The Partition of India and the dismemberment of the British Raj in 1947 are the most significant events in the history of India. It has generally been felt that the Muslim League is responsible for the vivisection of India which had brought massacre to the millions of people. This thesis is an attempt to study comprehensively the forces that had finally culminated into the creation of Pakistan.

The period under study is a very important one as it shows how a dormant organisation which had stood by the Congress from 1906 to 1936 became hostile to it and in 1940 raised its demand for a separate state for the Muslims of India on the basis of two nation theory. In this thesis an attempt has also been made to study if the Partition was inevitable. Could it have been avoided or how all this resulted into the division of the country?

The whole work is divided into Eight chapters. The First chapter is introductory which traces the historical background of the All-India Muslim League upto 1940 and without which it would have been difficult
if not impossible to understand Muslim politics.

The Second chapter deals with the Lahore Resolution. The circumstances which led to its presentation to the Twenty Seventh Session of the All-India Muslim League in 1940 at Lahore.

The Third and Fourth chapters study the Cripps Plan and the Quit India Movement vis-a-vis the League's attitude. The Fifth chapter brings to light Rajaji's formula, Liaquat-Desai Pact and Gandhi-Jinnah correspondence to break the Constitutional deadlock.

In 1945 the British emerged victorious and the Viceroy's-Lord Wavell and Lord Mountbatten in view of the rising tide of nationalism tried to solve the constitutional problems. The Simla Conference and the Cabinet Mission were the attempts made to this end and the Sixth chapter is devoted to its study.

Chapter seven presents a study of the long tussle between the British and the Congress, Congress and the League and the League and the British. This studies the Transfer of Power and the drawing of the boundary line to demarcate India and Pakistan.
Chapter eight forms the conclusion of the whole study. In this I have critically examined the whole trend of Muslim politics. My studies have led me to the conclusion that it was due to some tactical mistakes of the Congress and also of Mountbatten's hurried calculations that the Partition had taken place. Partition could have been averted had not Mountbatten speeded it up for his own ambition to become the First Sea Lord. Jinnah raised Pakistan slogan as a bargaining counter to secure the safety and security of the minority. He accepted Pakistan only when he was disheartened and when there was no way out.

There is no dearth of published material on the period of my study. Though the official documents dealing with the Transfer of Power in India will not be officially released until 1999, yet Wavell's Journal, Professor Mansergh's Transfer of Power in twelve volumes, Professor Ziegler's Mountbatten give sufficient documents through which one can derive conclusions. Most of the original material was found at the National Archives of India and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and the Indian Council's of Social
Sciences Research, New Delhi. Relevant Newspapers and microfilms were provided by these Libraries. Some secondary sources were also found at the Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

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