



University of Calcutta

**HARI MOHAN GHOSE COLLEGE**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**TOPIC**

**PRINTING REVOLUTION**



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# THE EUROPEAN PRINTING REVOLUTION

Printing with movable type, a European invention of the mid-15th century, revolutionized the making and use of books. The innovation nature of the invention and its implications were felt and discussed from the 15th century onwards, however, a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the phenomenon is largely a product of book history as a distinct discipline. In the 20th century, authors such as Marshall McLuhan Lucien Febvre and Henri-Jean Martin, and Elizabeth L. Eisenstein proposed the idea of a European printing 'Revolution' as an all encompassing intellectual, social, scientific, economic, religious and cultural revolution. Their arguments, methodologies, and conclusions have been challenged by later Sch-

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# Partition Of Bengal

In December 1903, the Bengal partition proposal became publicly known. The division of Bengal into two parts was issued by Lord Curzon in 1905. The anti-partition movement was initiated on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1905. An immediate and spontaneous protest followed. The strength of this protest can be gauged from the fact that in the first two months following the announcement, 500 protest meetings were held in East Bengal alone, especially in Dhaka, Mymensingh and Chittagong. Nearly fifty thousand copies of pamphlets giving a detailed critique of the partition proposals, were distributed all over Bengal.

Surendranath Banerjee, Krishna Kumar Mitra, Prithwishchandra Ray and others leader launched a powerful press campaign against the partition proposal. Journals and newspapers like the Bengalee, Hitabadi and Sanjibani. Vast protest meetings were held in town Hall of Calcutta in March 1904 and January 1905, and numerous petitions (sixty-nine memoranda from the Dhaka division alone), some of them signed by as many as seventy thousand people were sent to the Government and the Secretary in India, joined. Even the

Big zamindars who were hitherto loyal to the British Government in India, joined the forces with the Congress leaders who were mostly intellectuals and political workers drawn from journalism, law and other liberal profession.

The government decision to go ahead with the partition of Bengal, however, remained unmoved. Despite the widespread protest voiced against the partition proposals, the decision to partition Bengal was announced on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1905. It was obvious to the nationalist leaders that their moderate method of protest were not working and that they needed to change their strategies. Within days of the Government's announcements, numerous spontaneous protest meetings were held in towns such as Dinajpur, Pabna, Faridpur, Tangail, Jessore, Dhaka, Birbhum, and Barisal. It was in these meetings the pledge to boycott foreign goods were first taken. In Calcutta, students organised a number of meetings against the partition of Bengal and for Swadeshi. Swadeshi implied that people should only use the products manufactured in India.

On 16<sup>th</sup> October 1905, Bengal was partitioned by Lord Curzon on the pretext of it being

# Bibliography

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