

Reversal of the Partition of Bengal (1911):

After years of protests, boycotts, and public movements, the British government realized that the Partition of Bengal (1905) had failed to bring peace. The protests had united Hindus and Muslims against British rule. To calm public anger, **King George V** announced in **1911** that Bengal would be reunited, and the **capital of British India** would be shifted from **Calcutta** to **Delhi**. This reversal was the first real victory for the Indian national movement, showing that united resistance could bring results.

Reactions to the Reversal:

Hindus celebrated the reversal as a victory of national unity and political effort. Congress leaders felt proud that their peaceful protests had succeeded. However, many Muslims, especially in East Bengal, were disappointed because their separate province was abolished. They felt the British had betrayed their interests. This difference in reaction created mistrust between Hindus and Muslims once again. The British used this division to their advantage by continuing their “Divide and Rule” policy.

The First World War (1914–1918):

When the First World War began, India automatically became part of it because it was under British control. Over **one million Indian soldiers** fought for Britain, and Indian leaders supported the war effort. They hoped that in return, Britain would reward India with **self-government** or major reforms. However, the war caused heavy taxes, food shortages, and economic problems in India. When the war ended, no real political freedom was granted, and people felt deeply disappointed.

Impact on Hindu–Muslim Relations:

During the war, Hindus and Muslims worked together and supported Britain, hoping for political reforms. But when Britain failed to keep its promises, frustration increased in both communities. Muslims also became emotional about the fall of the **Ottoman Empire**, a major Muslim power, which the British had defeated. This gave rise to religious and emotional movements like **Pan-Islamism**. Realizing that unity was the only way forward, the Congress and Muslim League decided to cooperate, which led to the **Lucknow Pact of 1916**.

Overall Impact on Relations with the British:

The reversal of the Bengal Partition and the events of the First World War changed India’s relationship with the British completely. Hindus and Muslims both realized that the British were using them for their own benefit. Indians lost faith in British promises of justice or fairness. The feeling of betrayal and shared suffering during the war made both communities more politically

aware and determined. This period laid the foundation for stronger nationalist cooperation and the later demand for complete independence.