

The Partition of British India:  
How “Divide and Conquer” became “Divide and Quit”

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In August 1947, the largest and bloodiest mass migration of humans in history occurred as a controversial compromise to an escalating conflict. This resulted in millions dead. Two newborn countries were plunged into political, social, economic and religious chaos, from which they would never entirely recover. This, the Partition of British India, was a grave mistake.

### **British East India Trading Company**

In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I conferred a charter onto the British East India Trading Company [henceforth known as the Company], to trade with the East Indies<sup>1</sup>, (see Appendix I). During the first century of its existence, the Company's focus was trade, not political dominance. India, a huge source of wealth was fiercely fought over by the English, Dutch and French<sup>2</sup>. Eventually, the Company through bribery, deceit and force, went on to gain complete control over the Indian subcontinent.

By the 18th century, the Company had recognized the decline of India's Mughal Empire.<sup>3</sup> This, along with wanting to eliminate competition from its French counterpart (French East India Trading Company), led the Company to eventually defeat local rulers and gain control over India and its people, the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Chatterjee, Manini, and Anita Roy. *India*. New York, Dorling Kindersley, 2002. pgs. 24-25.

<sup>2</sup> Chatterjee and Roy. *India*. pg. 18

<sup>3</sup> Dalrymple, William. "*The Great Divide: The Violent Legacy of Indian Partition.*" *The New Yorker*. CSC Corporate Domains Inc. [www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple). Accessed 2 Dec. 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Dalrymple. "*The Great Divide*" *The New Yorker*.

## Roots of the Conflicts: Battle of Plassey, Company Raj, Sepoy Mutiny

The Battle of Plassey, a decisive British victory over the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, and his French allies, was fought in 1757<sup>5</sup>. Sir Robert Clive, commander of the British East India Company, bribed Mir Jafar, the newly deposed commander of the Nawab's army to betray Siraj-ud-Daulah with the false promise of the Throne of Bengal<sup>6</sup>. As a result of this battle, the French, previously poised to overtake the Company in profits, were no longer a force in India<sup>7</sup>.

Between 1757-1857, the Company consolidated its position by establishing Company Raj. It took on governmental powers, collected taxes from the locals and had its own judiciary and massive army (mainly consisting of local Indians "Sepoys" or soldiers)<sup>8</sup>. Unfortunately, increasing power came with increased corruption amongst Company officials, leading to dissatisfaction amongst the locals. Reportedly, the British army only recruited higher caste Hindus and restricted the lower castes<sup>9</sup>. This and other injustices caused the Indian Sepoys to revolt against the British in the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857<sup>10</sup>. The mutiny, which killed at least 100,000-800,000 British soldiers and locals, was ultimately unsuccessful<sup>11</sup>, but drew clear lines of conflict between Company Raj and the locals, sparking a flame in the Indian people for self-rule.

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<sup>5</sup> Chatterjee and Roy. *India*. pg. 24

<sup>6</sup> Nardo, Don. *India*. New York, Children's Press, 2012. pg. 47

<sup>7</sup> Dalrymple. "*The Great Divide*" *The New Yorker*.

<sup>8</sup> Chatterjee and Roy. *India*. pg. 32

<sup>9</sup> Nardo. *India*. pg. 13

<sup>10</sup> Chatterjee and Roy. *India*. pg. 27

<sup>11</sup> Chatterjee and Roy. *India*. pg. 27

## Conflict Continues: British Raj

In 1858, to quell the civil chaos, the British government stepped in, instituting the British Raj, resulting in complete transfer of the government of India from the Company to the British Crown, under the auspices of Queen Victoria<sup>12</sup>. The Raj instituted many reforms in India. They united the country, set up a centralized administrative and judicial system and built infrastructure such as railroads and bridges. However, Britain's national interests were not the same as India's. Britain plundered India's wealth and resources and denied the local people political rights. India served as the powerhouse of economic growth in Britain. Cheap Indian materials were exported and British manufactured goods were sold back to Indians at inflated prices. British landlords routinely raised the rent on peasant farmers and when protests broke out, they would beat the peasants, loot their houses and seize their livestock.<sup>13</sup> As an anonymous British politician stated: "We did not conquer India for the benefit of the Indians. We conquered India as an outlet for the goods of Great Britain."<sup>14</sup>

By the end of the 19th century, Indians were beginning to openly resent colonial rule and demanded more rights, which often resulted in unrest and riots. Therefore, in 1885, a political party was formed: the Indian National Congress [henceforth known as the Congress Party]<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> *Independence of India and Pakistan*. Chicago, World Book, 2011. pg. 8

<sup>13</sup> Khan, Yasmin. *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*. New Haven [u.a.], Yale Univ. Press, 2008. pg. 81

<sup>14</sup> Martin, Christopher. *Mohandas Gandhi*. Minneapolis, Lerner Publications, 2001. pg. 60

<sup>15</sup> Martin. *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 62

## **Indian National Congress**

The Congress Party consisted of Indians of all faiths united to find a workable and peaceful solution for Indian independence<sup>16</sup>. There was great debate between the people who wanted to stay within the colonial system, but wanted civil liberties, against others who wanted complete independence. Between 1885 and 1915, the Congress Party continuously demanded greater representation in government and voting rights for Indians, but the British granted few demands. The freedom movement only started gaining momentum when Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi arrived back in India from South Africa in 1915 and launched the “Quit India Movement.”<sup>17</sup>

