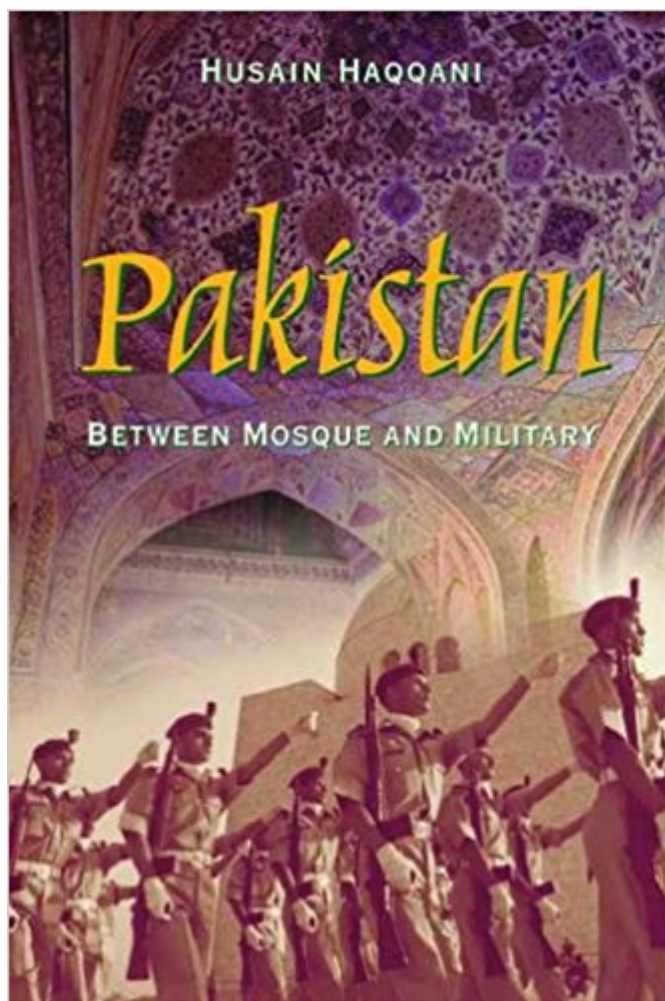




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Pakistan: Between Mosque And Military



Synopsis

Among U.S. allies in the war against terrorism, Pakistan cannot be easily characterized as either friend or foe. Nuclear-armed Pakistan is an important center of radical Islamic ideas and groups. Since 9/11, the selective cooperation of president General Pervez Musharraf in sharing intelligence with the United States and apprehending al Qaeda members has led to the assumption that Pakistan might be ready to give up its longstanding ties with radical Islam. But Pakistan's status as an Islamic ideological state is closely linked with the Pakistani elite's worldview and the praetorian ambitions of its military. This book analyzes the origins of the relationships between Islamist groups and Pakistan's military, and explores the nation's quest for identity and security. Tracing how the military has sought U.S. support by making itself useful for concerns of the moment while continuing to strengthen the mosque-military alliance within Pakistan; Haqqani offers an alternative view of political developments since the country's independence in 1947.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[Husain Haqqani] brings impressive credentials to the task of analyzing his native land, including a personal acquaintanceship with many of the key military and political personalities of the past two decades." —Alex Alexiev, Center for Security Policy, Commentary, 12/1/2005"a notable contribution to scholarship on South Asia" —Kapil Gupta, Foreign Service Journal" In this cogent, well-informed and extraordinarily informative book, Husain Haqqani describes in detail the unholy alliance between Islamists and military officers that has shaped Pakistan's past and may well

