

Muslim rai as
president, but
moderates wanted



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

MUSLIM LEAGUE (1906) Lack of political participation of Muslim and poor representation in administrative jobs led to formation of Muslim league.

It was initially founded by a group of Zamindars and well off Muslims. Syed Ahmed Khan's rhetoric of separate Muslim interests were its key principles. In 1906, All India Muslim League was set up under the leadership of Aga Khan, Nawab Salimul-lah of Dacca and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk in Dacca. The League supported the partition of Bengal, opposed the Swadeshi Movement, and demanded special safeguards for its community and a separate electorate for Muslims.

This led to communal differences between Hindus and Muslims. Initial aims of Muslim leagues were delineated as -I. To promote among Muslims loyalty towards the British II.

To safeguard the political and other interests of Muslims III. To prevent feeling of hostility towards other communities (i. e. it had no communal agenda when it was founded) SURAT SPLIT (1907) In 1906 an imminent confrontation was avoided with appointment of Dadabhai Naroji as the new president - since he was revered by both the groups, they were pacified. With a view of conciliating the differences, idea of 'Swaraj' was given in this session by Naroji and it was defined as the goal of Congress. Four resolutions were passed at the 1906 session of Congress (headed by Naroji) -I.

Condemning partition and policies of Curzon II. Uphold Boycott Movement, III. Support the Swadeshi Movement, IV.

Protest against existing Education Policy. Causes of split -I. The split happened on the question of retention of 4 resolutions and spreading of movement to the rest of nation. II. Failure of Moderates - After the failure of moderates to get major gains, extremists became impatient. III. Bengal Split Agitation Issue - Led by Tilak and others they demanded for extension of mass movement and demand for Swaraj during Swadeshi Movement.

This didn't go down well with Moderates who wanted to restrict the movement to Bengal only. IV. Extremists were also encouraged by the two events outside India, namely - Defeat of Russia by Japan and defeat of Italian Army by Ethiopians which broke the notion of invincibility of Europeans V.

Extremists were optimistic over appointment of new Secretary of State Morley, but he failed to do anything over issue of partition and it greatly annoyed the Extremists. Extremists wanted either Tilak or Lala Lajpat Rai as president, but moderates wanted Rash Behari Ghose (not 'Rash Behari Bose') to be president in 1907 session (which was to be held at Nagpur, but moderates shifted it to Surat so that Tilak couldn't be appointed as president as it had been policy of Congress to appoint a person from outside the province where session is held as president.) Meeting for the first time was ruptured and when it held for next day, Tilak was denied the opportunity to speak by the Chair. A brawl ensued ending in suspension of meeting sine die.

This came to a relief to British who were looking for an opportunity to subdue the activities of Congress. From next meeting, Extremists were barred from Congress. All in all, the split benefitted neither Moderates nor Extremists, but only British government. Tilak was jailed soon after for a long

6 years to Mandalay in 1908. Extremists resorted to passive resistance and moderates took to petition for greater legislative reforms.

Moderates felt it as dangerous to support extremists as they might attract wrath of mighty British rule. Moderates didn't realize that concessions by government were not to placate them, but to create a rift between them and extremists.