## **Catalysts of the Freedom Movement**

In the 1920's, three Indian politicians, two Hindus: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and one Muslim: Muhammad Ali Jinnah, started working together on the "Quit India Movement," demanding Indian independence from Britain<sup>18</sup>. Although Gandhi, Jinnah and Nehru were all British-educated lawyers, they were poles apart in their personalities and politics. A proponent of peaceful resistance and Hindu-Muslim unity, Gandhi led millions into a non-violent, non-cooperation movement against the British. In 1930, he led thousands on the 200

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<sup>16</sup> Martin. *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 64

<sup>17</sup> Martin. *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 63

<sup>18</sup> Martin, *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 55

mile “Salt March,” to protest that salt, a basic human necessity, was being heavily taxed by the British. This was a turning point in the freedom movement<sup>19</sup>.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, founder of the All-India Muslim League [henceforth known as the Muslim League] in 1906, was also initially a proponent of Hindu-Muslim unity. Jinnah believed that a decentralized government, in which the provinces are stronger than the central government, would give the minority Muslims a strong political voice<sup>20</sup>. However, he eventually grew disillusioned by the internal strife and power struggles within Congress. He became convinced that the only way to guarantee Muslim rights after Britain’s departure was to split into two separate homelands, Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan<sup>21</sup>. He is considered the Father of Pakistan<sup>22</sup>.

Jawaharlal Nehru, who eventually became the first Prime Minister of India, supported a strong central government controlled by the majority (the Hindus). He was the socialist leader of the Congress Party, and was mentored by Gandhi<sup>23</sup>. These politicians, as the faces of their religions, were the catalysts of the freedom movement in India (see Appendix II).

## **Quit India**

Following the launch of the Quit India movement, three Round Table Conferences were held in London between 1930-1932 to negotiate constitutional reforms in India (see Appendix

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<sup>19</sup> Martin. *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 50

<sup>20</sup> *Jinnah*. Directed by Jamil Dehlavi, Dehlavi Films Productions, 1998.

<sup>21</sup> Jalal, Ayesha. *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*. Cambridge [u.a.], Cambridge Univ. Press, 1994. pg. 85

<sup>22</sup> *Jinnah*.

<sup>23</sup> Martin. *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 67

III). They all failed, a major cause being the opposition of Conservative British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his desire to keep India within the Empire<sup>24</sup>. Following this, in 1938, the talks held between Gandhi and Jinnah to maintain a united India after the British departure, failed as well.<sup>25</sup> At this point it was apparent that a united India would not endure and that two new nations would come into existence as the British withdrew, a Hindu India and a Muslim Pakistan.

Later, during the height of WWII in August 1942, the British government arrested the entire Congress leadership and imprisoned them for two years because Gandhi had issued a renewed and “unlawful” call for non-cooperation<sup>26</sup>. This led to a prolonged period of violence in India.

Meanwhile, May 7, 1945, saw the surrender of Germany and subsequently, the end of WWII. The end of the war marked an era of political and social upheaval in Britain. In a landslide victory for the progressive Labour Party, Clement Attlee replaced Churchill. In 1946, one of the first decisions of the Labour government, which now viewed India as more of a problem than an asset, was to compromise and finally grant it independence.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Panigrahi, D. N. *India's Partition: The Story of Imperialism in Retreat*. London, Routledge, an imprint of Taylor & Francis Books Ltd, 2004. pg. 57

<sup>25</sup> *Jinnah*.

<sup>26</sup> Panigrahi. *India's Partition*. pg. 57

<sup>27</sup> Panigrahi. *India's Partition*. pg. 99

## **Inadequate Compromises: Transfer of Power and The Partition**

Attlee wanted India independent by June, 1948 and appointed Lord Mountbatten as India's new and final viceroy, or representative. Mountbatten replaced Lord Wavell, who had failed to get the Indian parties to compromise.<sup>28</sup>

Mountbatten's flamboyant personality thrown into this volatile mix, further complicated political negotiations. In addition, his wife, Edwina, had a personal relationship with Jawaharlal Nehru that heavily weighed in Nehru's favor.<sup>29</sup> Even at this late stage, Mountbatten and Gandhi tried to convince Jinnah to stay within a united India, to no avail. Now, Pakistan was inevitable.

Mountbatten concluded that the British could not maintain status quo until June 1948 and moved the date of independence forward ten months to August 1947.<sup>30</sup> This date change led to an exceedingly haphazard power transfer and panic prevailed amongst the Indian population.

## **Disputed Borders**

Meanwhile, a British lawyer, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, who never had or would set foot in India, was appointed head of the Radcliffe Commission to draw up the boundaries of the soon-to-be India and Pakistan.<sup>31</sup> The Muslims would be in the extreme eastern and western parts of the country, East Pakistan (later Bangladesh) and West Pakistan.<sup>32</sup> This system was designed

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<sup>28</sup> Wolpert, Stanley. *Shameful Flight: The Last Years of the British Empire in India*. New York, Oxford UP, 2006. pg. 67

<sup>29</sup> Martin. *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 65

<sup>30</sup> Panigrahi. *India's Partition: The Story of Imperialism in Retreat*. pg. 142

<sup>31</sup> Collins, Larry, and Dominique Lapierre. *Freedom at Midnight*. New ed./Pbk. ed., London, HarperCollins, 1997. pg. 171

