As an episode of history of far-reaching implications, partition of Indian sub-continent occurred as a result of a series of complex and chaotic societal and political events and factors. Indian leadership could not gauge the depth of the problem of Hindu-Muslim differences and failed to foresee its far-reaching consequences and, therefore, develop effective response to cope with this problem.

Constitutionalism, based on secularism and democracy, made the Hindus believe in ultimate and inevitable Hindu-majority government, while the Muslims after the fall of the Mughal Empire, had still pangs and desire deriving from their 'ruler complex'. The power politics became the object of the parties - Congress and Muslim League, with a pronounced backdrop of religion, aiding communalism. The communal ideas of Hindus and Muslim leaders paved the way for the politics of antagonism and alienation. The Hindus had a strong and the Muslims had a weak leadership. Gandhiji rebuked Jinnah and Nehru refused to cooperate with the League. Jinnah on his part did not agree in effect to any thing short of Pakistan. Jinnah may not be held solely responsible for it. The Muslim politics had germinated the seeds way back in history. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the first Muslim Leader, led the Aligarh Movement, but failed to bring the Mussalmans to the same cultural level as the Hindus. In the twentieth century, Mohammad Ali, the other Muslim leader of stature, propounded an ideology of an extreme type of 'Ullaism. Dr. M.A. Ansari and Maulana Azad, the hundred per cent Congressmen, believed in secularism and democracy, but could not anticipate the force of partition psychosis as a reality. Dr. Mohammad Iqbal was not a "system builder". Although he had identified that 'the medieval spirit of Islam had rendered it useless to the modern man', he lacked the courage 'to break with traditional Islam completely and accept the spirit of modern science and socialism'. The spectre of fear of Hindu domination made the Muslims mad the Hindus did not make any serious effort to remove their apprehensions as a result riots in almost all parts of India broke out and became a recurring feature of our polity.

In this tumultuous political situation, Jinnah emerged as the only leader of the Muslims, who devoted his life for their cause. In
his private/personal life he was most secular of all Muslim leaders and was least interested in Islamic theology. He believed in the principles of 'nationalism, democracy, secularism and the unity of the country'. There was no fanaticism in his social or political life. He also advocated that Muslims should separate religion from politics. He was supported by minor politicians - Khaliquzzaman, Firoz Noon and Fazlul Haq etc. and was opposed by reactionary fanatic organizations - the Ahirs, the Khaksars and Maudoodi. The antagonism and hostility between the Congress and the League leadership caused Jinnah to demand a separate Muslim State i.e. Pakistan.

This thesis is an attempt to discern the facts and their contexts with a view to go into the genesis of Partition objectively. It has been observed that the events had a certain inevitability and spontenity about themselves rooted into history, tradition and thriving upon ambitions and ego of leadership, manoeuvres of British rulers and compulsions of colonialism and Westernization. Had the Congress taken a stern position vis-a-vis Hindu Mahasabha as they took against Maulana Abdul Bari, the leader of the Khilafat Movement, the course of history might have been different.

During the days of partition politics, it was difficult for any author to write the history of those days. Whatever has been written is not free from biased expression. Mountbatten avoided to write anything as he did not like to be cursed by India or Pakistan. The evidence of the partition period are available in the form of parliamentary and official/private records, party reports, biographies, documents and speeches and contemporary publications. The most important are Mountbatten papers, which we have consulted from Manmath Nath Das, Partition and Independence of India. For other source material, the researcher consulted libraries in New Delhi and Aligarh. Fortnightly Reports, Home Political Files, Viceroy's Private Papers and their Microfilms were consulted at the National Archives of India; the Congress conferences proceedings and meetings records, Indian leaders papers were perused at the Nehru Memorial
Museum and Library; Gandhian papers and collections were gone through at the Gandhi Memorial Museum and Library and at Gandhi Smarak foundation; and a large number of books which were not available in the Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh, were studied at the Sapru House Library, New Delhi.

The books which we have extensively referred to include the 'Memoirs and Autobiographies', such as, Khaliquzzaman's *Pathway to Pakistan* (which was provided by Prof. M.H. Kidwai), Azad's *India Wins Freedom*, and writings of Hali, Gandhi, Campbell-Johnson, P.N. Chopra and Ispahani. Among the documents and speeches consulted are the works of Jamil-ud-Din Ahmad, Durga Das, Z. Paruqui, G.K. Gokhale, Ram Gopal, Gwyer and Appadorai, Jain, Jinnah, Mansergh and Lumby, Menon, Iqbal, Nehru, Pandey, Philips, Pyarelal, Sitaramayya, Tendulkar and Zaidi. The contemporary books and materials have also been consulted both at Delhi and Aligarh. These are mainly the records of Rahmat Ali, Banerjee, Coupland, Mushirul Haq, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Syed Mahmud, Mehta, Noman, Munshi, Rajendra Prasad, Darbara Singh etc. The secondary sources are numerous. The ones which have been found of pronounced utility are works of Agarwalla, Aziz Ahmad, G. Allana, K.K. Aziz, Bamford, Hector Bolitho, Broomfield, Brown, Sandhya Chaudhri, D.C. Gupta, Mushirul Hasan, Siddiq Ali Khan, Wali Khan, Francis Low, Majumdar, Malhotra, Mehrotra, Pendarel Moon, Moore, Sharif Al Mujahid, J.J. Pal, Ishwari Prasad, Prasad and Subedar, Qadri, Matiur Rahman, Francis Robinson, Moin Shakir, L.A. Shervani, V.P. Singh, Spear, Tarachand, Hugh Tinker, Stanley Wolpert and Rafiq Zakaria. Besides these a number of periodicals and newspapers have also been consulted for collection of the evidence.

The approach of study is historical and analytical and a sincere effort has been made to unravel the complexity of the factors leading to partition.

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