

DR.MRS.B.UBAHARA MARY

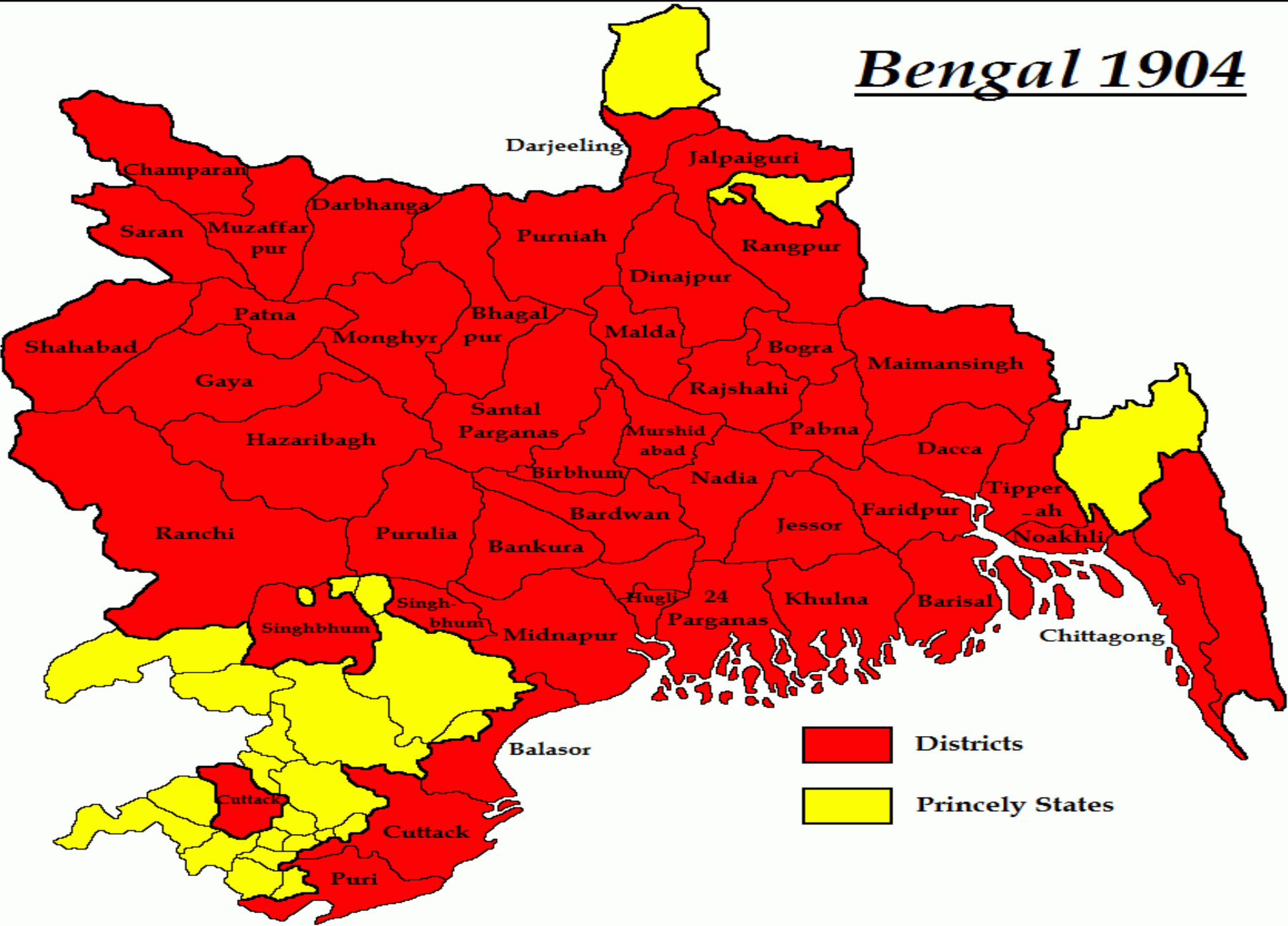
HISTORY OF INDIA

III BA.HISTORY

Lord Curzon – 1899 to 1905.

The partition of Bengal province came into effect during Lord Curzon's viceroyalty on 16th October 1905.

Bengal 1904



East Bengal - Muslim majority - Dhaka
West Bengal – Hindu majority - Calcutta



- Since 1765 - Bengal included present-day West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Bangladesh and Assam
- It was a very large area
- population rose to almost 80 million
- There were difficulties in administering such a large area.
- Eastern region was lacking in the fields of industry, education and employment.