<sup>32</sup> Wolpert, Stanley. "India and Pakistan after Independence." *Shameful Flight: The*



to fail. Pakistan could not be governed effectively if the country were split in two and separated by 1,317 miles of India. Also, Pakistan had lost many Muslim principalities and provinces to Hindu India (see Appendix IV). As Dr. Khawaja Aftab Ahmed, a man who lived through and witnessed the horrors of Partition, notes: “We lost Hyderabad, a Muslim principality. We should have got Kashmir. We should have got Punjab [and] Calcutta. These were all Muslim places, they went to India. We had nothing. We didn’t even have a pencil to sign the contract... They [the British] took it all away.”<sup>33</sup>

Given the haphazardness and uncertainty of the boundaries, by March 1947 communal riots had begun mainly in the northwestern Punjab province. The new boundaries were formally announced on August 14th, 1947, the day of Pakistan’s independence and the day before India’s independence.<sup>34</sup> Radcliffe’s efforts saw 14 million people go to sleep in “their” country and wake up on the morning of August 15, 1947, in the “wrong” country. At midnight August 14th, 1947, the official transfer of power from the British Crown to the Indian and Pakistani governments took place.<sup>35</sup> This Partition would go down as one of the most traumatic events in the subcontinent’s history. While many say it was a day of celebration, the Partition of British India was and will remain a stain on the glory of the British Empire and, like the Holocaust is to the Jews, this event is indelibly ingrained in the minds of Hindus and Muslims all over the world.

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*Last Years of the British Empire in India*, by Stanley A. Wolpert, New York [u.a.], Oxford Univ. Press, 2006. Map. Accessed 14 Jan. 2018.

<sup>33</sup> Ahmed, Khawaja Aftab, Dr. Personal interview by the author. 6 Nov. 2017.

<sup>34</sup> Dalrymple. “*The Great Divide*” *The New Yorker*.

<sup>35</sup> Bates, Crispin. “*The Hidden Story of Partition and its Legacies*” *bbc.com*. last modified 29 Oct. 2016. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/partition1947\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/partition1947_01.shtml). Accessed 7 Nov. 2017.

## Horrors of Partition

A millennium of relatively peaceful Hindu-Muslim coexistence ended with the Partition. The resulting sectarian violence and blood-baths were like none other seen in history, as 14 million migrated to their new countries, and between three and four million died. Both sides committed atrocities.<sup>36</sup> The lack of troop deployment along the new borders to maintain law and order shall forever remain on the British Empire's conscience, for while the slaughters took place, over half a million troops stood idly by. Despite warnings, Mountbatten and Nehru underestimated the degree of violence that would occur. As Nisid Hajari wrote in the book *Midnight's Furies*, "Gangs of killers set whole villages aflame, hacking to death men and children and the aged while carrying off young women to be raped. Some British soldiers and journalists who had witnessed the Nazi death camps claimed Partition's brutalities were worse: pregnant women had their breasts cut off and babies hacked out of their bellies; infants were found literally roasted on spits."<sup>37</sup> Millions of men, women and children were killed (see Appendix V), or uprooted from their homelands during the Partition, the likes of which had never been seen before.<sup>38</sup> It is still considered to be the largest mass migration of humans in history, (see Appendix VI). This split resulted in such hatred between India and Pakistan that they have fought three wars since 1947 and have truly let this schism get in the way of their own progress and prosperity as neighboring nations and sister countries. Yasmin Khan, in her book *The Great Partition*, judges that Partition "stands testament to the follies of empire, which

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<sup>36</sup> "Shane Ali." *1947 Archive*, 31 Aug. 2010, [www.1947partitionarchive.org](http://www.1947partitionarchive.org). Accessed 10 Oct. 2017.

<sup>37</sup> Hajari, Nisid. *Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition*. Boston, Mariner Books, 2016. pg. 134

<sup>38</sup> "Ajit Cour." *1947 Archive*, 31 Aug. 2010, [www.1947partitionarchive.org](http://www.1947partitionarchive.org). Accessed 18 Oct. 2017.

ruptures community evolution, distorts historical trajectories and forces violent state formation from societies that would otherwise have taken different—and unknowable—paths.”<sup>39</sup>

## **Bitter Legacy**

On August 17, 1947, just days after the Partition of India, riots broke out in Punjab. The next day, the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan, issued a joint statement pleading for peace and visited the sites of the riots. However, their statement fell on deaf ears, because on January 12, 1948, a train holding hundreds of refugee men, women and children in Gujarat, Pakistan was bombed, leaving no survivors.<sup>40</sup>

On January 30, 1948, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the greatest proponent of Hindu-Muslim unity and peace, was assassinated by an anti Muslim religious fanatic.<sup>41</sup> That same year, multiple Hindu-Muslim riots occurred and over 15,000 women were abducted and raped in both countries.<sup>42</sup>

Muhammad Ali Jinnah died of tuberculosis on September 11, 1948. With him died hopes of a secular Pakistan.<sup>43</sup> Finally on March 23, 1956, the Constitution of Pakistan was passed, based on the principles of Islam. This constitution was passed about six years after the secular Constitution of India was passed, on January 26, 1950.<sup>44</sup> Pakistan suffered another loss with the assassination of its first Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan on October 16, 1951.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Khan. *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*. pg. 128

<sup>40</sup> Haque, Jameel. *Pakistan*. Milwaukee, Gareth Stevens Pub., 2002. pg. 58

<sup>41</sup> Martin. *Mohandas Gandhi*. pg. 101

<sup>42</sup> Collins and Lapierre. *Freedom at Midnight*. pg. 283

<sup>43</sup> *Jinnah*.

