



SALTORA NETAJI CENTENARY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SEMESTER –IV

COURSE CODE: AHHST 403 C-10

COURSE TITLE: HISTORY OF INDIA (1757-1885)

TOPIC: RISE OF MUSLIM POLITICS

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Introduction

It was unfortunate that the Muslims as community were indifferent to the Congress movement. Some Muslim leaders, it is true, attended the Congress and few of them were elected Presidents, but as a class, they held aloof. Several factors were at work, which determined their attitude towards the Congress and gave a separatist turn to their politics.



Decline in the position of the Muslims

First it should be noted that the Muslims were heavily depressed by the consolidation of the British rule in Northern India. It was a great blow to their pride and self-respect to find themselves ousted from all positions of power and authority. The last vestige of their influence in administration was gone when vernacular was substituted for Persian as the court language. The ardent spirits among them brooded over the past in sullen resentment. They hated British rule and western culture and were in turn looked upon with suspicion by the Government. Hence they supported Wahabi revivalism which was definitely anti-British and took a prominent part in the great upheaval of 1857, in restoring the fallen fortunes of their community.



Indifference to English education

Muslim orthodoxy had turned its back on English education as un-Islamic. Hence the Muslims failed to share in the intellectual renaissance brought about by western thought and science and conveyed through the English language. As a consequence, all avenues of preferment thrown open by English education, were closed to them. The Hindus, on the other hand, forged ahead and by their progressive trends began to outstrip the Muslims in every walk of life. This heightened their sense of frustration and the Muslims began to think that the Hindus had stolen a march upon them.

Work of Syed Ahmad Khan for the upliftment of the Muslims

The man who did most to raise the Muslims community from the slough of despair and frustration was Syed Ahmad Khan. He clearly realised that if the Muslims were to retrieve their lost position they must have English education and win the support of the British Government. So he set himself to woo the British and to persuade co-religionists to reconsider their attitude towards English education. To spread English education among the Muslims, he founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875 which became Aligarh Muslim University in 1920.

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THANK YOU