

Annexure 3

Plan to Create Greater Bangla Desh including Assam in it

Greater Bangladesh

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Greater Bangladesh (translated variously as [Bengali](#): বৃহত্তর বাংলাদেশ, *Brihat Bangladesh*;^[1] [Bengali](#): বৃহৎ বাংলাদেশ *Brihad Bangladesh*;^[2] [Bengali](#): মহাবাংলাদেশ, *Maha Bangladesh*;^[3] and [Bengali](#):বিশাল বাংলা, *Bishal Bangla*^[4]) is a political theory circulated by a number of Indian politicians and writers that [People's Republic of Bangladesh](#) is trying for the territorial expansion to include the [Indian](#) states of [West Bengal](#), [Assam](#) and others in northeastern India.^[5] The theory is principally based on fact that a large number of Bangladeshi illegal immigrants reside in Indian territory.^[6]

Contents

[\[hide\]](#)

1 History

- 1.1 United Bengal
- 1.2 Militant organizations

2 Illegal immigration

- 2.1 Lebensraum theory
- 2.2 Nellie massacre
- 2.3 The Sinha Report

3 References

[\[edit\]](#)History

The ethno-linguistic region of Bengal encompasses the territory of [Bangladesh](#) and the Indian state of [West Bengal](#), as well as parts of [Assam](#) and [Tripura](#). During the rule of the Hindu [Sena dynasty](#) in Bengal the notion of a Greater Bangladesh first emerged with the idea of uniting Bengali-speaking people in the areas now known as [Orissa](#), [Bihar](#) and Indian North East (Assam, Tripura, and [Meghalaya](#)) along with the [Bengal](#).^[7] These areas formed the [Bengal Presidency](#), a province of [British India](#) formed in 1765, though Assam including Meghalaya and [Sylhet District](#) was severed from the Presidency in 1874, which became the Province of Assam together with Lushai Hills in 1912. This province was partitioned in 1947 into [Hindu](#)-majority West Bengal and [Muslim](#)-majority [East Bengal](#) (now Bangladesh) to facilitate the creation of the separate [Muslim](#) state of [Pakistan](#), of which East Bengal became a province.

[\[edit\]](#)United Bengal

See also: [Partition of Bengal \(1947\)](#)

In January 1947, [Sarat Chandra Bose](#) resigned from the [Indian National Congress](#), partially in protest against the partition of Bengal. He called for an Independent Bengal separate from both India and Pakistan, and formed his own party - the [Socialist Republican Party](#).^{[8][9]} At that time, [Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy](#) and [Abul Hashem](#), two Bengali leaders of the [Muslim League](#) also advocated for an Independent Bengal comprising both the Eastern (now Bangladesh) and Western (now West Bengal) parts of Bengal.^{[8][10]} [Akram Khan](#) (politician) and [Khawaja Nazimuddin](#), two other Muslim League leaders wanted a United Bengal as part of Pakistan. [Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha](#) and [Syama Prasad Mookerjee](#), founder of [Bharatiya Jana Sangh](#) which later was succeeded by [Bharatiya Janata Party](#) (BJP), opposed the idea of an Independent Bengal or a United Bengal.^[8] Hindu Mahashabha and Mookerjee was concerned about Bose and Suhrawardy discussing a sovereign state of Bengal, while opposing the idea of a United Bengal even as a part of the Union of India. [Jawaharlal Nehru](#), then a leader of the majority faction of the Congress, was opposed to a United Bengal unconnected to the Union.^[11]

[edit] **Militant organizations**

See also: [Bangladesh–India relations](#)

A number of Indian politicians and journalists alleged that advocates of a Greater Bangladesh seek the expansion of Bangladeshi hegemony in [Northeastern India](#), including the states of Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya and [Tripura](#), as well as the [Arakan](#) province of [Burma](#) (Myanmar), where there is a considerable population of Bengali Muslims.^{[1][6]} It was also alleged that [United Liberation Front of Asom](#) (ULFA) conspired with state of Bangladesh to secede four to five Muslim majority districts of Assam to form a Greater Bangladesh, though Bangladesh in the contrary arrested a number of ULFA leaders,^[12] including Ranju Chowdhury, [Arabinda Rajkhowa](#) and [Anup Chetia](#), to support Indian action against militancy.^[13]

