

AIM: What caused the partition between India and Pakistan in 1947?

1885- India National Congress—set up to promote a share of ruling within India between Britain and India

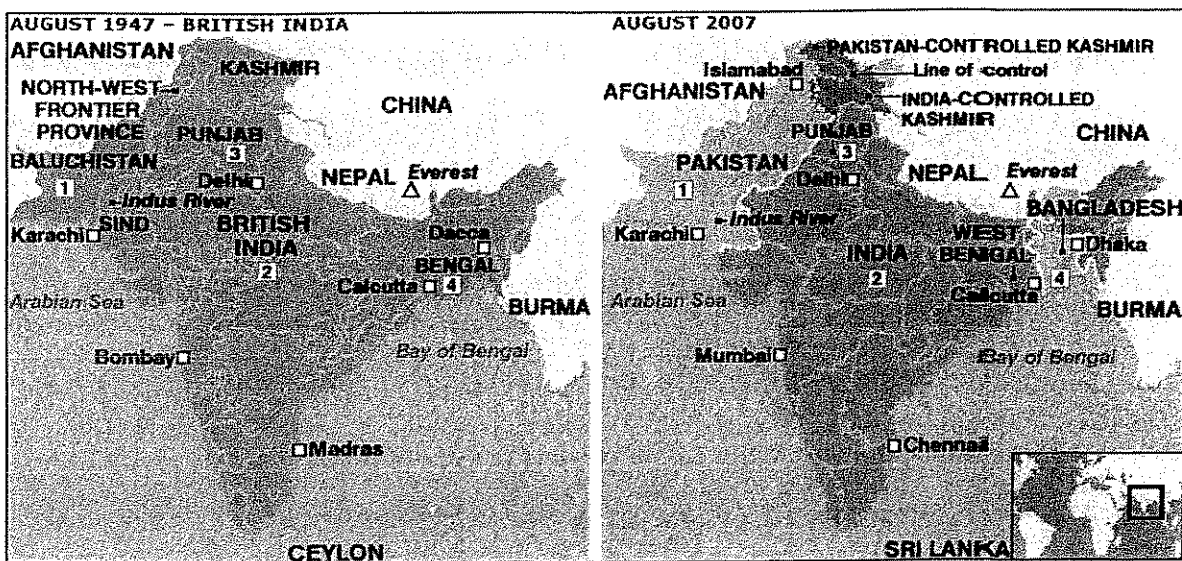
1906- Muslim League—set up to protect Muslims from Hindu domination within India

1. Why do you think the Muslims needed to form their own league within India?
2. What problems do you foresee developing in the future as a result of the above political divisions?

The outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 brought about the final split between the British and the Indian National Congress party. Mohandas Gandhi and his followers refused to support the British war effort unless their demands for independence were met. The Muslim League, cooperating with the British, was committed to the setting up of a separate Muslim state.

At the end of World War II, the British government left its Indian Empire, having decided to partition the Indian subcontinent into two nations, Pakistan, and India. On August 15, 1947, amid and followed by violence involving millions of deaths (including in 1948 the assassination of Gandhi) and great disorder, two new nations, one Hindu and the other Muslim, came into being. This division resulted from the failure of Hindu and Muslim leaders of India to solve their religious differences.

(Source: Historyteacher.net)



B. Look at the cartoon below. Tell which item makes each statement correct.



- Describe the tone of the British commander's statement. Explain why you think he feels this way.
- How do you think an Indian would have responded to the British commander?
- What would Gandhi have said he if he was depicted in the cartoon?
- Develop a title for the political cartoon.