

Lack of Indian Representation

The Simon Commission was sent to India without a single Indian member. All seven members were British, which insulted the Indian people. Educated leaders and common citizens felt it was unfair that decisions about their own country were being made by outsiders only. This gave the impression that Britain did not trust Indians to handle political responsibility. As a result, even before the Report was published, it lost credibility. People felt the Commission did not represent them, so they rejected it completely.

Disappointment with Recommendations

When the Simon Report was finally published, its recommendations caused deep disappointment. Indians had hoped for real progress towards self-government or dominion status, but the Report only offered small reforms at the provincial level. British governors still kept strong powers, while important areas like defense, finance, and foreign affairs remained under British control. Leaders felt that Britain had no intention of giving Indians real authority. The recommendations were too weak and did not meet the national demand for freedom.

Boycott and Public Protests

All major Indian political groups, including the Congress and the Muslim League, boycotted the Commission. Across the country, people came out into the streets with the slogan “Simon Go Back.” Protests were held everywhere, showing the anger of the Indian people. During one such protest, police attacked demonstrators, and the respected leader Lala Lajpat Rai was injured badly and later died. This event created more hatred towards the British. The widespread protests meant that the Report could never be accepted, as it had already been rejected by the people.

Political Divisions and Demands

Although Indians united in boycotting the Commission, their political demands were not the same. The Congress wanted full self-rule, while the Muslim League was more focused on securing minority rights and safeguards. The Simon Report did not address these concerns properly. Minorities felt insecure, and Congress leaders were unhappy with the lack of real reforms. These differences allowed the British to argue that Indians were divided and not ready for full responsibility. This division weakened the chances of the Report being seen as a step forward.

British Attitude and International Pressure

The British government’s approach was seen as arrogant and dismissive. They refused to take Indian leaders seriously and ignored the growing demand for independence. At the same time, the world press reported the protests in India, showing British repression in a negative light. This damaged Britain’s international image. Instead of solving problems, the Report created more anger and increased the demand for freedom. The British attitude showed that they were not ready to give India real power, which was another reason for the failure.

Consequences of the Failure

The failure of the Simon Report had important consequences for India's struggle. Since the Commission ignored Indian voices, leaders decided to make their own constitutional proposals. This led to the Nehru Report of 1928, where Indians put forward their own ideas for reforms. Later, the failure also forced Britain to organize the Round Table Conferences in London, where Indian leaders were invited to discuss the future. Overall, the collapse of the Simon Report showed clearly that reforms made without Indian participation would never succeed.