

POLITICAL SCENARIO

Every movement is closely related to the social, educational, cultural, political and economic conditions prevailing in a particular period. It is, therefore, necessary to know the important prevailing conditions in the period when Aligarh Movement had been started.

The origin of the Aligarh Movement may be traced back to the failure of Mutiny of 1857. The Mutiny was a vain bid in absolute frustration due to the rude and misbehaviour of Britishers. The failure of Mutiny resulted in the total fall of the Mughals and the consolidation of the Britisher's rule in India.

As Aligarh Movement is the outcome of the failure of Mutiny of 1857, it is relevant to discuss the factors responsible for this outbreak and the conditions prevailing in the country at that time. In 1857, the Mughal Dynasty came to an end and the British rule established in India. Therefore, in order to have a better understanding of the Aligarh Movement, it is necessary to give a brief account of the Mughal Dynasty and East India Company.

3.1 CONDITIONS BEFORE MUTINY

3.1a Mughal Dynasty:

The period of The Great Mughals started in India with the accession of Babur to the throne in 1526. Mughals have a very distinct history in India. About 150 years (From 1556 to 1707) is the period of their rise and about 150 years (From 1707 to 1857) is the period of their downfall.

(i) *Arrival of The Mughals:*

Zaheer-ud-Din Mohammad Babur was the founder of Mughal Dynasty in India. "He attacked on India in 1526"¹