

***The Decisive Decades of freedom Movement (1927-1947):******A case Study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*****Muhammad Nawaz Khan****E.mail [nawazkhansbbu@gmail.com](mailto:nawazkhansbbu@gmail.com)****Lecturer in Pakistan Studies SBBU Sheringal Dir Upper****Khurshid Iqbal****E.mail [khurshid@sbbu.edu.pk](mailto:khurshid@sbbu.edu.pk)****Lecturer In SBBU****Sajad Ali Momand****E.mail [Sajadicup@gmail.com](mailto:Sajadicup@gmail.com)****Ph.d Scholor in Pakistan Study Center, University of Peshawar**

**Abstract:** *The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, former NWFP played a key role in Freedom Movement. They took an active part in all offshoots of Freedom Movement like Handkerchief Movement, Caliphate Movement, Hijrat Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. Though the province was under the influence of Congress, yet the hearts of the people of this province were beating with Muslim League. The Congress won both the elections of 1937 and 1946, but in the historic referendum of 1947, the people of this province gave their historic verdict in favour of Pakistan and joined Pakistan Constituent Assembly. This article is an endeavour to disclose the possible struggle of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Freedom Movement from 1930 to the birth of Pakistan in 1947. The writers attempt to bring this struggle into the limelight of the readers.*

**Introduction:** In Indian Sub-Continent, the struggle to achieve independence from the British clutches lasted for long time and took many shapes and stages. It can be roughly divided into two stages; the first phase was an armed struggle ended with the uprising of 1857, which brought disaster for the Indians as a whole and for the Muslims in particular. On one side, the war brought an end to the long established Mughal Empire in India and on the other side established the British occupied the whole region of the sub-continent. The second phase gave birth to the movement for independence; partially constitutional, partially illegal, clandestine and violent. It was not even a single movement, but, a series of movements connected with each other's. This struggle took hundred years and ultimately resulted in the Independence of India but also the birth of Pakistan occurred out of the yoke of British India. Like other Muslim majority and minority provinces, the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa played a key role in the struggle for Pakistan as well<sup>1</sup>.



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## **Round Table Conferences and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province**

In reaction to Simon Commission, All Indian National Congress constituted a committee at the head of Moti Lal Nehru to produce a Constitution for India. The Committee published its report in August 1928, popularly known as Nehru Report in the history of India. In this report the Muslim community of India was purely treated on religious and cultural basis. All the concession given to the Muslims under Lucknow Pact were recommended to be withdrawn. Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Sir Agha Khan on behalf of the Muslims made their sincere efforts to amend the Report to accommodate the maximum demands of the Muslims to retain Hindu-Muslim unity but in vain. Immediately after the publication, the Congress demanded the British Government to implement the Nehru Report as a Constitution of India.<sup>2</sup> India was passing through unprecedented stress and strain when labor party returned to power as a result of general elections of May, 1929. On October 31, 1929, the new viceroy of India, Lord Irwin on behalf of the British Prime Minister, Ramsey Macdonald declared that the British Government intended to hold a Round Table Conference, comprising of the Representative of the British Government and Indian interests to find out the solution upon which all quarters could agree. Both the groups of the Muslim League welcomed the offer while Congress rejected the offer. On December 31, 1929 the Congress session was held at Lahore in which the Independence Resolution was adopted and Tri- coloured flag was hoisted at midnight of December 31. In this meeting the Congress authorised Gandhiji to start a Civil Disobedience Movement. Gandhiji launched Civil Disobedience Movement and salt making campaign on March 12, 1930. The Central Working Committee directed the Provincial Congress to undertake Civil Disobedience programme accordingly. Soon the movement spread all over the India. The Congress Committee of NWFP requested Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan, leader of *Khudai Khidmatgar* to give them required support to which he agreed<sup>3</sup>.

The movement in NWFP was very peaceful in the start but it turned into violent when the people began to attack on liquor shops and brothels in different parts of the province. On 23 April 1930, Ghaffar Khan was arrested after giving a speech in Utmanzai urging resistance to British colonial rule. The News of the arrest of Ghafar Khan spread like a wild fire in Pashtoon areas. On the midnight of April 23, 1930 the authorities also arrested some leaders from

Peshawar including Syed Lal Badshsh, Mulavi Abdur Rahim Popalzai, Rahim Badshah Gaznavi, Allah Bakhsh Barqi and Ghulam Rabbani Sethi and were put up in the Municipal Committee office. When the police were going to shift the detainees to the Kabuli police station in the Qissa Khani Bazar, a big procession came out and demanded the release of their leaders. Army was called when the police failed to control the situation. The army opened fire on the armless procession which resulted in the death of more than two hundred people<sup>4</sup>.