determine its future. An important and disturbing tale, deftly told." —Andrew J. Bacevich, author of THE NEW AMERICAN MILITARISM"A well-written and authoritative account from someone who knows Pakistani politics from the inside." —Peter Bergen, CNN Terrorism Analyst and author of HOLY WAR, INC."We are in Husain Haqqani's debt for providing the authoritative account of the linkages between Pakistan's powerful Islamists and its professional army.... This brilliantly researched and written book should be required reading for anyone who wishes to understand this increasingly important state." —Stephen P. Cohen, Brookings Institution, and author of THE IDEA OF PAKISTAN"Husain Haqqani has seen Pakistani politics close up. But his book is much more than a memoir: Haqqaani has produced a provocative and controversial history revealing the depth of the links between the army and the Islamic radicals. Required reading." —Owen Bennett-Jones, BBC, and author of PAKISTAN: THE EYE OF THE STORM"Husain Haqqani has written the most comprehensive account of the role of religion and the army in Pakistan's tangled history. It makes for fascinating and sobering reading. The challenge of maintaining a 'moderate Islamic' identity at a time of national insecurity and religious passion remains one of the central problems confronting any Pakistan government." —Teresita Schaffer, CSIS, and former U.S. Ambassador and Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia

Husain Haqqani is a visiting scholar in the South Asia Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an associate professor of International Relations at Boston University. He is former adviser to Pakistani prime ministers, and has served as Pakistan's ambassador to Sri Lanka.

You will seldom meet Indians and Pakistanis who can agree about the major events in their common history and agree on how the events actually transpired. This is a well researched book by the current Pakistani ambassador to the US, written very well, that addresses the history of Pakistan since 1947, honestly and openly. What I find fascinating is that his version of history, more or less, matches the history taught to us in schools in India. This gives me great confidence in our education system. For people not from South Asia this is a very informative book that lays bare the links between the Islamists and the Military in Pakistan and highlights their pathological obsession with India as an enemy. The generosity, and the genuine desire, of Indian politicians to establish peace in the region, despite numerous provocations, is also brought into the open. I cannot imagine any other Nation with the disparity in military and economic strength that exists between India and Pakistan being as magnanimous toward its pesky little neighbor. This book should be on the shelf of every Indian and Pakistani if we are to bring about a true rapprochement between our Nations. And

it should be on the shelf all those who are interested in the region so that they can have a balanced and nuanced view of the dynamics in the region.

Given his current and past roles with the Pakistan government, the author is uniquely positioned to provide commentary on the establishment and recent history of Pakistan. The book describes the country's role in nuclear proliferation and fostering of terror groups active in the West and in India. The combination of military rule, based on Islamic support, US alliance and an anti-India policy have defined its entire existence and brought it to the condition it is in today. The discovery of Osama hiding in a military controlled Pakistani city is now causing some re-examination of Pakistan-US ties by both sides. Very relevant reading on the most dangerous spot in the world today.

Anyone who wants to understand why Pakistan is in its current state, must read this book. It is specially recommended as the writer is a Pakistani and a former diplomat so his statements can't be called a someone who hates Pakistan.

I give Mr. Haqqani, the author, a lot of credit for coming out and giving information on the inside of Pakistan politics. I read other books on this subject but this was the best.

a balanced overview by an insider however it is also necessary to place the book within a perspective considering the fact that the author has in the past changed sides and as such can be accused of being partisan.

V. Good

Good book

I recommend reading this book; however, I am afraid, many Westerners who are far removed from religion in their daily lives and Indians who are anti-Pakistan may draw wrong/tainted conclusions against Pakistan. 1): Whatever Haqqani writes in his book, one must understand military and mullahs can not be separated because Pakistan is primarily a Muslim country and military is a subset of it. 2): Military, an aggressive institution by nature, will remain close to mullah parties (such as Jamat-e-Islami) because these parties are hawkish and anti-India. 3): Since the military brass knows that Pakistan must remain a forward looking country, the same military which seeks the help

of mullah-parties does not want mullahs to rule the country. Thus the double game of sleeping with mullahs while supporting a secular minded government (Muslim League/PPP/MQM) which takes into account the geopolitical issues of Pakistan.4): Military has/had run into extreme distrust with Benazeer for hanging his father, Altaf Hussain of MQM for first propping him against PPP and then cracking him, and Nawaz for getting too close to Vajpai. Until there is a trust between secular minded party leaders and the military, the military would continue to support mullahs for a long time.5): One view is that military should keep Benazeer, Nawaz, and Altaf out of the country while making deals with their party leaders. Hope this works and a trust is developed between secular minded parties and military.6): Acquiring nuclear deterrent against India and confidence building measures such the construction of the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline would help reduce military reliance on mullahs.

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