

❖ Indian Independence Act (1947):

The Indian Independence Act in 1947, an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that partitioned British India into the two new independent dominions of India and Pakistan.

After the Partition of Bengal in 1905, the British Government took various steps to solve various problems of India. Through the August Resolution in 1940, the Cripps Resolution in 1942, the Wavell Plan in 1945, the Cabinet Plan in 1946, and the Mountbatten Plan in 1947, the British sought to improve Hindu-Muslim relations. But India's problems have not been solved. So in 1947 the British introduced the Indian Independence Act. The legislature representatives of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim came to an agreement with Lord Mountbatten on what has come to be known as the 3 June Plan or Mountbatten Plan. This law gave birth two independent states, Pakistan on 14 August in 1947 and India on 15 August in 1947. This plan was the last plan for independence.

• Salient features of Indian Independence Act 1947 are:

- It provided for partition of India and creation of two new dominions- India and Pakistan.
- It abolished the position of secretary of state for India.

- By this Act, Bengal was divided into two provinces called East Bengal and West Bengal and Punjab was divided into two separate provinces called East Punjab and West Punjab.
- Pakistan is made up of East Bengal, Sind, Balochistan and West Punjab and India is made up of West Bengal, East Punjab and the rest of India.
- The British rule over the native states came to an end.
- The independent powers of the Governor and the Governor-General are abolished.

❖ Significance of the Indian Independence Act of 1947:

1. About 200 years of British rule in India came to an end.
2. Two independent states named India and Pakistan were formed.



3. The abolition of the independent powers of the Governor and the Governor-General paved the way for the establishment of responsible governments in India and Pakistan in the future.
4. This law marked the beginning of parliamentary democracy in India and Pakistan.
5. This law brought about a revolutionary change in the civilization, culture, literature and thought of the people of the subcontinent.

❖ Partion of Bengal in 1947:

The Partition of Bengal in 1947, part of the Partition of India, divided the British Indian province of Bengal based on the Radcliffe Line between the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan. The Hindu-majority West Bengal became a state of India, and the Muslim-majority East Bengal (now Bangladesh) became a province of Pakistan.

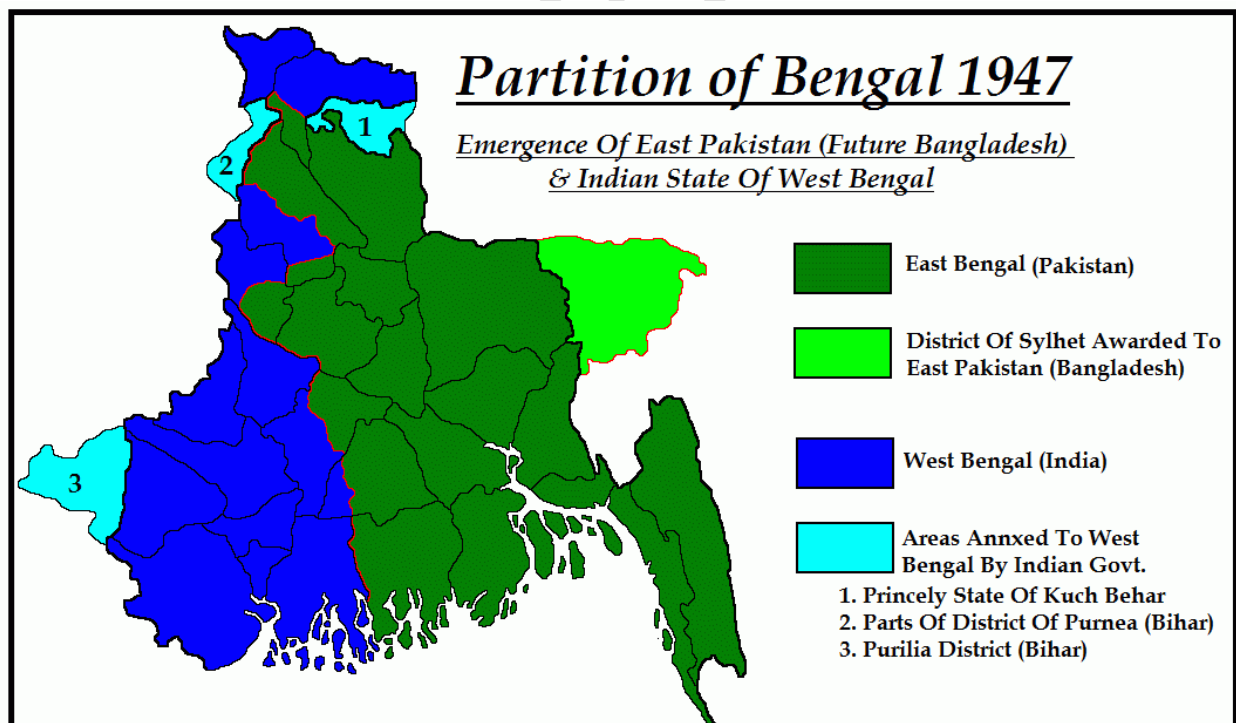
❖ Background of the partition of Bengal in 1947:

The partition of Bengal in 1947 followed the partition of Bengal in 1905. But in this case Bengal was also divided with India. The partition of India in 1947 was mainly due to the lack of communal harmony, the failure of the Unified Bengal Movement, the lack of sincerity of the British government, the activities of various organizations and businessmen in Calcutta, two nations theory of Jinnah and the selfishness of the leaders of the two major political parties Congress

and Muslim League. For all these reasons, Lord Mountbatten divided Bengal and Punjab along with the partition of India in June 1947. Through the western part of Hindu majority Bengal was annexed to India and the Muslim majority East Bengal was annexed to Pakistan.

❖ Results of the Partition of Bengal in 1947:

1. Newly formed East Bengal covers 63.8% of undivided Bengal and 64.86% of the population.
2. East Bengal was newly exploited by Pakistanis.



3. Just as Mountbatten favored the Congress in the Indian section, so did Radcliffe, chairman of the Boundary Commission, favor the Congress. It created many problems for the Bengali department. Many Muslim-majority areas, including Nadia, Maldah and Murshidabad, came under Hindu-dominated India.

❖ The difference between the Partition of Bengal in 1905 and the Partition of Bengal in 1947:

1. The partition of Bengal in 1905 was welcomed by the Muslims and opposed by the Hindus but the partition of Bengal in 1947 was welcomed by the Hindus and opposed by the Muslims.
2. After the Partition of Bengal in 1905, Hindu-Muslim relations deteriorated but after the partition of Bengal in 1947, Hindu-Muslim relations became somewhat stable.
3. Through this partition of Bengal was exploited by Pakistanis and West Bengal to Delhi.
4. As a result of the partition of Bengal in 1947, many Muslim-majority areas came under Hindu-dominated India.

❖ Role of Bengali Muslims in formation of Pakistan State:

- Election of 1937

- Bengali self-determination was the Lahore Resolution in 1940
- Election of 1946
- Bengali Muslims voted overwhelmingly for the Muslim League in 1946
- Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy
- Abul Hashim strengthened the Muslim League in Bengal
- Maulana Bhashani devoted himself to Pakistan movement