Due to non-cooperation movement and salt making campaign Indian Sub- continent was passing through unprecedented political stress and storms, when the British government called All Round Table Conference (RTC) in London to find out the solution of the constitutional and political problems of India. The following three sessions of the conference were held:

1. First Session of Round Table Conference November 12, 1930 to January 19, 1931
2. Second Session of Round Table Conference September 7, 1931 to December 1, 1931
3. Third Session of Round Table Conference December 17, 1932 to December 24, 1932<sup>5</sup>.

During the first session of the Round Table Conference, K. B. Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan, a representative from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa magnificently presented the issue of constitutional reforms in NWFP. Ramsay Macdonald, the British Prime Minister appointed a Sub-Committee on the problem of Khyber Pakhtukhwa at the chairmanship of Arthur Handerson. K. B. Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan pleaded forcefully the case of KP before the committee and convinced the committee to extend the constitutional reforms to KP like other provinces<sup>6</sup>. After a lengthy deliberation on the subject, on January 25, 1932 the British government issued a notification and NWFP was raised to status of the Governor province and the Indian Act of 1919 was extended to it<sup>7</sup>. Sir Ralph Griffith was appointed as the first Governor of KP who took oath of his office on April 18, 1932 and thus NWFP got its constitutional status after 31 years of its birth<sup>8</sup>.

## Now or Never or We to Live or Perish for Ever

Some graduates of Islamia College Peshawar had gone to England for pursuing higher education. In 1929, they formed an organization titled “Khyber Union”. Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak and Sardar Inayatullah Khan of Charsada were elected as the President and Secretary of the organization respectively. Chaudhary Rahmat Ali and Sahibzada Muhammad Saddiq also joined the same organization<sup>41</sup>. Beside the Khyber Union, these students also organised Pakistan National Movement. Following were the office bearers of the said Movement;

1. Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak----- President
2. Dr. R.A. Rehman -----Vice President
3. Chaudhary Rahmat Ali----- Secretary
4. Sahibzada Muhammad Saddiq and Sardar Inayatullah Khan were the members of the executive Council<sup>9</sup>.

Under the banner of Pakistan National Movement, during the session of Third Round Table Conference the group of these four young men in January 1933 issued a pamphlet entitled “*Now or Never or We to Live or Perish For Ever*” in which they coined the name “PAKISTAN” for the sovereign Muslim state constituting of the Muslim majority areas. But, the Punjabi powerful press projected Ch. Rahmat Ali as the sole architect of the word Pakistan. The fact remains that beside Ch. Rahmat Ali and Sahibzada Muhammad Saddique, the two noble sons of KP were among the coiners of the word Pakistan<sup>10</sup>.

## Lahore Resolution and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Frontier Muslim League (FML) was the first political party to be established in KP in 1912 and the following office bearers were appointed;

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mian Abdul Aziz        | President                 |
| 2. Qazi Abdul Wali Khan   | Vice-President            |
| 3. Syed Ali Abbas Bukhari | General Secretary         |
| 4. Qazi Mir Ahmad         | Joint Secretary           |
| 5. Hakim Muhammad Amin    | Treasurer <sup>11</sup> . |

After its birth, Frontier Muslim League played an active part in politics of India. Syed Ali Abbas Bukhari led a delegation to the Agra Session of All India Muslim League held in 1913 and Bombay session held in 1915. The leaders of the Frontier Muslim League were