<sup>44</sup> Sonneborn, Liz. *Pakistan*. New York, Children's Press, 2013. pg. 55

<sup>45</sup> Haque. *Pakistan*. pg. 59

India and Pakistan have thus far fought three costly wars that have scarred the minds of their people and adversely impacted their economies. From April to September of 1965, the first Indo-Pakistani war was fought over the disputed Kashmir province. In 1971, the second Indo-Pakistani war, or the Civil War between West and East Pakistan was fought, which resulted in the formation of modern day Bangladesh. In 1999, the third Indo-Pakistani war, the Kargil War, was fought over a glacier marking the border of Pakistan and India.<sup>46</sup>

India and Pakistan have never been able to form friendly and stable relations due to the events that occurred during the Partition. Both countries have wasted resources on developing nuclear weapons and fighting unnecessary wars, while their people continue to suffer from the effects of crime, poverty, corruption and illiteracy. The economies of Pakistan and India remain unstable and have failed to fulfill their potential for growth.<sup>47</sup> In Pakistan, decades of martial law and assassinations of democratically elected leaders have stunted the growth of democracy.<sup>48</sup> In India, multiple incidents of religious violence between Hindus and Muslims have put the secular Indian Constitution to shame. The governments of both countries have repeatedly squandered their chances at reconciliation. Government propaganda and manipulation of history on both sides continues to fan the flames of mutual hatred.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Bates. "The Hidden Story of Partition and its Legacies" [bbc.com](http://bbc.com). Accessed 7 Nov. 2017.

<sup>47</sup> Hajari. *Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition*. pg. 124

<sup>48</sup> Wolpert, Stanley. *Shameful Flight: The Last Years of the British Empire in India*. pg. 83

<sup>49</sup> Usman, Zarreen Naveed, Mrs. Personal interview by the author. 6 Oct. 2017.

Had India not been partitioned, it would have been the largest country population-wise on the planet.<sup>50</sup> Resources that are currently being wasted on conflicts and violence could have been channeled towards the prosperity and development of the people and the country.<sup>51</sup> The terrorism resulting from continued hostility between the two countries would not have existed. Peace in the region would have stimulated and promoted economic growth. The principles of coexistence, compromise and tolerance that the people of India had demonstrated by living together for a thousand years, before the British sowed the seeds of discord, would once again have thrived and the blood of millions that had been lost in the terrible, unforgettable violence of the Partition would have been nothing but a distant “what-if.”

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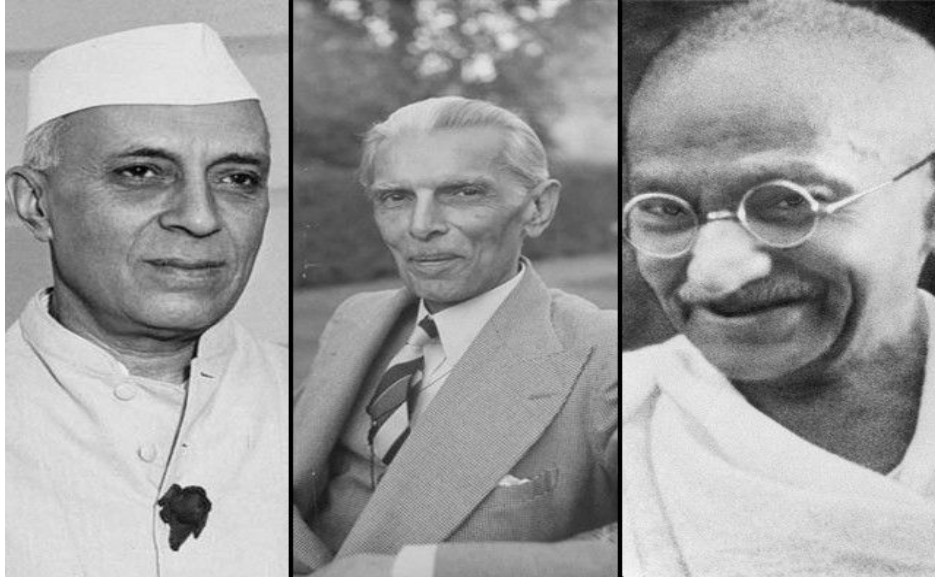
<sup>50</sup> Bates. “*The Hidden Story of Partition and its Legacies*” [bbc.com](http://bbc.com). Accessed 7 Nov. 2017.

<sup>51</sup> "Kazi Shamsuzzaman." *1947 Partition*, 31 Aug. 2010, [www.1947partitionarchive.org](http://www.1947partitionarchive.org). Accessed 18 Oct. 2017.



[http://www.eastindiacompany.amdigital.co.uk/Documents/Details/BL\\_IOR\\_A\\_1\\_2](http://www.eastindiacompany.amdigital.co.uk/Documents/Details/BL_IOR_A_1_2). Accessed 13  
Jan. 2018.

## Appendix II



Pictured above, from left to right, are Jawaharlal Nehru, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. These three men, as the faces of their religions, were the catalysts of the freedom movement in India.

*Nehru, Jinnah and Gandhi. The Express Tribune, Lakson Group,*

[blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/21514/on-jinnah-and-nehru-one-mans-hero-is-another-mans-villain/](https://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/21514/on-jinnah-and-nehru-one-mans-hero-is-another-mans-villain/).

