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TITLE OF THESIS: THE NATIONALIST POLITICAL PROCESSES AND THE MUSLIMS OF BIHAR: A STUDY OF SYED MAHMUD 1912-1968.

ABSTRACT

The Muslims of Bihar constituted a religio-linguistic minority group but unlike their minority status, in more ways than one they were drawn to the clarion call of the nationalist movement. In the present thesis, comprising of five chapters, it is attempted to explore the political and nationalist developments in Bihar and Bihari Muslims' responses with particular emphasis on Syed Mahmud. The theme and salience of the research is elaborately discussed in the *Introduction* of the thesis. In the first chapter '*Historical Background: The Making of Bihar Province*', it is attempted to reflect on the historical developments of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. It has been found that the religio-cultural and educational developments created a congenial milieu that culminated in united effort in creation of a separate state of Bihar in 1912 and the success rejuvenated them to fight for the cause of the nation's independence in the years to come.

The second chapter, '*Syed Mahmud: Delineating an Ideological and Political Moorings from 1912 to 1920*' draws much from his political involvement since his return to India from Germany in 1913. Syed Mahmud was actively involved in pro-Congress politics and his participation in the Khilafat and the Non-Cooperation movements catapulted him as one of the top level leaders in Bihar and office bearer in the ranks of the Congress. The Third chapter '*In the Throes of the Nationalist Political Processes 1920-1947*' advances on the arguments developed in the previous chapters and focuses on shaping up of Bihar Muslim politics in the hey days of the freedom movement. Syed Mahmud held office as Minister during 1930s and 1940s in different capacities and his services have been critically assessed along with the insensitivities of the Congress in addressing the inviolable interest of the Muslims. In the fourth chapter '*Visualizing the Developmental Paradigm for Bihar*' effort has been made to study how Syed Mahmud influenced Bihar's progress and development, never losing sight of the aspirations of the Muslims. In the fifth chapter of the thesis, entitled, '*A Quest for Security and Identity for the Muslims of Bihar from 1947 to 1968*', it has been endeavoured to examine partition ramifications, the 1946-47 pogroms and adjustment and accommodation of Muslims in free India.

The *Conclusion* of the thesis comprises of summation of findings in different chapters followed by a detailed *Bibliography* that contains list of sources explored during research.