understanding Partition

Q1 What did the Muslim League demand through its resolution of 1940?

Answer. A resolution was passed by the Muslim League on 23rd March, 1940. The resolution demanded a measure of autonomy for the Muslim-majority areas of the sub-continent. Sikandar Hayat Khan, Punjab Premier and leader of the Unionist Party drafted the resolution. This ambiguous resolution never demanded a partition or Pakistan. Sikandar Hayat Khan was opposed to a Pakistan.

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Q2 Why some people think of Partition as a very sudden development?

Answer. Some people think that Partition was a very sudden development because the Muslim League itself was vague about its demand in 1940. No one knew what the creation of Pakistan meant, and how it might shape the lives of people in the future. Many who migrated from their homelands thought that they would return as soon as peace prevailed.

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Q3 How did ordinary people view Partition?

Answer. For ordinary people partition was a very big challenge. Carnages occurred in Calcutta and Noakhali in 1946, the partition was most bloody and destructive in Punjab. Women and girls were the prime targets of persecution. People had to leave their lands and settle elsewhere. People lost their lands and cattle, many lost their livelihoods. It was an unexpected alterations in the life of the people, requiring psychological, emotional and social adjustments.

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Q4 What were Mahatma Gandhi's arguments against Partition?

Answer. Mahatma Gandhi was a strong believer of Unity in diversity. He never wanted partition. He never wanted two separate dominions based on religions. He was ready to sacrifice his life for United India. He also said that he was firmly convinced that the demand for Pakistan, put forward by Muslim League was unislamic and that he was not hesitant in calling it sinful.

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Q5 Why is Partition viewed as an extremely significant marker in South Asian history?

Answer. The partition can be viewed as an extremely significant marker in South Asian history because it was one of its kind. It was a pervasive violence that characterised partition. In all probability, some 15 million people had to move across hastily constructed frontiers separating India and Pakistan. The boundaries between the two new states was not officially known until two days after formal independence. People were rendered homeless and having suddenly lost all their immovable property and most of their movable assets. People were separated from their relatives and friends. They had to live in refugee camps and were forced to pick up their lives from scratch.

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Q6 Why was British India Partitioned?

Answer. They were several factors that acted as a catalyst in the partition of British India. Some of which are :

→ Some scholars see partition as a culmination of a communal politics that started developing in the opening decades of the twentieth century. They suggest that separate electorates for Muslims, created by the Colonial government in 1909 and expanded in 1919, crucially shaped the nature of communal politics.

→ They seeds of Divide and Rule was already sown earlier.

→ In the United Provinces, the Muslim League wanted to form a joint government with the Congress. The Congress rejected the offer. Some scholars believe that this rejection convinced the League that if India remained United, the Muslims would find it difficult to gain political power because they would remain a minority.

→ The Congress ministers also contributed to the widening rift. In the United Provinces, the party had rejected the Muslim League proposal of coalition government because the League tended to support landlordism, which the Congress wished to abolish.

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Q7 How did women experience Partition?

Answer. It must have been one of the most horrible experiences in the history of mankind. Women were raped, abducted, sold, often many times over, forced to settle down to a new life with strangers in unknown circumstances. They were deeply traumatized by all that they had undergone, some began to develop new family bonds in their changed circumstances. But Indian and Pakistani governments both were insensitive to the complexities of human relationships. Believing the women to be on the wrong side of the border, they now tore them away from their new relatives, and sent them back to their earlier families and locations. They did not consult the concerned women, undermining their right to take decisions regarding their own lives.

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Q8 How did Congress come to change its views on Partition?

Answer. The Muslim League withdrew its support from the Cabinet Mission Plans. After that they decided 16th August, 1946 as the 'Direct Action Day'. On this day riots broke out in Calcutta, leaving several thousand people dead. By March 1947 violence spread to many parts of northern India.

It was in March 1947 that the Congress high command voted for dividing the Punjab into two halves, one with Muslim majority and the other with Hindu/Sikh majority and also asked to apply same principle to Bengal. By this time, many Sikh leaders and congressmen in the Punjab were convinced that the partition was a necessary evil, otherwise they would be swamped by Muslim majorities and Muslim leaders would dictate them. They felt that only a division of province could ensure their political dominance.

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Q9 Examine the strengths and limitations of oral history. How have oral-history techniques furthered our understanding of Partition?

Answer. Oral narratives, memoirs, diaries, family histories, first-hand written accounts - all these help us to understand the trials and tribulations of ordinary people during the partition of the country.

The strengths of Oral History is it helps us grasp experiences and memories in detail. It enables historians to write richly textured, vivid accounts of what happened to people during events such as partition. It is impossible to extract this kind of information from government documents. It also allows historians to broaden the boundaries of their discipline by rescuing from oblivion the lived experiences of the poor and the powerless.

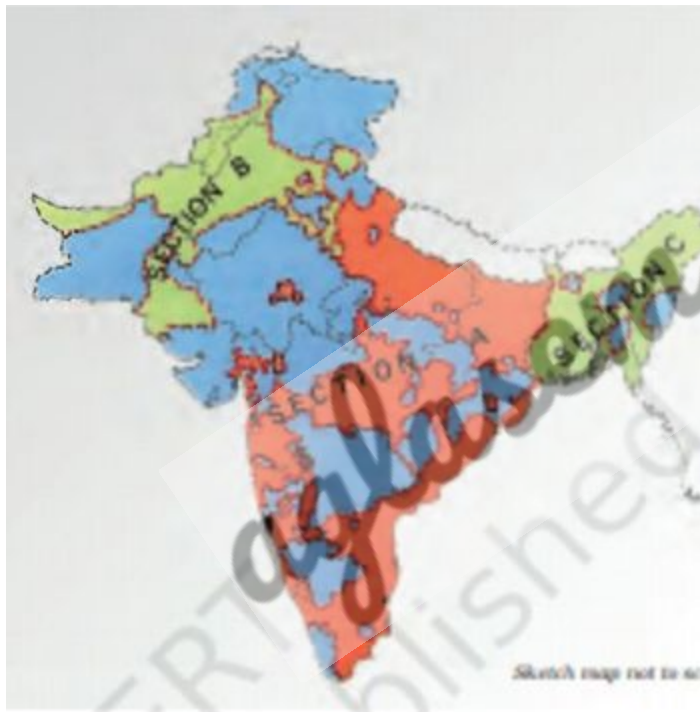
The limitations of oral-history are that many historians are skeptical about it. They dismiss it because oral data seem to lack concreteness and the chronology they yield may be imprecise. Historians also argue that personal experiences makes generalisation difficult. A large picture cannot be built from such micro-evidence and one evidence is no evidence.

The oral data on Partition are not automatically or easily available. One of the major problems is that interviews need to be conducted. The other problem is that protagonists may not want to talk about intensely personal experiences.

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Q10 On an outline map of South Asia , mark out Sections A, B and C of the Cabinet Mission proposals. How is this map different from the political map of present-day South Asia?

Answer.



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