Accessed 13 Jan. 2018.



### Appendix III

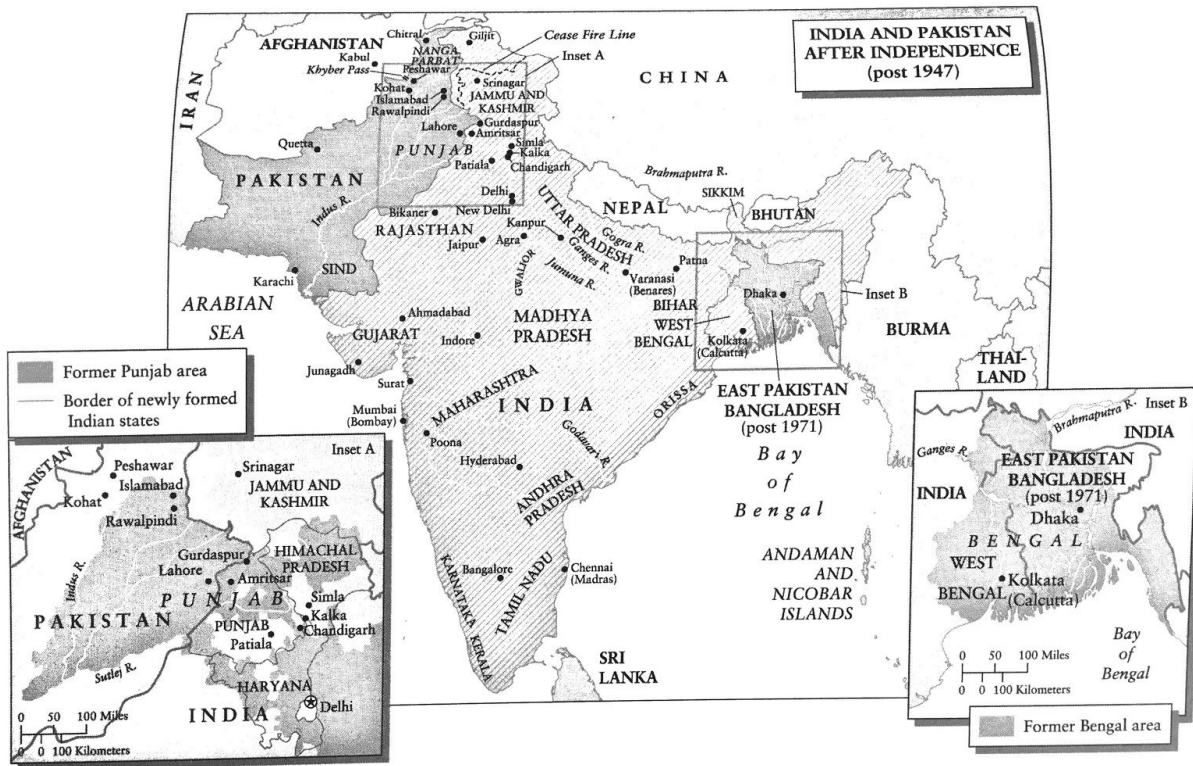


Pictured above is one of the three Indian Round Table Conferences, this one being held at St. James's Palace, London in 1930. This is a group portrait of delegates in plenary session.

*Round Table Conference, India. The British Library, [imagesonline.bl.uk/](https://imagesonline.bl.uk/)*

*?service=page&action=show\_home\_page&language=en. Accessed 13 Jan. 2018.*

## Appendix IV

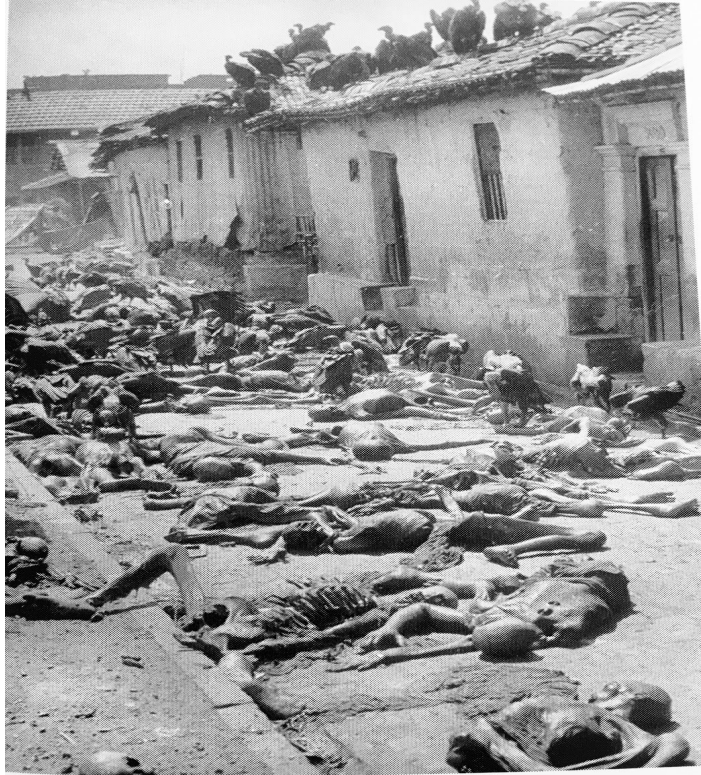


Pictured above is a map of India, East and West Pakistan after the Partition of India in 1947. In the map, the great distance separating East and West Pakistan is clear. In the smaller boxes to the left and right corners of the main map, the Muslim majority provinces of Bengal and Punjab are clearly demarcated as being split down the middle, with half going to Pakistan and the other half to India.

