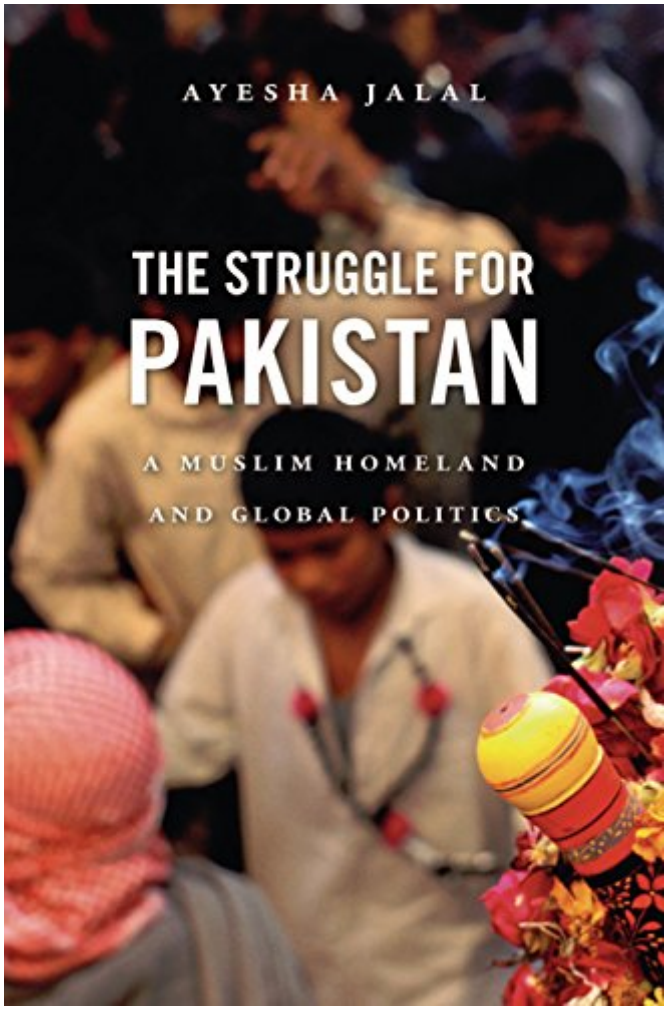
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The Struggle For Pakistan: A Muslim Homeland And Global Politics



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Synopsis

In a probing biography of her native land, Ayesha Jalal provides a unique insiderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s assessment of how the nuclear-armed Muslim nation of Pakistan evolved into a country besieged by military domination and militant religious extremism, and explains why its dilemmas weigh so heavily on prospects for peace in the region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A great and timely book by the MaCarthur genius awards winner, and one of the most knowledgeable historians of South Asian and especially Pakistani history. This is the latest in her series of books on Pakistani history. She has been working hard to correct the distortions and outright lies taught in educational institutions, propagated through the media and supported by the Pakistani elites including the military. Her books, including this one, are scholarly but written with a style and powerful passion about her subject, that make them hard to put down. This book covers Pakistan’s struggle to acquire an identity, and nationhood, from its inception as an idea, through partition, up to the present. I strongly recommend this book as required reading for anyone seriously

interested in Pakistani and South Asian history.

Told from Pakistan point of view, perfect complement to Magnificent Delusions, same period covered from perspective of us diplomacy. Recognizes the many failings of all participants, it also credits courageous people who stood for principle and , almost, ends with optimism. Clarifies many moderns issues, especially Iranian nuclear capacity. Will improve any readers ability to understand and evaluate current issues.

An incredible journey through the complex history of Pakistan. A must read for anyone trying to understand Pakistan’s current challenges and identity.

Excellent. A must read!

Dispassionate and helpful.

a gift to my brother , recommend it to my friend. i will purchase it from you next time. so fast, receive it next day . I was blown away by how sharp this product is. It cut throw my very soft loaf of Italian without a single tear. I hesitated before I bought it because of another review who said it wasn’t sharp enough, but mine is outstanding.

The first few chapters on the subcontinent’s partition and the first spell of Army rule in Pakistan were alright. But after that the book turned out to be terrible. It is rambling, incoherent, and poorly edited. The author just plugged in a series of facts, opinions and news headlines with no underlying theme tying them all together. There are better books out there about Pakistani history.

I will comment on the author rather than on the book. She was promoting this book at the Hudson Institute and it was a terrible presentation. She had cooked up all these predictions about Pakistan with no data to back them up. Ambassador Hakkani, who is a very eloquent and rational speaker, appeared embarrassed and hardly spoke on a country he is so passionate about. Her level of discussion was superficial and she failed to understand the question asked. She expressed her biased unfounded opinion on matters where there are established facts. She pointed out that so much is coming out of artistic community in Pakistan and that was a good thing about what was happening in Pakistani society/government. She was challenged by Ambassador Hakkani as to

what does it have to do with the government or society, but she failed to understand the point. The fact is that there are lots of Pakistani artists who see this as a means of transitioning into Bollywood. Indeed, quite of few of them have made it very big in Bollywood. This is not a result of progress in Pakistani society, but a result of economic opportunities in India. The Pakistani society issued Fatweh for several of these actresses. She trivialized the issue of increased enforcement of blasphemy laws on minorities and terrorist attacks in Pakistan. She chastised the audience member for needlessly over focussing on those issues by telling him that you see what you want to see (so something is wrong with you). She asserted that it is not because of Islam but because of strategic use of Islam. The groups who are doing all this are hurting innocent Christians (burning them alive, to be precise) and doing it by stating it as a direct prescription from Islam. I expected her to at least recognize the problem and explain what that strategic use is. Instead, she was fantasizing about the greatness of Pakistani society. Only yesterday, Pakistani Islamic Council voted to remove the requirement of first wife's consent in case of second/third/fourth marriage and recommended the abolition of minimum age requirement for a girl's marriage. As bizarre as it may seem, this is the Pakistan of today. Sooner we realize it, better are the chances of salvaging the country.I cannot imagine anything meaningful coming out of her writings, except personal biases and superficial remarks. I would highly recommend you to watch her on YouTube before wasting your money. It is hard to believe that she is a Professor at Tufts.UPDATE: The book by Ambassador Hakkani,Ã Â Magnificent Delusions: Pakistan, the United States, and an Epic History of Misunderstanding by Haqqani, Husain (2013) Hardcover, is more relevant read on Pakistan.

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