In 2002, nine Islamic groups including Indian militant organizations [Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam](#) (MULTA), Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam (MULFA) and Muslim Volunteer Force (MVF), Pakistani militant organization [Harkat-ul-Mujahideen](#) (HUM), Myanmar groups [Rohingya Solidarity Organization](#) (RSO) and Arakan Ronhingya Islamic Front of Mynamar (ARIFM), and [Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami](#), a pan-South Asian militant organization outlawed in Bangladesh with leaders sentenced to death,^[14] formed a coalition that declared the formation Greater Bangladesh as one of their aims.^{[1][15]} Historically India has been accusing Bangladesh of supporting extremist organizations like ULFA and [National Socialist Council of Nagaland](#) (NSCN), while Bangladesh accused India of supporting similar organizations like [Swadhin Bangabhumi Andolan](#) and [United People's Democratic Front](#) (UPDF).^[16]

[edit] **Illegal immigration**

See also: [Illegal immigration in India](#)

At the turn of the 21st century, Indian political circles started to take a serious look at Bangladeshi illegal immigrants infiltrating into India.^[5] Bangladesh is under pressure from India as a source of rebellion in Indian North-East for this Indian perception.^[17] It is also hard pressed to convince India that encouraging migration is

not a state policy of Bangladesh.^[17] The state of Bangladesh denied the existence of these immigrants while stripping them of their Bangladeshi citizenship.^[5] According to Jyoti M. Pathania of South Asia Analysis Group the reasons for Bangladeshi immigration to India are: basic need theory i.e. food, shelter and clothing, economic dictates i.e. employment opportunity, better wages and comparatively better living conditions, demographic disproportion especially for minorities (Hindus) in this densely populated country having roughly a density of 780 per km² as against half that number on Indian side of the border, and being cheap labor the Bangladeshis find easy acceptance as "domestic helps" in Indian homes, which keeps proliferating by ever increasing demand for domestic helps.^[18] The Centre for Women and Children Studies estimated in 1998 that 27,000 Bangladeshis have been forced into prostitution in India.^{[19][20]}

[\[edit\]](#) Lebensraum theory

Achieving a "Greater Bangladesh" as [Lebensraum](#) (additional living space) is alleged to be the reason for large-scale illegal immigration from Bangladesh into India's northeastern states.^[6] Similarly it is alleged that illegal immigration is actively encouraged by some political groups in Bangladesh as well as the state of Bangladesh to convert large parts of India's northeastern states and West Bengal into Muslim-majority areas that would subsequently seek to separate from India and join Muslim-majority Bangladesh.^[6] One Indian proposition is that the state of Bangladesh is pursuing a territorial design seeking a Lebensraum for its teeming population and trying to establish a Greater Bangladesh.^[5] Another proposition called for capturing one or two districts in Bangladesh and sending illegal immigrants there.^{[5][21]} Yet another proposition called for killing off Bangladeshi immigrants in India to thwart the designs of state of Bangladesh.^[22]

It is suspected, though, that the figures of Bangladeshi migrants in India are too far-fetched to be accorded any credence.^[17] The diplomatic difficulty is increased by the failure of India to comprehend that supporting Indian rebels in a plot to carve out a Greater Bangladesh would bring very little strategic dividend to Bangladesh.^[17] Scholars have also reflected that under the guise of anti-Bangladeshi immigrant movement it is actually an anti-Muslim agenda pointed towards Bangladeshi Muslims by false propaganda and widely exaggerated claims on immigrant population.^[23] There also is an alleged parallel threat of turning Assam into a part of a Greater West Bengal.^[24] In 1950s, [Atulya Ghosh](#), a leader of the Congress, had called to form a Greater West Bengal by annexing territory of neighboring Bihar.^[25]

[\[edit\]](#) Nellie massacre

See also: [Nellie massacre](#)

In [Assam](#), [agitation](#) against immigrants started as early as 1979, led by [All Assam Students Union](#).^[26] Their demand was to put a stop on the influx of immigrants and deportation of those who have already settled.^[27] It gradually took violent form and ethnic violence started between Assamese and Bengalis, mostly Muslim. It eventually led to the infamous [Nellie massacre](#) in 1983 due to a controversy over the 1983 election.^[28] In 1985 [Indian Government](#) signed the [Assam accord](#) with the leaders of the agitation to stop the issue.^{[27][29]} As per the accord India started building a fence along the Assam-Bangladesh border which is now almost complete.^[30] However Assam also has a large number of genuine Indian Muslim Bengalis. It is difficult to

distinguish between illegal Bangladeshis and local [Bengali](#) speakers.^[31] In some cases genuine Indian citizens have been discriminated^{[32][33]} Allegations exist that [nationalist](#) parties such as the [Bharatiya Janata Party](#) as well as the [Indian National Congress](#) have discriminated against Bengali-speaking Muslims.^[34]

