

Focus Spot **(Changing Times)**

The Partition of India: What happened?

In August 1947, British India won its independence from the British and split into two new states that would rule themselves. The new countries were India and Pakistan. East Pakistan has since become Bangladesh.

This was a very important moment in history.

What happened???

Many people in India felt that they did not want to be ruled by the British and wanted to govern themselves.

They weren't happy about things like economic problems as a result of rules put on them by the British.

There was also a lot of tension between Hindus and Muslims.

In the years leading up to independence, the idea for the new independent region to be divided into two separate states - India and Pakistan - was born.

India was formed mostly of Hindu regions, while Pakistan was mostly Muslim areas.

What was the impact?

The partition of India forced millions of people to leave their homes to move to the other state. This was the

largest forced migration of people that has ever happened, which wasn't because of war or famine.

What's the situation now?

Since Partition, there has been conflict between India and Pakistan - particularly over an area called Kashmir, which both states say, even now, should belong to them.

Pakistan and India have gone to war with each other, and there was conflict when East Pakistan broke away and became Bangladesh.