

International Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

Golden Research
Thoughts

Chief Editor
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

Welcome to GRT

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2231-5063

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

International Advisory Board

Flávio de São Pedro Filho Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Kamani Perera Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences[PK]
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pinteau, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	George - Calin SERITAN Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, IasiMore
Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania		

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh, Ratnagiri, MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University, Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yalikal Director Management Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU, Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director, Hyderabad AP India.	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)	S. Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	S. KANNAN Annamalai University, TN
	Sonal Singh, Vikram University, Ujjain	Satish Kumar Kalhotra Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Address:- Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.org

MUSLIM PRESS AND KHILFAT QUESTION
IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY



A. Pathima

Assistant Professor in History , Justice Basheer Ahmed College for Women Teynampet, Chennai , Tamil Nadu.

Short Profile

A. Pathima is working as an Assistant Professor in History , Justice Basheer Ahmed College for Women Teynampet, Chennai , Tamil Nadu. She Has Completed M.A., B.Ed., M.L.I.S., M.Phil. and Ph.D.



ABSTRACT:

During the initial years of the Twentieth Century, the Muslims in the Madras Presidency, in an attempt to defend their over all interests, had a few Newspapers. *The Live-ul-Islam* and *Saiphul Islam* exercised considerable influence among the Muslims in the Madras Presidency. The *Quami Report*, *Mukbir-i-Dekhan*, *Jaridah-I-Rozar*, *Malabr Islam* also catered to the needs of the nationalist sentiments of the Urdu speaking Muslims of the Madras Presidency. The friendly atmosphere of the British and the Muslims over the Communal Award of 1909, was short lived. The change of attitude of the Muslims towards the British became evident when the Partition of Bengal was

annulled in 1911 and the Caliph of Turkey was humbled during the First World War.

KEYWORDS

Muhammadans, Khilafat, Rajaji, Quami Report, Congress, Turkey,

INTRODUCTION

The Muslim politics in India emerged as the response to the British policy towards Turkey. In the Madras Presidency, the Khilafat Movement gained momentum. Though the total Muslim population of the Madras Presidency was only seven percent, it had taken deep roots even before the Non-Co-operation Movement. They were divided into three groups. The Loyalist group headed by the Prince of Arcot. Another group, comprising both Urdu and Tamil speaking Muslim businessmen, was led by Yakub Hassan, the founder of the Madras Branch of the Muslim League. Yet another group, composed of Urdu speaking Muslims, was led by the fierce, Pan-Islamist, Abdul Majid Sharar who was the editor of the *Quami Report*, a Urdu Newspaper. Rajaji befriended the second group.²

An Urdu leaflet, 'Zameana Bagawat Hindustan', dated 8th January 1915 adopted the extreme stand and extended its support to Turkey and Germany. Another leaflet, 'An Appeal to the Indians', was published in January 1915. It supported the cause of Turkey and Germany in the War, equating it to the religious crusade and declared that every one died in the War would reach Allah.³

The prominent Muhammadans of Madras, who opposed the British, were the Yakub Hassan and the Abdul Majid Sharar, editor of *Quami Report*, a Urdu Newspaper. Yakub Hassan decided to protest against the British and Allied Powers to safeguard Turkey. He is reported to have made arrangements with the editor of *Quami Report* and others to start a vigorous agitation in Madras. He said that he would make the British people understand that the feeling of Muhammadans is so strong regarding the internment of Ali Brothers.⁴

The *Muslim Herald* advised the Mussalmans to hold a general meeting to give expression to the feelings and desires on the questions of Khalifate. *Quami Report* wrote that it was the duty of the British Government to see that France, Italy and America continued to adhere to the idea that the existence of Turkey formed an essential element in the Government of Europe. Turkish question, stated by some Europeans particularly Lord Winterton, Sir John Bees, Sir Theodore Morrison, Sir B. Fuller and others, revealed the fact that the existence of Muslims depended on the existence of Turkey and if any injury was done to Islamic Khalifate, the result would be of great unrest throughout Islamic world. The editor gave the translation of Sir Theodore Morrison's letter published in the *London Times*, which was considered to be more eloquent than his first communication that dealt explicitly with the questions of Turkish Provinces. According to this arrangement, Syria, Mesopotamia, Arabia and Asia Minor were to form separate kingdoms and enjoy more independent power.⁵