Ethnic and religious tensions in the Indian North East had led to massacre of Bengali-speaking Muslims in Nellie in February 1983.^[35] The greatest carnage against immigrants occurred in 18 February when 990 in Neille and 585 in Barbori were killed.^[36] Villages were burned while women and children identified as immigrant Muslims were hacked into pieces.^[37] Smuggling and illegal immigration along the Indian-Bangladeshi border has been identified as major cause of killing of more than 3,000 people in the massacre.^[38] The Neille Massacre has been identified one of the earliest state-sanctioned attempts at [ethnic cleansing](#) that was followed by similar incidents in [Delhi \(1984\)](#), [Bhagalpur \(1989\)](#), [Mumbai \(1993\)](#) and [Gujarat \(2002\)](#).^[37]

[\[edit\]](#) The Sinha Report

See also: [India–Bangladesh border](#)

In a 1998, Lieutenant General [S.K. Sinha](#), then the [Governor of Assam](#) and later the [Governor of Jammu and Kashmir](#), wrote a report to [K.R. Narayanan](#), then the [President of India](#) claiming that massive illegal immigration from Bangladesh was directly linked with "the long-cherished design of Greater Bangladesh," and also quoted pre-1971 comments from late [Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](#) and late [President of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](#) endorsing the inclusion of Assam into [East Pakistan](#) (now Bangladesh).^{[6][39]} Anxiety and popular anger over illegal immigration prompted political unrest in the state of Assam, and criticism has increased over the Indian government's failure to secure its borders with Bangladesh and stop the illegal immigration.^{[6][39]}

[Indian National Congress](#) and [Communist Party of India \(Marxist\)](#) accused Sinha of raking up communal passion.^{[40][41]} Willem van Schendel compared the report of Sinha with similar of instances of inferring state sponsored plots from smuggling and immigration, which is an identified political phenomenon.^[42] Indian Council of World Affairs wrote about the report that "his suggestions regarding a Greater Bangladesh are... highly biased and prejudiced as well as unrealistic."^[43] Sinha was accused by Muslim politicians of Assam as a "Hindu chauvinist" who "virtually doubted the patriotism of indigenous Muslims" as his report claimed that Muslims in areas bordering Bangladesh might opt to join Bangladesh.^[44] In context of a "phobia" of Greater Bangladesh, a Muslim Member of the Parliament was quoted as saying that the assumption of Muslim immigrants flocking into Assam is a part of a subversive conspiracy is as imaginary as assuming a traitor or a rebel in every Muslim.^[45]

[\[edit\]](#) References

- [^] ^{[a](#)} ^{[b](#)} ^{[c](#)} Col. Ved Prakash, *Terrorism in India's north-east: a gathering storm* (Volume 1), Kalpaz Publications, 2008, [ISBN 81-7835-660-0](#)
- [^] Mahendra Gaur, *Indian affairs annual* (Volume 2), 2007, [ISBN 81-7835-434-9](#)
- [^] James Warner Björkman, *Fundamentalism, revivalists, and violence in South Asia*, page 38, Riverdale Company, 1988, [ISBN 0-913215-06-6](#)

