

**Kashmir and Sindh**

Nation-Building, Ethnicity and Regional Politics in South Asia
Suranjan Das

Pub Date: August 2001**Binding:** Paperback**Price:** £16.99 / \$27.50**ISBN:** 9781898855699**Category:** POLITICAL SCIENCE /
General**BISAC code:** POL000000**BIC code:** HBTR**Extent:** 220 pages**Size:** 234 x 156 mm / 9.2 x 6.1**Rights Held:** World**Description**

A ground-breaking book on nation-building, ethnicity and regional politics in South Asia.

Professor Das provides a fascinating study of the issue of ethnic politics in multi-ethnic Third World countries and discusses the non-convergence of state and nation in the context of Kashmir and Sindh. The artificial de-colonization process in the South Asian sub-continent resulted in the construction of national frontiers for its two successor states that did not rest on a synchronization of ethnic and state boundaries. Consequently, cross-border loyalties amongst significant sections of the population survived the boundaries imposed between the two successor states. In the context of centralizing nation-building strategies, when ethnic political assertions occur in outlying or frontier areas of these nation-states, the distinction between domestic and external affairs or between home and foreign politics tends to lose its significance in the traditional sense. Political actors from across the borders of neighbouring states can then deny the marks of their different objective nationalities and treat themselves as members of a single 'loyalty group'.

Thus, ethnic politics transcends its domestic contours and helps foment regional tensions. In such circumstances, ethnic assertions tend to constitute vital local or domestic ingredients that define the national security priorities within a particular region. The current insurrection in Kashmir and turmoil in Sindh superbly demonstrate this pattern.

Readership: A book for anyone interested in the history of communal violence in South Asia.

Contents

Preface; Introduction; The Kashmir Imbroglia; The Sindh Question in Pakistan's Polity; Conclusion; Select Bibliography; Index

About the Author

Suranjan Das is Professor of History at the University of Calcutta and the Director of the Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, Calcutta.

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