dealt with an ironic hands by the authorities. Syed Ali Abbas Bukhari, General Secretary of Frontier Muslim League was declared as madcap. To escape the outrages of the government, he fled to Kabul in March 1917. Most of the office bearers were put behind the bar<sup>12</sup>. The atrocities of the British government and foundation of *Khudai Khidmatgar* in 1929, pushed the Frontier Muslim League into its background. During the period between 1917 and 1936 it almost remained dormant. On his return to India in 1934, M.A. Jinnah was elected as the president of All India Muslim League. He resolved to reorganise the Muslim League on provincial level. After announcement of elections for provincial Legislatures under the Indian Act of 1935, All India Muslim League in its 24 session at Bombay (April 12, 1936) decided to participate in the forthcoming elections. Jinnah was authorised to establish Central and Provincial Parliamentary Boards<sup>13</sup>. He accordingly, invited a large number of influential Muslim leaders from all over India for a meeting by the end of April 1936 at Delhi and also went to Lahore for consultation with the leaders of Punjab. He invited a large number of the Muslim leaders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, notable amongst them were Pir Bakhsh and Malik Khuda Bakhsh. The Quaid met later Malik Khuda Bakhsh and Rahim Bakhsh Ghaznavi at Lahore at the residence of Mian Abdul Aziz<sup>14</sup>. The Frontier was given representation in the Central Parliamentary Board. Pir Bakhsh, Malik Khuda Bakhsh, Allah Bakhsh Yousufi and Abdul Rahim (Rahim Bakhsh) Ghaznavi were appointed as members of the board from the Frontier. The Quaid was very keen at this time to learn more about the politics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa because his knowledge about this province was not up to date. This is palpable from his correspondence with Pir Bakhsh, Abdul Ghafoor, Allah Bakhsh Yousufi and few others on September 13, 1936. He wanted to know more as he wished to visit Peshawar<sup>15</sup>.

Jinnah decided to visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to popularise the League's election campaign. He visited Peshawar on October 18, 1936 and left on October 24, 1936. During his stay at Peshawar, he addressed public gathering and exchanged views with leaders of different shade of opinion. During his visit, Jinnah constituted a Parliamentary Board at the head of Pir Bakhsh, but the Board did not deliver well during elections<sup>16</sup>. Elections to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly held in February 1937. Congress emerged as the biggest party and secured 19 seats. The League showed a poor performance and failed to win even a single seat. The party position were as;

Congress-----19

Independent Muslims-----	21
Hindu Sikh Nationalist Party-----	7
Independent Party-----	2
Independent Hindus-----	1 <sup>17</sup> .

On April 1, 1937 Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan took oath as the first Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but his ministry proved to be a short one because it was overthrown by Dr. Khan Saib as a result of vote of no-confidence on September 3, 1937. Khan's ministry remained in office for 27 months and resigned in 1939 as a result of differences developed over the question of World War II and the Governor Rule was imposed in the province under Sir George Cunningham which remained in force up to 1943<sup>18</sup>.

From its birth in 1906, All India Muslim League had been trying to reach an honourable agreement with All India National Congress on the following two principles;

1. The Congress should recognise Muslim League as the representative body of the Muslims of India
2. The Muslims of India should not be taken as the minor community<sup>19</sup>.

Congress did not give any importance to these basic principles on which compromise between the two political parties was possible. By the end of nineteenth century the Muslims had come to the belief that the Muslims and Hindus could never live together. Such thoughts were so many times expressed both individually and collectively from the different quarters of Muslims<sup>20</sup>. All India Muslim League began to think seriously about the future of the Muslims of India. In February 1940, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president of All India Muslim League had a long meeting with Lord Linlithgow, the then Viceroy of India and apprised him that the League would demand the partition of Indian in its forthcoming annual session to be held in March, 1940 at Lahore<sup>21</sup>. Muhammad Ali Jinnah appointed a reception committee for the arrangement of forthcoming session of the League at the head of Sir Shah Nawaz, the Nawab of Mamdot<sup>54</sup>. Chairman of the committee discussed the arrangements of the session with all branches of Provincial Muslim League and eventually the security arrangement was assigned to the Frontier Muslim League. The task was given to the Frontier National Guard headed by Tila Muhammad who did his duty well. A delegation of 800 persons attended the historical Lahore Session led by Sardar Aurangzeb Khan who seconded the Lahore resolution on behalf of KP<sup>22</sup>.

## **Provincial Elections of 1946 and Muhammad Ali Jinnah Visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province**

The Viceroy Lord Wavell during war time continued his efforts to bring an agreement between All India Muslim League and All India National Congress to find a solution to political and constitutional problems of India. For this purpose Viceroy called a conference on June 25, 1945 at Simla to which the leaders of League, Congress and Sikh community were invited. The conference failed due to the differences between League and Congress over the Muslim representation in Viceroy Executive Council. During the course of conference, the Congress once again repeated its old stance of being a representative body of the whole India. Opposing the Congress, Jinnah addressed Viceroy to hold a general elections in India to find out the real representative of the Muslims of India. The failure of the Conference had a favourable impact on the politics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Many political stalwarts of the province got convinced that Hindu-Muslim alliance was impossible. In the year of 1945, Syed Aminul Hasant (Pir of Manki Sharif), Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan , Deputy parliamentary leader of Congress in Central legislative Assembly, Arbab Abdul Ghafoor, Ghulam Muhammad Lundkhwar( Provincial President of Congress), Samin Jan Khan and so many joined the Muslim League<sup>23</sup>.

