

AUGUST DECLARATION OF 1917

During World War I, the British claimed that they stood for the protection of democracy around the world. Thus Indians, who fought for them in this war, demanded that democracy should also be introduced in their country. In his famous August Declaration presented before the House of Commons on 20 August 1917, Lord Montagu, the Secretary of State for Indian Affairs, said that to satisfy the local demands, his government was interested in giving more representation to the natives of India. New reforms would be introduced in the country to meet this objective. The control over the Indian government would be transferred gradually to the Indian people. This was the result of the Hindu-Muslim unity exhibited by the Lucknow Pact.

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