

The Assassination Of Pakistan's First Premier

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The Indian Liberation Movement proved to be a great and matching response to the challenge of the age and provoked 'fresh challenges in its turn, converting a single movement into a series' leading the Indian masses to their destiny. That was a great age of regeneration, which created 'exceptional proficiency' in the art and craft of politics in the Sub-Continent. That is why epoch making sages and personages appeared on the Indian political scene at the turn of the twentieth century who not only enjoyed great influence on the heart and mind of Indian people, but also exercised decisive command on the movement and direction of history. Mahatma Gandhi, Quaid-i-Azam M.A. Jinnah, Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan represented a great response of Indian masses to the challenge of colonial servitude and subjugation. Their roles as men's leaders, freedom fighters, political organizers and statesmen formed a paramount part of that age. In all the above mention capacities, they could be placed in a significant position and rightly deserved special place in history without which the stories of Indian liberation movement may be deemed incomplete.

Liaquat Ali Khan was born in a noble feudal family of Karnal (East Punjab) on October 1, 1895. The family enjoyed great respect and popularity due to its generosity and services to the community, not only in Karnal but also in different parts of India. It can be said without any exaggeration that the passion to serve the community was inherited to him from the elders of his family. He received his early education from M.A.O. Collegiate School and Aligarh College. After graduation he could have an opportunity to join Indian Civil Service, but on the contrary, he proceeded to Oxford for higher education in 1919. In 1922 he completed his studies and was called to bar at the Inner Temples.

His stay in England enhanced his commitment to the ideals of freedom, democracy, and equality of men, social justice and fair play. Born in an aristocratic environment with a silver spoon in his mouth and having grown as a young man with a tradition of advanced Western education and all that went with it, he should have acquired a bourgeois mentality, but Liaquat Ali Khan was in contrast different. He was liberal in outlook, a strong protagonist of

democracy and a proletarian to the inner most depths of his being. These were the qualities, which instinctively qualified him for the historical role in future.

After his return from England, in 1923, Liaquat Ali Khan decided to enter politics. His objective was the well being of his community and liberation of the homeland. He had always been very sensitive, and could not tolerate the arrogant and indifferent attitude of the alien rulers and their stooges, towards the miserable and helpless

According to modest estimates, in about five years (1923-27) about 450 lives were lost and 5000 persons injured in communal riots. In this situation when Mohammad Ali Jinnah, with the help of other prominent Muslim leaders put new life in the Muslim League and held its annual session in May 1924 at Lahore. Liaquat Ali Khan attended this session.

Besides his activities and deeds for the sake of the Muslims in the post partition period, one of his extra-ordinary achievements was the passage of

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people of India. From the very beginning he seemed to have been determined to get rid of those injustices and maltreatment meted out to the Indians by the British.

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When the frenzy of Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movement receded, religious fanaticism, communal rioting and social bitterness became regular features of the political culture of the sub-continent. The communal riots increased both in number and intensity in proportion to political uncertainty. The series of riots had engulfed the sub-continent from one end to other.

Objectives Resolution which has been proved as the milestone in the constitutional history of Pakistan. The day when he presented the Resolution in the Constituent Assembly, he said:

"Pakistan was founded because the Muslims of this sub-continent wanted to build up their lives in accordance with the teachings and traditions of Islam, because they wanted to demonstrate to the world that Islam provides a panacea to the many diseases which have crept into the life of humanity today."

The resolution laid down the concept of government as a sacred trust to be exercised by the chosen representatives of the people. It laid down the objectives of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice as enumerated by Islam. It also expressed the resolve to enable the Muslims to lead their lives in accordance with the teachings of Islam, while permitting full liberty to the minorities to profess their own religions and develop their cultures.

It was almost the last achievement of Liaquat Ali Khan and after that unfortunately he was assassinated on 16 October, 1951 and that is why the process of constitution making remained embryonic.