

***Pan-Islamic Trends in the All-India  
Muslim Leagues's politics (1930-1937)  
with special reference to South Africa  
Afghanistan and Palastine***

By

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In 1906, the All-India Muslim league (AIML) was founded with the main purpose to project and advance the political rights and interests of the Indian Muslim. However, the AIML was not only interested in solving the problems of the Indian Muslims, it was equally interested in the problems of the Muslim community living in other areas of the world especially the Muslim world.

During 1930-37, there were some problems for the Muslims living in South Africa, Afghanistan and Palestine. They equally attracted AIML'S attention the resolution of sympathy were passed in defense of the Muslim rights. Not only this, some Muslim Associations had direct contact with the AIML. Whenever they faced any problem, they write to the president or secretary of the AIML. Similar contact was established by Hamidia Islamic Society of Johannesburg of which telegram came under consideration in the meeting of the working committee of the



- 19- MLP., 197.  
 20- MLP., vol., 111  
 21- Pirzada, op.cit., vol., II, p. 188.  
 22- MLP., vol., 111.  
 23- Ibid.  
 24- The following tables show the elections results regarding Muslim seats.

Province	Total Muslim Seats	Won by AIML
U.P	64	29
Assam	34	09
Bengal	117	39
Bihar	39	-
Bombay	29	20
C.P	14	-
Madras	28	10
N.W.F.P	36	-
Orissa	04	-
Punjab	84	02
Sind	33	-
Total	482	109

Source: Uma Kaura, Muslims and Indian Nationalism the Emergence of demand for India's partition,(1928-1940) Lahore, n.d.,pp.108-109.

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- 12- Muhammad Saleem Ahmad. op-cit.. P.215. Before 1913, the total strength of the council being distributed among the various provinces was as under.

Sr.No	Name	Seats
1	U.P	8
2	Punjab	7
3	Madras	2
4	Burma	1
5	Indian States	1
6	Bombay and Sind	4
7	N.W.F.P and Baluchisan	1
8	Upper Bengal, Behar and Orissa	7
9	Eastern Bengal and Assam	7
10	Central India, Berar and Ajmer	2
	Total	40

- 13- Syed Shamsul Hassan. op.cit, p.331.
- 14- Dr Abdus Salam Khurshid. Sir Gueseshat-i-Iqbal. Lahore. 1977. pp 232-233.
- 15- Muhammad Saleem Ahmad, The first phase of Quadi-l-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Leadership in the Muslim League: A political study 1906-1919. Islamia University Bahawalpur. .n.d, pp. 9-10.
- 16- Pirzada, op.cit., vol.II,p-188.
- 17- MLP., Vol., 122
- 18- MLP., vol.III,122.

vol. II. 1924 – 1947, Karachi. 1970, pp. 171-172, 176.

See also The Indian Annual Register, 1930, vol. II.

New Delhi 1990, p.345.

6- Pirzada, op.cit., PP.175, 188.

7- Following were the members of this committee, Hafiz Hidayat Hussain, Abdul Mateen Chaudhary, Sir Muhammad Yaqoob, Haji Rashid Ahmad, Hilal Ahmad Zubairi, Mr. Asif Ali, Hussain Imam, Masood Ahmad and Mirza Muhammad Saeed.

8- This committee was consisted of the following: Syed Hussain Imam, Maulvi sir Muhammad Yaqoob, Abdul Mateen chaudhary and Mr. Ali Bahadur Khan, the Secretary of the AIML was convener of the committee. Pirzada. Op. Cit., Vol. II, P.260.

9- The committee was comprised on the following: Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, syed Muhammad Ashraf, Masudul Hasan, syed Muhammad Hussain, Hussain Imam, Maulana Shauqat Ali, Maulvi syed Murtaza and Main Ghiasuddin Muslim league papers (here after MLP vol).222. Naional archives, Islamabad.

10- See Abdul Razzaq Shahid, The All-India Muslim League, 1930-1937, unpublished, M-phil thesis Department of History, Quaid-I-Azam University , Islamabad, 1996. Apendix-7,p.159.

11- MLP., vol.208.