Jaridah-I-Rozgar, dated 13th August 1919, viewed that the great European War put an end to the outbreak between the Amir of Afghanistan and India. The seven crores of Muslims earnestly desired that Mr. Montagu the Secretary of State for India, would take their request into consideration and not to take the holy places away from Turkish control and support the proposal of allowing Constantinople to remain the Capital of Turkey. The British Prime Minister has stated, "It is not the Amir or the object of the present war to take the Turkish Capital, Thrace or the rich lands of Asia Minor". By doing so, Great Britain secured the confidence of the whole Muslim world.⁶

There were undoubted signs of agitations over the 'Khaliphate' and Holy Places and clear signs of Pan-Islamic ideas among the people, traceable to Gandhi's campaign of passive resistance for the common cause. A fanatical respect was exhibited for the Ali brothers, Gandhi, Tilak, Moulvi Abdul Bari, Ansari and Yakub Hassan. Some people claimed Gandhi as a follower of Islam.⁷

The Dasara and Muharram festivities passed without serious incidents either in Madras or in

the Mufassal. A preliminary meeting of the Muslim Community of Madras was held on the 9th October to take concerted measures for convening a public meeting on the 11th October 1919 to give expression to Muslim views on the Khalifate and the future of Turkey. Abdul Majid Sharar who represented the Muslims of Madras at the All India Muslim Conference, held at Lucknow informed the audience that the following procedure had been suggested:

- 1 Mass meeting should be held not only in large cities and towns but also in villages throughout India.
- 2 Special prayers should be offered on 17th October in cities, towns, villages in India for the preservation of the Khalifate and Turkish Empire.
- 3 All Muhammadan shops should be closed and people in Government Service should take leave on that day.
- 4 Mass meeting should be held in Triplicane Beach to pass the resolution.

C. Rajagopalchari volunteered to persuade Hindus to co-operate with the Muslims on the 17th October. Posters were displayed in Urdu, Tamil and English, inviting Hindus and Muhammadans to participate in the day's celebrations and most of the shops, both Hindus and Muhammadans, were closed. In the evening, processions carrying flags and banners from all parts of the City met at the beach and the crowd, which included many Hindus was estimated to number nearly 20,000. Khan Bahadur Abdul Khuddus Badsha Sahib was voted to chair. The vernacular press generally expressed sympathy with the Muslims arguing that the Sultan of Turkey was not deprived of his secular influence as he could have no religious influence without proper status and secular powers.⁸

On account of Rajaji's influence, the Khilafat Committees in Tamil Nadu became, "as much Hindu enterprises as Muslims". In Trichinopoly which was one of the Khilafat centres, the Khilafat Committee was directed by two friends of Rajaji - T.S.S. Rajan and T. V. Swaminatha Sastri. They were assisted by Sayid Murtuza Saheb and Khaja Mian Rowther.

The Muslim Newspaper, *Jaridah-I-Rozgar*, wrote about the future of Turkey and referring to the suggestion of *London Times* with reference to the solution of Turkish problem and to the contradictory views expressed by the French liberal political Newspapers on the subject, observed that the *Times* desired to hurt the feelings of Mussalmans. The *Malabar Islam* stated that Muslims were not to allow their caliph to be deprived of the power of protecting their places and their prestige. While traversing the remarks of Harrison, the *Quami Report* stated that, "if the Khalifa of the Mussalmans be sent away from Constantinople, Muslim protest will become increasingly vehement and will continue as long as there is one Muslim live". The paper, referring to the news that peace conference decided to allow Turkey to remain in Constantinople on certain conditions, remarked that Europe knew full well that it could not drive Turkey from Constantinople. The expulsion would mean digging one's own grave. The writer of *Jaridah-I-Rozgar*, referred to a Washington telegram of the 14th February, stating that Lord Curzon was the leader of the party, supporting the view to expel the Turkey from Europe. The Muslim Newspaper *Mukbir-I-Dekhan* referred to the agitation in England, led by Lord Bryce, against the retention of Constantinople by the Turks. The *Quami Report* referred to the speech of Lloyd George and regretted extremely that if treaty with Turkey was concluded on his terms, it would be the most humiliating peace ever known to the world.⁹

The Congress Committee of Calicut sent a telegram to the Madras press, announcing that Yakub Hassan had resolved to address a meeting and the telegram was intercepted by the postal authorities.