- For administrative convenience, the partition of the province had been proposed even before Curzon.
- In 1874, Assam was sliced away from Bengal and put under a Chief Commissioner.
- Initially, Lord Curzon proposed the partitioning of the province as an administrative measure solely
- The idea of using the Bengal partition as a political tool to undermine the growing nationalism in Bengal and other parts of India occurred later.

- There was widespread political unrest in the province after Curzon announced the partition.
- Many people in Bengal regarded this partition as an insult to their motherland.
- There was a huge cry for the unity of Bengal.
- The Indian National Congress protested this move to separate the province on communal lines.

- Most of the Bengalis in the western part protested against this step which would also make them a linguistic minority in their own province. There would be more Odia and Hindi speaking people than Bengalis.
- Many Muslims welcomed this move since they thought that most Muslims, who were backwards in education and economic status in Bengal compared to Hindus, would benefit if they were in a majority.
- Lord Curzon also promised to start a university in Dhaka. This was also seen as an opportunity for Muslims to develop in education and improve their standard of living.

- The general protest in the rest of the country was against this partition. The people saw through the **'divide and rule'** policy of the British authorities.
- The chief aim of such a partition was only to create a **rift between the two communities** and hampering the unity and nationalism in the country.
- The agitation had started much before the date of the partition itself. On the date of the partition, people observed a day of mourning.

REFUGEES



Impact

- The Swadeshi and Boycott movements were started.
- People started boycotting British goods
- created a communal rift in the country
- contributed to the birth of the **Muslim League in 1906.**
- the partition was annulled in 1911.
- create a communal division among the Hindus and Muslims of Bengal.
- The capital of British India was moved to Delhi from Calcutta in 1911.

VANDALISM



Bengal united is a power; Bengal divided will pull in several different ways – HH Risley, British administrator

On **July 20, 1905**, the decision to partition Bengal was announced by Lord Curzon

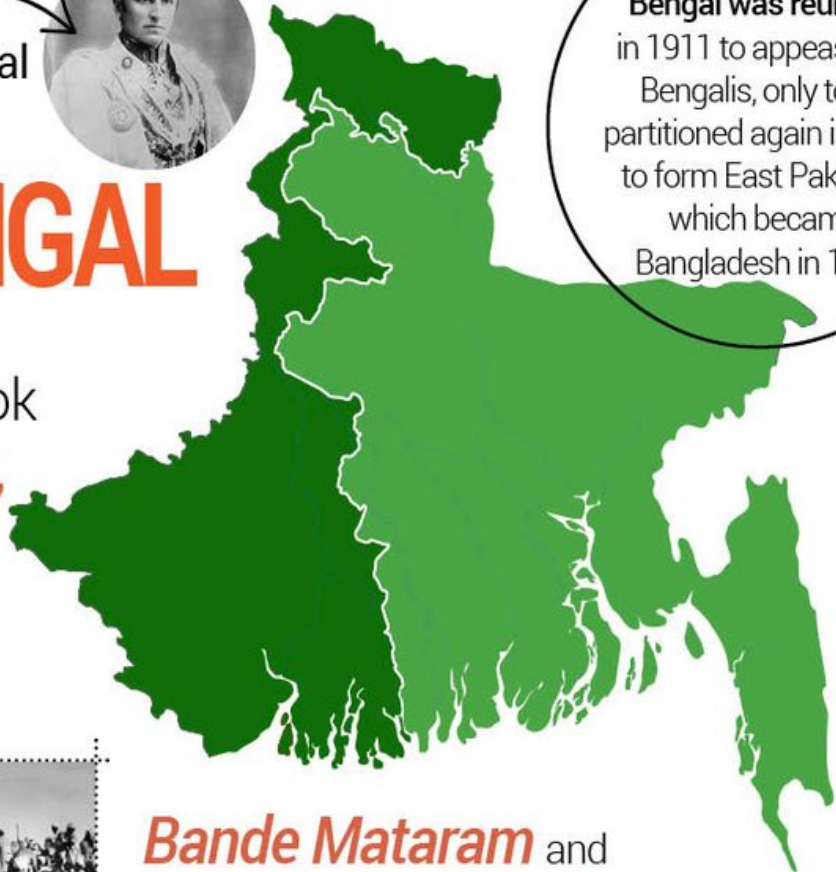


Bengal was reunited in 1911 to appease the Bengalis, only to be partitioned again in 1947 to form East Pakistan, which became Bangladesh in 1971

PARTITION OF BENGAL

Undivided Bengal had an area of **189,000 sq miles** (as large as France), a population of nearly 8 crores, and a gross revenue of ₹113 lakhs

The partition took place on **Oct 16, 1905**



It was supposed to reduce administrative pressures as well as **quell the Indian Independence Movement**



Bande Mataram and ***Amar Sonar Bangla*** became anthems of the protest against the move

