P R E F A C E

Works on muslims and their leaders have been dealt by important writers like Francis Robinson, Stanley Wolpert, Pirzada, K.K. Aziz, Mushir-ul-Hassan, M. Mujeeb, W.W. Hunter, Peter Hardy and Khaliquzzaman. A study, however on muslim leadership in U.P. (1906-1937) has not been dealt with separately so far. Hence this topic has been chosen to highlight the various aspects such as their aims, their rise to power, their working pattern and their contribution.

In order to facilitate the description of the study, the work has been divided, covering the above mentioned period into four parts, viz. 1906-1916 (Part I), 1917-1923 (Part II), 1924-1929 (Part III) and 1930-1937 (Part IV). The main criteria of this division is the change which took place in various aspects of muslim politics in 1906, 1916, 1923, 1930 and 1937. These years are the turning points in muslim politics in U.P. as well as in India. One may see many changes in muslim politics during these years. Nature, aim and working pattern of leadership got changed, completely or partly, in these years.

In introduction a brief history of the advent of Islam in India has been given. Nature, tendencies, thought and beliefs of these new-comers from central Asia are the main points of study in this chapter. The process of their intermingling with the then Indian society has also been discussed. Definitions and standards of leadership have also been discussed in Introduction.
In the first chapter, the circumstances and policies of muslim leaders who brought the birth of muslim league has been discussed. The policies and attitude of Muslim League towards British government and Indian National Congress has also been studied in this chapter. The struggle for leadership between 'young party' and 'old party' (two groups of muslims popularly denoted as) also has been explained in this chapter.

In chapter second the politics between 1917 to 1923 has been assessed. Young party became victorious and snatched the leadership from old party. A new class of leadership comes on the scene. This was the Ulama. This was the class who dominated the muslim politics of this phase.

Chapter third deals with the policies and attitude of muslims of U.P. towards the Swarajists, Nehru report and Simon commission. We see that the politics and leadership of muslims were scattered during these years.

Chapter fourth deals with the muslim politics between 1930-37. Muslims attitude towards Gandhi's civil disobedience movement, Round Table Conference and communal awards has been studied in this chapter. One of the main point of this phase is the government of India Act 1935. Safe-guards for the muslims was the main principle of the Act. weightage and reservations of seats provided in the act reflects the British policy of wining goodwill of the muslim community. The Provincial Legislative Election of 1936 in U.P. is the main point of study of this chapter. Congress was the victorious party in U.P. and ministry
was formed by G.B. Pant, But Muslim leaders adopted a policy of attack on the congress.

Thus, as far as I hope, this work will be an interesting and important addition to the studies on National movement in India. For the muslims in general and specially in U.P. have played a pivotal role in the national movement. The analysis of motives, characteristics and pattern of working of these muslim leaders is of great interest to a student of Indian History.

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