Partitioned Lives: Migrants, Refugees, Citizens in India and Pakistan, 1947-65

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Abstract
Partitioned States offers new perspective in the histories of Partition and its aftermath by connecting it to the long, drawn out and skewed formation of new national entities: India and East Pakistan. The book focuses on the Bengal Partition and locates its narrative within the intersection of long term cross border movement, chronic small-scale violence, the emergence of a document regime, and biased national refugee policies, all of which contributed to the formation of national citizenships in India and East Pakistan.

This book argues that minorities -- Hindus in East Pakistan, Muslims in eastern India -- and the discourse over their citizenship and national identity were central to the project of nation building. However, rather than being automatic after 1947, the identity of Indians and Pakistanis were produced, often constructed arbitrarily, through the discretionary powers of lowly officials as through legislation emerging out of parliaments over the next two decades.

The product of several years of archival research in Calcutta, Dhaka, Delhi, and London, Partitioned States is the first to examine the experience of Partition from both sides of the Bengal border. It urges for a rethinking of the Bengal Partition, which continues to inform the contemporary politics of India and Bangladesh. (Publisher's Website)
Migrants from India in Pakistan have thrived in Sindh, but are not assimilated. Punjab pushed migrants other than from Indian Punjab to Sindh. Sindhis who were less literate, have been pressed hard from both sides. How will they survive? Fortunately refugees in India got integrated into the system and have contributed in nation’s growth in all aspects. Pakistan on the contrary could not protect its minority. Could not integrate its refugees to date called as mojahir. From the perspective of an Indian, when I look at the present political situation in India where the loyalties or political belief’s of most Indian citizens are clearly divided between the nationalist BJP and the pseudo-secularist parties like Congress, TMC, JDU etc. it is good that the Indian subcontinent went through a partition. Partitioned Lives: Migrants, Refugees, Citizens in India and Pakistan, 1947-65. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012. xii + 254 pp. $50.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-19-808177-7. The partition of British India to form independent India and Pakistan resulted in cross-border migration of nearly nine million Hindus and Sikhs into India and approximately five million Muslims into Pakistan. Partition in the west (Punjab), which was marked by horrific violence and the rapid establishment of a closed border that severely curtailed further migration, has been seen as paradigmatic of the process, and has received far more scholarly attention than the partition of Bengal in the east, which is the subject of this book.