

# **Role of muslim leaders in Sri Lanka's independent movement (1919-1948)**

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## **Introduction**

Nationalism is an ideology based upon devotion of interests and cultures of a particular group of people and their belief that they surpass others in the society. In this, nations act independently having established their own law and order and governance. Nationalism which emerged in the Europe is considered as the most powerful and successful political movement of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The concepts of Nationalism began to attract many Sri Lankan middle class students who travelled Europe to seek education in British period.

The Indian National Congress was formed in 1885 based on the Indian independence from the Great Britain. Similarly, the Ceylon National Congress was established in 1919 in Sri Lanka which mainly followed the structure of the Indian National Congress. The principal demands of the Congress were of two fold. First, to make legislative changes and secondly to provide an opportunity for more Ceylonese to take part in the administration sector. Thus, in this context, it is necessary to examine the importance of the contributions of Muslims in Sri Lanka and their efforts and supports contributed towards achieving the goals of the Ceylon National Congress.