In May, 1945, the Second World War ended in the victory of Britain and defeat of Germany. As a result of elections of 1945, the Labour Party returned to power in Britain. The new government was anxious to find out the solution of Indian problems as soon as possible. Soon after the installation of new government in London, Lord Wavell visited London to discuss the Indian problems with the new government. On return to India Wavell, on August 21, 1945 announced the elections to Central and Provincial Assemblies shall be held in winter 1945-46. The announcement of elections was a challenge for Muslim League to justify its claim that Muslim League was the sole representative body of the Muslims of India. After the announcement of the elections the Muslim League commenced its electioneering campaign. As a part of election campaign, Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on November 19, 1945. He was given a warm reception at Peshawar by Allah Bakhsh Yousfi, K. B. Saad Ullah Khan and Samin Jan Khan along with a large number of League workers. During his stay at Peshawar, he addressed a big gathering at Shahi Bagh and stressed on the success of the coming elections of 1946. He visited Islamia College Peshawar and addressed the students of the College in the following words;

“Give me silver cartridges and I will give you Pakistan. In response the students of Islamia College presented him a bag containing 10,000 rupees. They pledged with Jinnah that next time they would present the heads of one thousand youth”<sup>24</sup>.

After the failure of Simla Conference, the Pir of Manki Sharif started his active politics by arranging a gathering of religious personalities in his native town of Manki in Nowshera which was attended by the renowned Indian politicians and religious scholars from all India. The prominent among them were Allama Shabbir Ahmad Usmani, Maulana Abdul Hamid Badayuni, Pir Jamaat Ali Shah and the Pir of Zakori. These religious personalities discussed the political scenario of India in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular. They came to the conclusion that, in order to fight the British and the Hindus, they would have to come out of their monasteries to take part in practical politics. For this purpose and with a view to work in organized form they established an association with the name of Jamiat-ul-Asifiya at the head of Pir of Manki Sharif<sup>25</sup>. In this meeting, it was decided to support All India Muslim League in the coming elections with a condition that the Muslim League leadership would ensure that Pakistan would be an Islamic state where no law repugnant to the Islamic Shariah would be promulgated<sup>26</sup>. The Pir of Manki Sharif informed Jinnah of these developments in a letter addressed to him. In his reply Jinnah thanked him and other ulema for their whole-hearted support to the cause of Pakistan and promised him in written to enforce *Shariah* in Pakistan. The writer of this article met his son Pir Shams-ul-Amin at his monastery in 2018 who told him that his father gave that letter to Malik Ghulam Muhammad, the then Governor General of Pakistan in 1951 and reminded him the promise of the founding father of the nation. . Later on his father several time demanded the letter but the Governor General did not give the letter to his father<sup>27</sup>.

On November 24, Jinnah visited the monastery of Syed Muhammad Amin-ul-Hasanat at his village Manki. He was given a warm reception by the disciples of the Pir sahib. Jinnah in his address thanked him and his disciples and urged them to work for the attainment of Pakistan and support the Muslim League in the coming election. After a long visit of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Ali Jinnah left province on November 27, 1945. Though the visit of Jinnah was successful, but it could not solve the factionalism and differences among the Leaguers<sup>28</sup>.