## REFERENCES AND NOTES

- 1- Muhammad Ali, Green Book, pp.19-20 Quoted in Muhammad Saleem Ahmad, The all-India Muslim League, from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1919, Bahawalpur, 1988,p.207.
- 2- Rules and Regulations of the All India Muslim League, Aligarh, 1909, p.3.
- 3- Ibid I. II, p.7.
- 4- Ibid I. II, pp 14-15 See also Syed Shamsul Hasan, plain Mr. Jinnah, Karachi, 1976, p.304. The total membership of four hundred was distribute among the various provinces as under:

Provinces	Total Members	Percent
U.P., (Agra-45, Oudh-25)	70	17.50
Punjab	70	17.50
Upper Bengal Including Behar and Orissa	70	17.50
Esatern Bengal and Assam	70	17.50
Bombay (Bombay -30, Sind-10)	40	10.00
N.W.F.P.,- 10, Baluchistan-5	15	03.75
Madras	25	06.25
Central India, Berar and Ajmer	15	03.75
Burma	10	02.50
Native States	15	03.75
Total	400	100.00

- 5- Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada. The Foundations of Pakistan: The All- India Muslim League Documents, 1906-1947.

more seats in the council to influence the decision of the AIML. The functions of the council were in practice taken by a very small minority. Only ten members formed a quorum at all meetings of the council and even this quorum was not necessary for adjourned meetings. The central office of the AIML was located at Aligarh (1906-1909), Lucknow (1910-1926) and Delhi (1926-47) and since the members of the council attending its meetings were required to pay their own fares and subsistence usually those residing in Delhi or the neighboring provinces like U.P. took part in the celebrations of the council and thus dominated the policies of the AIML.

From 1906 to 1937 the council of the AIML. Its working committee subjects committee, affiliation committee and any other committee constituted for any purpose is sufficient to show the dominant role of the leadership from Muslim minority areas in the affairs of the AIML. The list of the office bearers of the AIML and the places of its annual sessions reveals this fact that the leadership of the league did not give due share and importance to the Muslim majority areas. Iqbal's Allahabad scheme received a poor response from the AIML, it was another evidence that leadership of the AIML was not much interested in the affairs of the Muslim majority provinces. That is why the election results of 1937 proved that the AIML was not a sole representative body of the Indian Muslims as it captured 109 Muslim seats out of 482 seats allotted to Indian Muslim<sup>24</sup>.

bearers formed the quorum of the meeting. Almost all the important matters and issues were discussed in the meetings of the working committee. However the resolution passed by the working committee were subjects to the approval of the council of the AIML<sup>18</sup>. Membership of the AIML was also approved by the council<sup>19</sup>. No doubt the highest decision making authority was the general meeting, the rule were amended or cancelled at the annual meetings of the AIML with 2/3 majority present at the meeting<sup>20</sup>. Quorum of the previous day meeting was considered for the second day meeting as it happened in case of Allahabad session held in December 1930. The quorum of 75 necessary for the annual session was reduced to 50 in 1931<sup>21</sup>. In 1937 the quorum was raised to 10022. Prior to 1937 every Muslim could attend the meeting with one rupee entrance fee. In accordance with the constitution and rules of the All India Muslim League 1937, the delegates of all affiliated leagues and members of the council of AIML were entitled to attend, take part, and vote as the annual or special sessions of the AIML on payment of a fee Rs.2/each<sup>23</sup>.

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### **CONCLUSION**

The AIML from 1906 to 1937 was an organization run and dominated by the political elites from Muslim minority areas. The composition of its council hardly evoked enthusiasm especially from the Muslims of the majority provinces. The composition of the council was based not representation of Muslim population, but on arbitrary allotment of seats giving much larger representation to Muslims in provinces where they were in a minority. The leaders from Muslim minority provinces always tried to capture more and



fear of Punjabi dominance in the Pandal who were not ready to give up separate electorates<sup>14</sup>. It is clear mentioned that Dr.Saifuddin Kitchlew who had tendered his resignation called meeting of the AIML Council and consequently alter the decisions asdesired by the leaders of the league who were in favour of joint electorates.

In fact, among the office-bearers of the AIML its secretary always held an important position to influence the decisions of the organization. The creed of the AIML 'self government suitable to India' was adopted due to the efforts and interests of Syed Wazir Hussain. He took delegation to England regarding Cawnpur Mosque without prior approval of the council the sanction was accorded later<sup>15</sup>. It was the influence of Maulvi Muhammad Yaqoob, secretary AIML, that when Main Abdul Aziz, president AIML, removed him from secretary ship of the AIML as reaction the council adopted a resolution of removal of Main Abdul Aziz as president and confidence in Secretary. In 1937, Liaquat Ali Khan refused to affiliate the Punjab provincial Muslim League without knowing the report of affiliation committee appointed in this regard.

In 1931 working committee of the AIML was established consisting of 23 members<sup>16</sup>. The members of the working committee were nominated from amongst the members of the council by the president of the AIML the Majority of the members of working committee belonged to the area where the headquarters of the AIML was located. The president of the AIML and secretary AIML were also ex-officio members and office-bearers of the working committee<sup>17</sup>. Only five members excluding the office