Wolpert, Stanley. "India and Pakistan after Independence." *Shameful Flight: The*

*Last Years of the British Empire in India*, by Stanley A. Wolpert, New York [u.a.], Oxford Univ. Press, 2006. Map. Accessed 14 Jan. 2018.

## Appendix V



This image depicts the dead bodies left lying on the streets of Calcutta during the four-day riots in August of 1946 and left 5,000 dead. There are vultures eating the dead in the in the streets and they can be seen lining the rooftops of the looted houses.

*A Fury. Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition*, by Nisid Hajari, Boston, Mariner Books, 2016. Photograph. Accessed 14 Jan. 2018.

## Appendix VI



This image shows a train crammed full of refugees leaving the Indian border-city of Amritsar for Pakistan in 1947. Those who could not be seated inside, traveled on the rooftops out of sheer desperation.

*Crowded Refugee Train. Hindustan Times, [www.hindustantimes.com/static/partition/gallery/](http://www.hindustantimes.com/static/partition/gallery/). Accessed 13 Jan. 2018.*

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources:

Ahmed, Khawaja Aftab, Dr. Personal interview by the author. 6 Nov. 2017.

"I heard the explosions... I saw them killing each other. Those are memories I will never forget." - Dr. Khawaja Aftab Ahmed.

I had the honor of interviewing Dr. Khawaja Aftab Ahmed, who survived and provided me with a rich description his experiences during the Partition. This interview showed me how traumatic the events of the Partition of India were and how the memories of survivors affect their lives today. Through this interview, I learned about the main provinces affected, Punjab, Bengal and Kashmir.

Ahsan, Khurshida, Mrs. Personal interview by the author. 6 Oct. 2017.

"Everyday my father would go out and try to stop the riots and save the people. We never knew if he was going to come back." -Mrs. Khurshida Ahsan.

I had the honor of interviewing Mrs. Khurshida Ahsan, who lived through the vividly recalled the events of the Partition. This interview helped me to understand the position of law enforcement officers during the riots. The interviewee, Mrs. Khurshida Ahsan's father served as a policeman to help restore law and order after the riots and massacres that occurred during the Partition.

"Ajit Cour." *1947 Archive*, 31 Aug. 2010, [www.1947partitionarchive.org](http://www.1947partitionarchive.org). Accessed 18 Oct. 2017.

"It is very difficult to uproot a built up life. All the lands they [the people of India] were tilling, they were tilling since generations. The houses that they were living in, they were living in since generations. I mean, it was very traumatic for people to leave their lands and homes." -Ajit Cour.

Watching this interview made me understand how the Partition affected people emotionally, physically, politically and socially. It helped me understand the immense sacrifices that people had to make to migrate and how many losses they suffered.

*Copy Letters Patent of Elizabeth I granting to the Earl of Cumberland and 215 others the power to form a corporate body to be called the "Governor and Company of Merchants of London, trading into the East Indies" and naming Thomas Smith the first governor.* Adam Matthew, Marlborough, East India Company, [http://www.eastindiacompany.amdigital.co.uk/Documents/Details/BL\\_IOR\\_A\\_1\\_2](http://www.eastindiacompany.amdigital.co.uk/Documents/Details/BL_IOR_A_1_2). Accessed 13 Jan. 2018.

This picture helped me understand the depth of control of the British Crown in terms of trade. The fact that Queen Elizabeth I was the only person who could grant access for

traders to pass through the Strait of Magellan and trade with the Indies further emphasized the amount of control the British had.

*Crowded Refugee Train. Hindustan Times*, [www.hindustantimes.com/static/partition/gallery/](http://www.hindustantimes.com/static/partition/gallery/). Accessed 13 Jan. 2018.

Without this image I could not have understood the desperation of the migrants taking part in the largest mass migration of humans in history. By looking at this picture, I was able to envision the chaos of the time.

*A Fury. Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition*, by Nisid Hajari, Boston, Mariner Books, 2016. Photograph. Accessed 14 Jan. 2018.

This image helped me understand the fury of the mobs and the effects they had on the innocent people of India and Pakistan. Without this image, I would not have fully understood the brutalities of the Partition.

"Kazi Shamsuzzaman." *1947 Partition*, 31 Aug. 2010, [www.1947partitionarchive.org](http://www.1947partitionarchive.org). Accessed 18 Oct. 2017.

"The Partition was not a good thing... if we were together, the country[ies] would be more prosperous." -Kazi Shamsuzzaman.  
Watching this interview helped me to understand the point of view of the people of India; how they felt during the Partition, as well as how they feel now looking back on it.

Round Table Conference, India. The British Library, [imagesonline.bl.uk/?service=page&action=show\\_home\\_page&language=en](http://imagesonline.bl.uk/?service=page&action=show_home_page&language=en). Accessed 13 Jan. 2018.

This image helped me see how many voices had to be heard to come to a reasonable conclusion regarding the departure of the British from India.

"Shane Ali." *1947 Archive*, 31 Aug. 2010, [www.1947partitionarchive.org](http://www.1947partitionarchive.org). Accessed 10 Oct. 2017.

