

Reasons for the Formation of the Muslim League (1906)

sBackground

By the late 19th century, Muslims realized they were politically and economically behind Hindus. The Indian National Congress, formed in 1885, was seen as mainly representing Hindu interests. Muslims feared losing their identity and political voice under a united Indian political structure.

Educational Awakening

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's *Aligarh Movement* emphasized modern education for Muslims. The *All India Muslim Educational Conference*, founded in 1886, not only promoted education but also unity among Muslims. Through education, Muslims developed the confidence to engage in political matters.

The Simla Delegation (1906)

In October 1906, 35 Muslim leaders led by *Aga Khan III* met Viceroy *Lord Minto* at Simla. They requested **separate electorates** so Muslims could elect their own representatives. Lord Minto's positive response encouraged Muslims to organize politically to safeguard their rights.

Formation of the Muslim League

Encouraged by the Simla success, Muslim leaders gathered in Dhaka during the annual meeting of the *All India Muslim Educational Conference*. On **30 December 1906**, they established the **All India Muslim League**. Its purpose was to protect Muslim interests, maintain loyalty to the British, and promote cooperation with other communities.

Significance

The formation of the Muslim League was a turning point in Indian politics. It gave Muslims a united political voice and ensured their demands were heard. The League's creation eventually led to the recognition of Muslims as a separate nation, shaping the political path toward Pakistan.