The present dissertation is an attempt to discuss the attitude of the Muslims towards Indian nationalism during the period between 1928 and 1940. The outstanding political development in India during this period was the widening of the gulf between the Congress and the Muslim League, and the emergence of the demand for India's partition as embodied in the famous Lahore resolution of the Muslim League adopted in March 1940.

It is not generally realized that this demand had not emerged all of a sudden but was the end result of a process which had begun in 1928 with the failure of the All Parties Convention to satisfy the moderate section of the Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In between came the emergence of the Muslim All Parties Conference, formulation of Jinnah's Fourteen Points, the Round Table Conferences, the elections of 1937, the failure of the Congress-League coalition proposals, the general Muslim reaction to the Congress ministries during 1937-39, the intensification of separatist feelings among the Muslim elite and the encouragement of these feelings by the British, particularly after the outbreak of the Second World War. So far no serious effort has been made to analyse in depth the background and nature of these developments.

This study is based on the official records of the Government of India, both published and unpublished, and the collection of private papers deposited at the various
libraries in New Delhi and London. The records of the All-India Muslim League and other collections of private papers have been deposited at the Karachi University and are not accessible to an Indian scholar. It was, however, possible to find the published records of the Muslim League and brochures and memoranda issued by them and the private papers of some Muslim leaders in New Delhi. Use has been made of the relevant Urdu sources also.

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