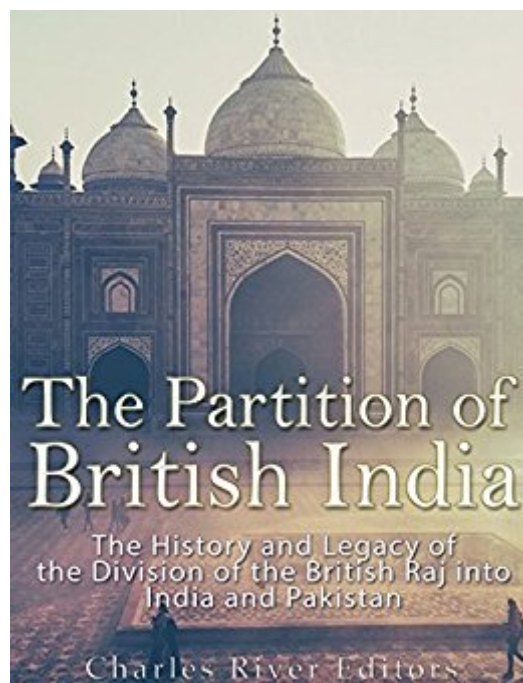




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The Partition Of British India: The History And Legacy Of The Division Of The British Raj Into India And Pakistan



Synopsis

*Includes pictures*Includes contemporary accounts of the partition*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading*Includes a table of contents

Beyond its obvious influence in areas like trade and commerce, the East India Company also served as a point of cultural contact between Western Europeans, South Asians, and East Asians. Quintessentially British practices such as tea drinking were made possible by East India Company trade. The products and cultural practices traveling back and forth on East India Company ships from one continent to another also reconfigured the way societies around the globe viewed sexuality, gender, class, and labor. On a much darker level, the East India Company fueled white supremacy and European concepts of Orientalism. Ultimately, the company's activity across the Indian subcontinent led to further British involvement there, and the British Raj, a period of British dominance and rule over India that formally began in 1857 and lasted until 1947, remains a highly debated topic amongst historians, political scientists, the British people, and the people of modern India. Thanks to its commercial complexion and the power invested in a board of directors, British rule in India was characterized by economic monopolies, aggressive trade practices, punitive taxation, and the impoverishment of vast regions of India. Much of the Company's industry was based on a policy of producing and exporting raw materials from India and importing manufactured goods to satisfy an almost unlimited local market. Home industries and the domestic cottage textile industry, in particular, were heavily impacted by this, and with the addition of land taxes and a general regime of economic exploitation, the British East India Company grew to be a heavy burden on the shoulders of ordinary Indians. British India ultimately covered some 54 percent of the landmass and 77 percent of the population. By the time the British began to contemplate a withdrawal from India, 565 princely states were officially recognized, in addition to thousands of zamindaris and jagirs, which were in effect feudal estates. The stature of each Princely State was defined by the number of guns fired in salute upon a ceremonial occasion honoring one or other of the princes. These ranged from nine-gun to twenty-one-gun salutes and, in a great many cases, no salute at all. The Princely States were reasonably evenly spread between ancient Muslim and Hindu dynasties, but bearing in mind the minority status of Muslims in India, Muslims were disproportionately represented. This tended to grant Muslims an equally disproportionate share of what power was devolved to local leaderships, and it positioned powerful Muslim leaders to exert a similarly unequal influence on British policy. It stands to reason, therefore, as India began the countdown to independence after World War II, that the Indian Muslim leadership would begin to express anxiety over the prospect of universal suffrage and majority rule. At less than 20 percent of the population, Indian Muslims would inevitably find

themselves overwhelmed by the Hindu majority, and as the British prepared to divest themselves of India, ancient enmities between Hindu and Muslim, long papered over by the secular and remote government of Britain, began once again to surface. The Partition of British India: The History and Legacy of the Division of the British Raj into India and Pakistan looks at the complicated process by which the British partitioned British India. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about the partition like never before.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

All people seek freedom. Sometimes people cherish religion more than independence. This conflict has resulted in many unsatisfactory governments and borders. It was difficult to divide India, but it was done and people adjusted their lives.

I read Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition by Nisid Hajari about a year or two ago before I read The Partition of British India: The History and Legacy of the Division of the British Raj into India and Pakistan. This book provides a reasonably complete synopsis of the fury involved in the partitioning of India. I don't remember the first book I read to come down so hard on

Lord Lewis Mountbatten. All Mountbatten could ever have been was an unprepared caretaker since Great Britain pretty much missed read the hatreds between the two main religious groups. This book gives you a pretty good introduction to the major players involved from both Great Britain and India. The book also tries to explain how religious differences and the desire for power led to the massacres. I strongly recommend reading this book if you're interested in a basic understanding of why the partition took place. I recommend reading a book like Midnight's Furies if you want to have a stronger taste of the violence and savagery.

A broadly inclusive summary, well done for an overview. Much further study would be required for those wanting deeper analysis of the many details.

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