

Khalifat Mov

Background

After **World War I**, the **Ottoman Empire (Turkey)**, which was the center of the Muslim world, was defeated by the **British and their allies**. The **Caliph**, the spiritual leader of Muslims, lost power, and the British planned to divide Turkey. This deeply hurt Indian Muslims, who saw it as an attack on Islam. To defend the **Caliph (Khalifa)** and protest against British injustice, Muslims in India started the **Khilafat Movement** in **1919**.

Reasons for Formation

The main purpose of the Khilafat Movement was to **protect the Caliph, save Turkey, and defend the honor of Muslims**. Indian Muslims believed that if the Caliph lost his authority, **Islamic unity worldwide would be broken**. The British had promised to treat Turkey fairly after the war but broke that promise. Their betrayal and harsh treatment of Turkey created **strong anti-British feelings** in India. So, Muslims started this movement not only for religion but also for **political freedom and self-respect**.

Leaders and Support

The movement was led by **Maulana Muhammad Ali** and **Maulana Shaukat Ali**, famously called the **Ali Brothers**. Other leaders like **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** and **Hasrat Mohani** also played key roles. Surprisingly, **Mahatma Gandhi** supported the movement, hoping it would bring **Hindus and Muslims together** against British rule. The **Congress Party** and the **Muslim League** both supported it. People held meetings, protests, and boycotts, showing their **unity and courage**.

Events and Outcome

Khilafat Committees were formed across India. People **boycotted British goods, resigned from government jobs, and refused to send children to British schools**. The movement grew stronger when it joined with Gandhi's **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)**. However, in **1922**, the **Chauri Chaura incident** — where protestors killed policemen — led Gandhi to **suspend the campaign**. Meanwhile, **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** in Turkey **abolished the Caliphate in 1924**, ending the movement's main goal. This caused great disappointment among Muslims.

Significance in Pakistan History

Though the Khilafat Movement failed to save the Caliphate, it had **lasting importance**. It was the **first united struggle** of Hindus and Muslims against British rule, and it **increased political awareness** among Muslims. Many future leaders of the **Pakistan Movement** gained experience from this struggle. It also made Muslims realize that their **religious and political interests** were different from Hindus. This realization later became the foundation for the **Two-Nation Theory** and the **creation of Pakistan** in 1947.