"And then my brother-- he saw what was happening so he started running. So one guy came with a spear and hit him, so my mother saw that and she ran after him. She fell over him and they both were killed there." -Shane Ali.  
This interview helped me realize how horrific and traumatic the Partition was. I thought about what it would feel like to be in Mr. Ali's shoes and those thoughts gave me a new insight into my topic.

Usman, Zarreen Naveed, Mrs. Personal interview by the author. 6 Oct. 2017.

"They were screaming and crying and there were gunshots and explosions everywhere. All I could do was hide underneath my bed and wait." -Mrs. Zarreen Naveed Usman.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Mrs. Zarreen Naveed Usman, who lived through the Partition. This interview helped me to understand how traumatic and chaotic the events of the Partition of India were, especially in the province of Punjab, where Mrs. Zarreen Naveed Usman is from.

Wolpert, Stanley. "India and Pakistan after Independence." *Shameful Flight: The Last Years of the British Empire in India*, by Stanley A. Wolpert, New York [u.a.], Oxford Univ. Press, 2006. Map. Accessed 14 Jan. 2018.

This map helped me comprehend the geography of the Indian subcontinent and the vast number of provinces and princely states in addition to the jigsaw puzzle of varying religions and ethnicities that had to be included in independence negotiations.



## Secondary Sources:

*Adam Matthew Digital*. 27 July 2006, [www.amdigital.co.uk/](http://www.amdigital.co.uk/). Accessed 10 Jan. 2018.

This online British archive provided me with multiple primary sources from three different fields. I researched “East India Company,” “India, Raj & Empire” and “Foreign Office Files for India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, 1947-1980.” I researched multiple maps and documents from this time period, even though I only included the charter from Queen Elizabeth I to the East India Company in this paper.

Bates, Crispin. “*The Hidden Story of Partition and its Legacies*” [bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com). last modified 29 Oct. 2016.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/partition1947\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/partition1947_01.shtml). Accessed 7 Nov. 2017.

This website provided me with a detailed timeline which really put my view of the Partition of India into perspective. This timeline had not only events happening in India during the time of the Partition, but it had a parallel timeline of what was happening to the British Empire and to its subjects all around the world at the same time. This timeline broadened my view and helped put things in perspective.

Chatterjee, Manini, and Anita Roy. *India*. New York, Dorling Kindersley, 2002.

“My religion is based on truth and nonviolence. Truth is my god. Nonviolence is the means of realizing Him.” - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

This book was very visual and discussed not only the people and traditions of India, but the history behind the Partition and life in India afterwards.

Collins, Larry, and Dominique Lapierre. *Freedom at Midnight*. New ed./Pbk. ed., London, HarperCollins, 1997.

“We knew we were going to be killed like rats... The Sikhs broke down the door with axes, I was hit with a bullet in my left arm. I saw my wife get four bullets. My three-year-old son was hit in the abdomen. He did not cry. He fell down. He was dead. I took hold of my wife and my second son. We left the dead child and crawled out to the street. The Sikhs jumped on me and dragged my dead wife from my arms. They killed the second boy and left me to die in the dust. I had no strength to weep or tears to drop.”

-Ahmed Zarullah.

This book focuses on the relationship between Lord Louis Mountbatten and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi as well as the violent transformation of British India into the current states of India and Pakistan. It provided me with multiple quotes to further emphasize the brutalities of the Partition.

Dalrymple, William. *"The Great Divide: The Violent Legacy of Indian Partition."* The New Yorker. CSC Corporate Domains Inc. [www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple). Accessed 2 Dec. 2017.

This article written by the famous historian William Dalrymple is a summary of the history of the Partition but in simple, concise words that really helped me understand the overview of my topic.

Hajari, Nisid. *Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition*. Boston, Mariner Books, 2016.

"Gangs of killers set whole villages aflame, hacking to death men and children and the aged while carrying off young women to be raped. Some British soldiers and journalists who had witnessed the Nazi death camps claimed Partition's brutalities were worse: pregnant women had their breasts cut off and babies hacked out of their bellies; infants were found literally roasted on spits." -Nisid Hajari.

This book helped me understand the brutalities of the Partition and how law enforcement stood idly by while massacres, rapings, lootings and murders occurred.

Haque, Jameel. *Pakistan*. Milwaukee, Gareth Stevens Pub., 2002.

"The largest city, Karachi, began as a small fishing village annexed in 1842 by the British. Karachi continued to develop. With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Karachi's importance as a seaport grew, by 1914, it had become the largest grain exporting port of the British Empire." - Jameel Haque.

This book talked more about contemporary life in Pakistan, the country's people and culture. It helped me envision the comparison between pre-Partition and post-Partition Pakistan, and the undeniable effects the event had on the country.

*Independence of India and Pakistan*. Chicago, World Book, 2011.

"I have tried everything I know to solve the problem of handing over India to its people; and I can see no light. I have only one solution, which I call 'Operation Madhouse-' withdrawal of the British province by province, beginning with women and children, then civilians, then the army." - Viceroy Wavell, 1947.

This book is an abbreviated version of the history of India and Pakistan to get an overview of the Partition of India and the context surrounding it. It also provided me with many contemporary photographs to compare life before and after the Partition.

Jalal, Ayesha. *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*. Cambridge [u.a.], Cambridge Univ. Press, 1994.

“The fact that power was transferred to two governments, neither of which knew the exact geographical boundaries of their respective states, adds yet another curious twist to Mountbatten’s handling of the Partition of India.” - Ayesha Jalal  
This book helped me understand the relationship between Jinnah and Mountbatten and how much they disliked and distrusted each other.