The Muslim League candidates were selected by the Provincial Selection Board headed by Khan Abdul Qayum Khan, the new entry in Muslim league. The Frontier Muslim League was

divided into pro- Khan Abdul Qayum Khan Group and Anti- Khan Abdul Qayum Khan Group<sup>64</sup>. Nomination of senior leaders like K.B Saadullah Khan, Aurangzeb Khan and Mian Ziauddin, Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar and Samin Jan were denied. All these senior members lodged appeal to the Central Selection Board to revisit the decision of Provincial Selection Board, but only Mian Ziauddin and Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar's appeals were entertained. Twenty-three persons applied for the nine constituencies from Hazara district upon which fourteen persons failed to get nominated, however six decided to contest against the official Muslim League candidates. In Hazara district a large number of political stalwarts like Qazi Asadul Haq, Ghulam Jan Tahirkheli, Khan Abdul Jaffar Khan, K.B. Jalaluddin, Abdullah Jan and K.S. Atai Khan of Battal were expelled from the party for their anti-League activities during the campaign. Elections were held between January 26 and February 14, 1946 on the basis of the Indian Act, 1935. The results of all constituencies were announced by 18 February 1946. The Congress won an absolute majority by winning thirty out of fifty seats, while Muslim League won only seventeen seats. Thus the Congress formed Ministry under Dr. Khan Sahib for third time in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa<sup>29</sup>.

### **Referendum in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province**

When Second World War ended in Europe, Labour party formed government in Britain headed by Lord Attlee who came to the conclusion that Britain's devastated economy could not cope with the cost of "Over-Extended Empire". A cabinet mission was despatched to India in 1946 to conclude an agreement between Congress and Muslim League for solution of Indian problems. But the mission failed to do so. An interim government was installed as a result of 1945 elections which was followed by a series of communal riots. India was standing at the bank of civil war<sup>30</sup> when lord Attlee on February 20, 1947 announced in the House of Commons that;

1. His Majesty's Government wish to make it clear that it is their definite intension to take necessary step to effect the transfer of power to responsible Indian hands by a date not later than June 1948
2. The future of the princely states would be decided after the date of final transfer is decided.
3. His Majesty's Government has decided to replace Lord Wavell by Lord Mountbatten as Governor General of India<sup>31</sup>.

Lord Mountbatten reached Delhi on March 22, 1947 as a last and 35 Viceroy of India and took the oath of his office on March 24, 1947. By the Instrument of Instructions issued to him on his appointment, he was required to find an agreed solution for the united India on the basis of Cabinet Mission Plan. Upon his arrival in India, Mountbatten concluded that the situation was volatile for transfer of power in the line of Cabinet Mission Plan. After completing his calculations and meeting with the leading leaders of Congress, League and Sikh community, he announced the partition of India on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1947 which was given a legal cover under the Indian Act of Independence of July 18, 1947<sup>32</sup>.

Keeping in view the peculiar situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the following options were kept in mind during the course of discussion on transfer of power to the Indian hands;

1. On 28- 29 April, 1947 Lord Mountbatten visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and stayed at the Flagstaff House, the residence of the Area Commander of Peshawar. During his stay in Peshawar while exchanging his views with Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and political leaders, he indicated the idea of holding of referendum in NWFP but its procedure was not described.
2. When on June 15-16, 1946, the partition plan was put before the Governor's Conference, holding of a fresh election was proposed for this province, but this proposal was categorically rejected by both Khan Brothers and All India National Congress<sup>33</sup>.

Bacha Khan, leader of Red Shirt refused to accept the referendum. He was of the view that the elections of 1946 were held on the question of Pakistan and India. In the said elections the League was badly routed and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had given their decision in favour of India. He was of the view that the existing Provincial Assembly should decide the future of the province which was objected by All India Muslim League. After a heated discussion over the issue, Nehru, the President of Congress agreed on referendum, provided that it would not be under the Governor's rule but under the ministry of Dr. Khan Sahib. M. A. Jinnah was in favour of fresh elections in the province and strongly opposed the idea of referendum but the newly appointed Viceroy could not afford the fresh election in the province. But when Jinnah was informed by the Viceroy about the abolishment of weightage (12 out of 50 which the Hindu-Sikh minority held in the province), he also opted for referendum instead of fresh elections. Both the League and Congress top leadership accepted the 3<sup>rd</sup> June partition plan envisaged holding of referendum in the province, but Bacha Khan refused to accept it<sup>34</sup>.

The Congress Working Committee met on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1947 and reviewed the aftermath of the announcement of Partition Plan. Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan addressed the Congress Working Committee in the following words;

*We Pathans always supported Congress during the course of freedom struggles and opposed Muslim League and we have made great sacrifices for the cause of freedom. But now you are leaving us in a very desperate position and throwing us to the wolves. We held an election on the question of India or Pakistan and we won this election with a large majority. Is there any doubt about what Pukhtoos wanted? That's why we do not want a referendum. He further suggested that if there was to be a referendum that should be on the question of Pakistan or Pukhtoonistan*<sup>35</sup>.