4. [^] [Venkata Siddharthacharry](#), *Jambudwipa, a blueprint for a South Asian community*, page 256, Radiant Publishers, 1985, [ISBN 81-7027-088-X](#)
5. [^] [a b c d e](#) Willem van Schendel, *The Bengal borderland: beyond state and nation in South Asia*, page 233-34, Anthem Press, 2005, [ISBN 1-84331-145-3](#)
6. [^] [a b c d e f](#) Braja Bihari Kumara (2006). *Illegal migration from Bangladesh*. Concept Publishing Company. [ISBN 978-81-8069-224-6](#).
7. [^] Mikey Leung and Belinda Meggitt, *Bangladesh*, page 7-8, Bradt Travel Guides, 2009, [ISBN 1-84162-293-1](#)
8. [^] [a b c](#) Bashabi Fraser, *Bengal Partition Stories: An Unclosed Chapter*, page 24-25, Anthem Press, 2008, [ISBN 1-84331-299-9](#)
9. [^] Anton Pelinka and Renée Schell, *Democracy Indian style*, page 79, Transaction Publishers, 2003, [ISBN 0-7658-0186-8](#)
10. [^] M. Bhaskaran Nair, *Politics in Bangladesh: a study of Awami League, 1949-58*, page 46, Northern Book Centre, 1990, [ISBN 81-85119-79-1](#)
11. [^] Benjamin Zachariah, *Nehru*, page 136, Routledge, 2004, [ISBN 0-415-25017-X](#)
12. [^] M. Sakhawat Hussain, *South Asian tangle*, page 204, Palok Publishers & Bangladesh Research Forum, 2007
13. [^] PTI, "[ULFA leader arrested in Bangladesh](#)", *The Hindu*, 2010-06-07
14. [^] [Three to die for UK envoy attack](#), BBC, 2008-12-23
15. [^] Hiranmay Karlekar, *Bangladesh: the next Afghanistan?*, page 169, Sage Publications, 2005, [ISBN 0-7619-3401-4](#)
16. [^] Ashley J. Tellis and Michael Wills, *Strategic Asia 2007-08: domestic political change and grand strategy*, page 231, National Bureau of Asian Research, 2007, [ISBN 0-9713938-8-5](#)
17. [^] [a b c d](#) Zakia Soman and Jimmy Dabhi, *Peace and Justice*, page 138-39, Pearson Education India, 2010, [ISBN 81-317-2944-3](#)
18. [^] Jyoti M. Pathania, [India & Bangladesh - Migration Matrix- Reactive and not Proactive](#), Paper no. 632, South Asia Analysis Group
19. [^] Donna M. Hughes, Laura Joy Sporcic, Nadine Z. Mendelsohn and Vanessa Chirgwin, [Factbook on Global Sexual Exploitation](#), Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
20. [^] Bimal Kanti Paul; Syed Abu Hasnath, "Trafficking in Bangladeshi Women and Girls", *Geographical Review*, p.268-276, April 2000
21. [^] "Send All Infiltrators to a Space in Bangladesh", *The Shillong Times*, 20 January 2003
22. [^] Falguni Burman, "Check Bangla Influx for Survival: VHP", *The Assam Tribune*, 20 January 2003
23. [^] [POLITICS AND ORIGIN OF THE INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER FENCE, p: 12](#)
24. [^] Harendranath Barua and Yogeśa Dāsa, *Reflections on Assam, 1944-1983*, page 185, Harendranath Barua Memorial Society, 1992

25. [^](#) Joya Chatterji, *The spoils of partition: Bengal and India, 1947-1967*, page 46, Cambridge University Press, 2007, [ISBN 0-521-87536-6](#)
26. [^](#) [From 1979 to 1985: The Anti-Foreigners Movement in Assam](#)
27. [^](#) [a b](#) [Report on illegal migration into assam](#)
28. [^](#) [Nellie 1983: A series by TwoCircles.net](#)
29. [^](#) [Full text of the accord](#)
30. [^](#) [Achievements of Assam accord](#)
31. [^](#) [Indifference, impotence, and intolerance:transnational Bangladeshis in India. Sujata Ramachandran](#)
32. [^](#) [Report on illegal migration into Assam](#)
33. [^](#) [India Ignores Illegal Migration In Northeast India, People Continue to Suffer](#)
34. [^](#) [Making a 'menace' of migrants, Vir Sanghvi](#) The Nation - 6 January 2006
35. [^](#) K. Warikoo, *Himalayan Frontiers of India*, page 174, Taylor & Francis, 2009, [ISBN 0-415-46839-6](#)
36. [^](#) Hemendra Narayan, *25 years on Nellie Still haunts*, Nellie India Massacre Assam, 2008,[ISBN 81-7525-942-6](#)
37. [^](#) [a b](#) Harsh Mander, "[Nellie: India's forgotten massacre](#)", [The Hindu](#), 2008-12-14
38. [^](#) Gupta, Basu and Chattarji, *Globalization in India: Contents and Discontents*, page 66, Pearson Education India, 2010, [ISBN 81-317-1988-X](#)
39. [^](#) [a b](#) Arup Chandra (1999-02-13). "[Assam governor asks Centre to seal Bangladesh border](#)". Retrieved 2010-08-21.
40. [^](#) Special Correspondent, "[Congress blames S.K. Sinha](#)", [The Hindu](#), July 01, 2008
41. [^](#) Noorul Huda, "[On Supreme Court's Verdict On IMDT Act-II](#)*Peoples Democracy*, September 18, 2005, CPIM
42. [^](#) Michael Rosler and Tobias Wendl, *Frontiers and Borderlands: Anthropological Perspectives*, page 91, Peter Lang, 1999, [ISBN 3-631-35013-9](#)
43. [^](#) India quarterly, Volume 49, page 82, Indian Council of World Affairs, 1993
44. [^](#) R.K. Pruthi, *An Encyclopaedic Survey Of Global Terrorism In 21St Century*, page 90, Anmol Publications, 2002, [ISBN 81-261-1091-0](#)
45. [^](#) Bimal J. Dev and Dilip Kumar Lahiri, *Assam Muslims: politics & cohesion*, page 155, Mittal Publications, 1985

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Bangladesh