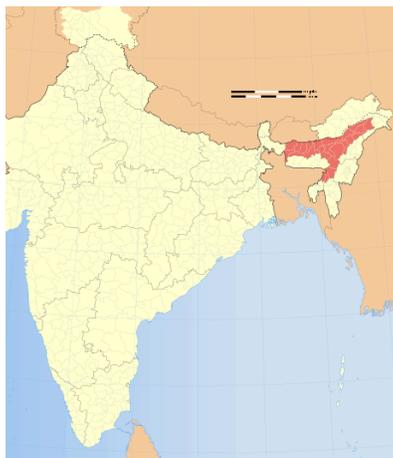


# BENGALIS SEIZE THE LAND OF THE BODO PEOPLE IN ASSAM

## Same Thing They Are Doing In Arakan



On another side of Bangladesh there is violent conflict that is, in many ways, strikingly similar to the situation in Rakhine State, Burma/ Myanmar.

It also involves Bengali Muslims who have migrated, or pushed across the northern border of Bangladesh into India's north-easternmost state of Assam and several of the 'Sister States' - primarily Meghalaya State. This area is even more obscure to most of the world than Rakhine State / Arakan is. Tourism is heavily restricted and almost nonexistent, so that there is little information that gets out of that area.



**The Bodo people** are one of Assam's largest indigenous tribes - actually the term Bodo includes nearly 20 different, but related tribes. 90% of the Bodo are Hindu, and 9% are Christian. They have fought not only against Muslim migrants, but battled the State of India, at times, in a bid to gain an independent state through a decades-long insurgency.

In July 2012, a fresh round of violence erupted - between native Bodos and illegal Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, causing nearly 50 deaths, the displacement of over 200,000 people, and the destruction or burning of many many villages.

This wave of violence erupted one night when **four Bodo tribe youths** were killed by persons unknown. In retaliation, armed Bodos attacked Muslims, which led to a spiraling of bloodshed between the two groups who have long been in conflict. In the carnage, cars were overturned and burned, and houses and schools were set ablaze.



The **root cause of this violence** is the joint failure of the federal and Assam state governments to stop wave after wave of Bangladeshis from swarming into different parts of Assam and drastically changing the state's demographic profile, especially of the districts close to the border. In Bodo-populated areas, this 'flood' has caused large-scale violence and seizure of Bodo lands. The Bodos feel they are being pushed out of their ancient homeland by **intolerant, violent and supremacist** invaders.

There is a well-known word for it -- **ethnic cleansing**.

**Assam**, located on the extreme northeastern edge of India, is home to some 300 tribal and ethnic groups, with many segments of the population agitating for separatism. In this volatile mix are unwanted Muslim migrants from impoverished Bangladesh.



Illegal immigration from overcrowded Bangladesh presents challenges for all of eastern India, which shares a porous border with the smaller nation, which had been a part of India, and then Pakistan.

Since the 1971 war of independence that created the state of Bangladesh, millions of Bangladeshi immigrants (the vast majority of them illegal) have poured into neighboring India.

While the Indian government has tried to deport many of these immigrants, their sheer numbers have made such an enterprise impossible.

## A Brief History

Assam was **annexed by the British in 1826**. The big low river valleys and flatlands were mostly Hindu, and the rugged hills and mountains were populated by many different ethnicities, and they were variously Hindu, Buddhists, Christian, or Animistic. Initially, the British brought Muslim peasants from over-populated eastern Bengal to Assam for making tea plantations and other agricultural projects. (During the same timeframe the British were also bringing and allowing a rather large number of Bengali Muslims into Arakan).

In December of 1906, **The All India Muslim League (AIML)** in its founding conference in Dacca hatched a long-term plan to increase the Muslim population in Assam in order to improving its strength in the region. Leaders at the conference exhorted the Muslim population of Eastern Bengal to migrate to Assam and settle there. And, they didn't have any concern for the indigenous and non-Muslim ethnicities and tribes who lived and farmed there.

### In a British Census Report of 1931:

Census Superintendent C. S. Mullan, in his Census report of 1931, validated this political conspiracy of AIML and observed: *"Probably the most important event in the province during the last 25 years - an event, moreover, which seems likely to alter permanently the whole feature of Assam and to destroy the whole structure of Assamese culture and civilization, has been the invasion of a vast horde of land-hungry immigrants mostly Muslims, from the districts of East Bengal. ... Wheresoever the carcass, there the vultures will be gathered together"*

As the large-scale influx of Muslims continued the All India Muslim League established great influence on the Muslim population of Assam, and latter coached the Muslim migrants to aggressively support the demand for Pakistan to be created. (As the British were preparing for the granting of independence the Muslims of India agitated for a separate state). In 1947 the leader of the Muslims of India demanded that Assam also be a part of the soon-to-be Muslim country of Pakistan, even though the Muslims were by far not the majority. This was only stopped due to the intervention of the great and exemplary Mahatma Gandhi.

Even after partition, illegal migration from East Pakistan to Assam, West Bengal and bordering areas of Bihar continued to increase. Pakistan lacked any population planning or any social movement for creating awareness of the benefits of controlling the population, and the liabilities of not doing so. The way the Pakistanis largely saw the population issue was to see the lesser populated neighboring countries as available to them, by divine right, because they themselves were Muslim, and the people in the other areas were not.

In December of 1943, Lord Wavel, the Viceroy of India, said: *'The chief political problem is the desire of Muslim Ministers of Assam to increase the immigrations into uncultivated Government lands in Assam under the slogan of "Grow more food" but really its "Grow more Muslims"'*.



Bodo Men killed by Muslims



Bodo Girl Raped by Muslims

Justice M.C.Chagla, former Education Minister once said: *“We have our constitution, we have citizenship laws. There are decisions by the highest courts to indicate who is a national and who is a foreigner. What does it matter when a person came to Assam if he is not a national but a foreigner? The year of his entry does not change his legal status. Unnecessary complications have been introduced by talking of the cut off year.”*

**The Bodo-Muslim problem, is very similar to the conflict in Arakan, Burma.**

The Bengali Muslims pour across the border, and with their religious intolerance and supremacy they will cause friction that will rise to intolerable levels. In both of these cases, there are citizenship issues, controlling the border issues, crimes against women, and more.

Muslim aggression



Muslim 'immigrants' will remain a perpetual problem - unless the government develops a stronger political will, and will use that to take tough stands on the issues when needed.

The Muslim violence and intolerance cannot be tolerated, at a certain point. What is happening in Assam, and it has been happening for decades now, is a vicious plan to drive out or kill all the Buddhists, Hindus and others.

As stated before: this is **ethnic cleansing**.

Bhupen Hazarika, Assam's greatest cultural icon who passed away last year, had expressed his people's anguish: *'Today's Assamese must save themselves or else they will become refugees in their own land'*.

by Rick Heizman, July 14, 2013, San Francisco

read more at: [scribd.com/rheizman](http://scribd.com/rheizman)

[rickheizmanreality.com](http://rickheizmanreality.com)