But the British government ignored the demand of Bacha Khan and released the schedule for referendum to be held on between 6-17 July. The Red Shirt decided to boycott the referendum. Soon after the announcement of partition plan, Jinnah appealed to all the communities with a special reference to the Muslims for the peaceful transfer of power in India. Keeping in view the peculiar situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Quaid-e-Azam said;

*"Hence it is clear that the opinion of the people of the Frontier Province will be ascertained through referendum to whether they want to join Pakistan Constituent Assembly or the Hindustan Constituent Assembly. In these circumstances I request the Provincial Muslim League of the Frontier Province to called off the movement of civil disobedience and I call upon all the leaders of the Muslim League and the Musalmans generally to organise our people to face this referendum with hope and courage, and I feel confident that the people of Frontier will give their decision by a vote to join the Pakistan Constituent Assembly"*<sup>36</sup>.

On June 17, Jinnah constituted a four member committee comprising of I. I. Chandri Garh, Ghazanfar Ali Khan, the Pir of Manki Sharif and Syed Wajid Ali to supervise and control the Muslim League organization in the province and to make arrangements for the referendum. The Muslim League and the Red Shirts started campaign in their own way. The League launched its pro-referendum campaign in favour Pakistan. The committee took an extensive tour of the whole province. The Muslim students from Aligrah Muslim University and Islamia College Peshawar spread in the length and breadth of the Province to canvass the people to cast their vote in favour of Pkiastan<sup>37</sup>. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

decided to boycott the referendum and tried to convince the people of the province not to vote for Pakistan. He was of the view that in case people of the province voted for Pakistan, then that would be tantamount to the continuation of British domination<sup>38</sup>.

The Provincial Election Commission arranged polling stations for polling where two boxes, one red and other green, were placed in the polling stations. Of these boxes, the green was for the Pro-Pakistan votes and the red box was for the Pro-Hindustan votes<sup>39</sup>. The Referendum started on 7 July and was completed in ten days. The turnout was 50.11 percent as out of the total 572799 electorate 292118 cast their votes. Of these, 289244 votes were cast in favour of Pakistan and 2874 went to red boxes. Thus of the polled votes Pakistan got 99.02 percent while India got only 0.98 percent. As a result of the referendum Khyber Pakhtunkhwa joined Pakistan Constituent Assembly and became a part of Pakistan<sup>40</sup>.

## **Conclusion**

The history of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has always been marked with the invasion of invaders. It had been a part of Afghanistan till 1799 when Sikh governor of Punjab revolted against the Afghan ruler, Shah Zaman and declared his independence in 1802. As a part of Punjab, KP was ruled by Ranjit Singh when it was captured by British government in 1849. It remained a part of Punjab when it was separated from Punjab in 1901 and was placed under Chief Commissioner. Keeping in view the peculiar location of KP, the British Government did not extend constitutional reforms to this province. The people of this province played a key role in Caliphate Movement, Hijrat Movement and Non-cooperation Movement. The inhabitants of Peshawar warmly welcomed the emigrants while going from different parts of Indian Sub-continent via Peshawar to Afghanistan. Following the decision of the All India Khilafat Committee, the people of KP took part in Non-Cooperation movement. The students of Islamia College Peshawar boycotted the classes and many people left the government jobs. The issue

of the Constitutional reforms was raised by the Muslim leaders. Realising the gravity of the situation, the British government appointed the Bray Committee to deal the constitutional status of the province. After collecting the first hand information from political leaders of different shade of opinion, Bray Committee suggested the extension of constitutional reforms to KP. Keeping in view the suggestion of Bray Committee and Simon Commission, the British government extended a status of full province to KP in 1932. Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak and Sardar Inayatullah of Charsadda played an important role in the coinage of the world *Pakistan*. The delegation of 800 people from KP at the head of Sardar Aurang Zeb participated in this historic session of 1940. The failure of the Simla Conference of 1945 had a favourable impact on the politics of KP. The political stalwarts of the province, Pir of manki Sharif, Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, Arbab Abdul Ghafoor, Ghulam Muhammad of Lundkhwar, Samin Jan and many others joined All India Muslim League. These political figures of the province played significant part in the elections of 1946 and Referendum of 1947. The efforts of theses political personalities bore fruit and KP joined Pakistan as a result of 1947 Referendum.

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