Jalal, Ayesha, Dr. Personal interview by the author. 7 Oct. 2017.

“I do think the Partition was necessary. The amount of violence that occurred between India’s people was an obvious sign that India could not function if it’s warring people were to stay united. However, the amount of resources that was wasted on wars, and the unfair distribution of land and military between Pakistan and India will forever remain one of the most negative effects on Pakistan’s economy to date.” -Dr. Ayesha Jalal.  
I had the distinct privilege of interviewing the recipient of the 1998 MacArthur Fellowship, renowned Pakistani-American historian on the Partition of India and professor of history at Tufts University, Dr. Ayesha Jalal. This interview helped me to understand how a scholar would view the Partition of India. It provided me with nothing but facts, with no biased views or opinions, while it also provided me with contrast of the views of a proponent of the Partition against an opponent.

*Jinnah*. Directed by Jamil Dehlavi, Dehlavi Films Productions, 1998.

“That freedom can never be attained by a nation without suffering and sacrifice has been amply borne out by the recent tragic happenings in this subcontinent.” -Muhammad Ali Jinnah.  
This movie helped me understand Muhammad Ali Jinnah and where he stood in terms of the Partition of India. This movie also helped me gain insight into Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s personal life and his views of Indian government as well as what he envisioned for Pakistan.

Khan, Yasmin. *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*. New Haven [u.a.], Yale Univ. Press, 2008.

“Partition stands testament to the follies of empire, which ruptures community evolution, distorts historical trajectories and forces violent state formation from societies that would otherwise have taken different—and unknowable—paths.” -Yasmin Khan.  
This book helped me understand how the events of the Partition affected ordinary lives and the human cost of the Partition.

Martin, Christopher. *Mohandas Gandhi*. Minneapolis, Lerner Publications, 2001.

“Gandhi died feeling that he had failed in his mission to create a free and united India. In the case of India he had failed. But other inspiring leaders came along to pick up the torch - Martin Luther King Jr. in the U.S. and Nelson Mandela in South Africa.” - Christopher Martin.

This book helped me understand Gandhi’s vision for not only a united, peaceful India, but for the world. It helped me understand what an essential part of the Partition Gandhi was and how he inspired so many. It also shared his relationships with Lord Louis Mountbatten, Jawaharlal Nehru and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Nardo, Don. *India*. New York, Children's Press, 2012.

“The main religions in India are: Hinduism (81%), Islam (13%), Christianity (2%), Sikhism (2%), Buddhism (1%) and Jainism (.5%).”

This book talked more about contemporary life in India, it’s main religions and helped me envision the contrast between pre-Partition India and post-Partition India. It also provided me with multiple before-and-after pictures which were very helpful to me.

*Nehru, Jinnah and Gandhi*. *The Express Tribune*, Lakson Group, [blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/21514/on-jinnah-and-nehru-one-mans-hero-is-another-mans-villain/](http://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/21514/on-jinnah-and-nehru-one-mans-hero-is-another-mans-villain/). Accessed 13 Jan. 2018.

As I was searching for a picture of Nehru, Jinnah and Gandhi together, I could not find one no matter how much I searched. It appeared that the three of them were rarely, if ever, photographed together, emphasizing their personal animosity.

*1947 Archive*. 31 Aug. 2010, [www.1947partitionarchive.org](http://www.1947partitionarchive.org). Accessed 14 Oct. 2017.

This website provided me with multiple documentaries and interviews featuring people who survived the horrific events of the Partition of India. It also provided me with opinion articles written about the Partition of India that helped me understand the thoughts and views of the proponents and opponents of the Partition.

Panigrahi, D. N. *India's Partition: The Story of Imperialism in Retreat*. London, Routledge, an imprint of Taylor & Francis Books Ltd, 2004.

“There is a wind of nationalism and freedom blowing around the world and blowing as strongly in Asia as anywhere in the world. What have we taught India for a century? We’ve preached English institutions and democracy.”-Stanley Baldwin, a conservative English leader.

This book helped me to understand the point of view of the British Colonials during the Partition of India. This book spoke about Winston Churchill and his opposition of India’s independence.

Sonneborn, Liz. *Pakistan*. New York, Children's Press, 2013.

“The name ‘Pakistan’ was suggested in 1933 by Chaudhry Rahmat Ali... and it means ‘land of the pure.’”

This book provided me with a very helpful, detailed timeline of the events of the Partition, starting all the way back when the British East India Trading Company first arrived in India and ending at the last Indo-Pakistani war. This book also provided me with multiple fast facts on Pakistan.

Talbot, Ian, and Gurharpal Singh. *The Partition of India*. 3rd ed., Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 2014.

“In Punjab and Bengal, there is considerable evidence of anticipatory Hindu migration before August 1947. Inevitably, it was the poorer or politically less connected communities that were taken by surprise by the unfolding drama of Partition.” - Ian Talbot

This book provided me with a detailed, thorough overview of the complex history of the Partition of India, step by step.

Wolpert, Stanley. *Shameful Flight: The Last Years of the British Empire in India*. New York, Oxford UP, 2006.

This book helped me understand how the King’s flamboyant cousin, Lord Louis Mountbatten, who rushed the process of Partition, made a huge blunder condemning the British withdrawal from India, a “Shameful Flight,” as stated by Winston Churchill.