Yakub Hassan and three others were arrested. Hartal was proclaimed for 27th February. A meeting of the Congress Committee took place at Bezweda on 31st March. Gandhi, Shaukat Ali and Mohammad Ali planned to reach Madras on 1st April and via Erode, they planned to attend the Muslim Ulema Conference and the meeting of Muslim volunteers. Their visit to Tamil Nadu was alluded to in the fortnightly report. Shaukat Ali visited Guntur and at Madras addressed a large meeting in the beach on 2nd April. They left Erode and attended the Ulema Conference and left for Bangalore. In that meeting, Muhammad Ali regretted over the failure of local students to take their proper share in the movement. His speeches were violent and seditious but it was in Urdu and reporters were not available there to take notes. At Vaniyambadi, strenuous efforts were made to boycott both the Islamiah College and the Muhammadan Girls School. On the 17th August 1921, Yakub Hassan and three other convicted leaders were released from Cannanore jail.¹⁰

Urdu pamphlet, '*Awrang-I-Khilafat*', published by Munsif Absar-ul-Haq pointed out that the Britishers completely destroyed the Naval power of Turkey. The author recollected the story of Mahabharata where the Pandavas were guided by Lord Krishna and said that the Indians too were guided by Gandhiji. All the copies of a pamphlet, which contained a speech in Urdu delivered at the Oudh Khilafat Conference on 1st May 1920 by Shaikh Mushir Hussain Ridwani, were declared forfeited because they contained objectionable matter under the Press Act of 1910. Another Urdu pamphlet, '*Tarana-I-Khilafat*' (son of Khilafat), written by Maulvi Mishah-ul-Islam Siddiqui urged the Muslims that every one of them should dedicate himself to the Khilafat and should take part in the Non-Co-operation Movement. '*Takir--darbarace*', *Tark-e-Malavale-kuffer* published from Lahore referred to the evils to which the Muslims were subjected to since the post world war period. *Faryad-I-hind Hiusa Awwal* (The lamentation of India) began with Europeans who obtained a small plot of land by deceiving the Indians and then drained on the wealth of the Country. A Tamil leaflet, '*Indian Muslims and Swaraj*', by Ibrahim, preached the ideas of Khilafat and the Hindus-Muslim unity.¹¹

The Congress decision of February 1922 to postpone the contemplated civil disobedience, took the sting out of the Non-Cooperation campaign and weakened the Khilafat Movement. The movement entered its final phase when on 24th July 1923 the treaty between the Allies and Turkey was signed at Lausanne. By that, Turkey retained Istanbul. The conclusion of the peace treaty brought genuine exhilaration to Muslims of India. On 26th July 1923, corresponding with Idul-azha, the occasion was celebrated all over India as the victory of Turkish arms. The treaty was a turning point in Indian Pan-Islam. It marked the beginning of Muslim agitation against the British until the Caliphate by Ankara in March 1924 took the wind out of its sails.¹²

Khilafat question also lost its relevance when Mustafa Kemal Pasha ousted the Sultan in Turkey, abolished Caliphate and declared Turkey a secular state on 3rd March 1924.¹³

Despite the rigid stand on the part of British Government, the co-operation between the Congress and Muslims witnessed success on the Khilafat issue. By and large, public opinion was mobilized because of the active support and involvement of the Gandhi with Muslim leaders in the Khilafat Movement and his visit to Tamil Nadu boosted the Muslims of Tamil Nadu. The Ali Brothers, along with Gandhi, toured and advocated the cause of the Indian Muslims on the Khilafat issue.

END NOTES

1.Venkatraman,V., Towards Independence, Rajapalayam,2004, p.38.

2. Saroja Sundararajan, March to Freedom in Madras Presidency, 1916-1947, Madras, 1989, pp.225-226.
3. Venkatraman, V., op.cit., p.40.
4. Fortnightly Report, (F.R.), 1918-1919, (Secret Conf.), 16 December 1919, Tamil Nadu State Archives.
5. Madras Native Newspapers Report,(M.N.N.R.), January to December 1919.
- 6.. Ibid.
7. Extracts from Secret Files No.299 , 7 May 1919 to February 1920.
8. F.N.R., 1919 (Secret Conf.), 3 November 1919 .
9. M.N.N.R., January to December 1920.
10. F.N.R., 1921 Secret Conf., 4 April 1921.
- 11.Venkatraman, V., op.cit., pp.44-45.
- 12.Naeem Qureshi, M., Pan-Islamia British India, Delhi, no year, pp.276-277.
- 13.Mohammed, N., .Khilafat Movement in Madras Presidency, Rajapalayam ,2007, p16.

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org