

# Partitioned lives: migrants, refugees, citizens in India and Pakistan, 1947-65.

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## Partitioned Lives: Migrants, Refugee India and Pakistan, 1947-65

**Document Type**

Book

**Publication Date**

2012

**Abstract**

*Partitioned States* offers new perspective in the histories of Pakistan and India, connecting it to the long, drawn out and skewed formation of the nation and East Pakistan. The book focuses on the Bengal Partition and its aftermath within the intersection of long term cross border movement, migration, violence, the emergence of a document regime, and biased nationalisms of which contributed to the formation of national citizenships in the new states.

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

The product of several years of archival research in Calcutta, Delhi, and Dhaka, *Partitioned States* is the first to examine the experience of Partition at the Bengal border. It urges for a rethinking of the Bengal Partition, its legacy, and the contemporary politics of India and Bangladesh. (Published by Oxford University Press)

**ISBN/ISSN**

9780198081777

**Document Version**

Published Version

**Comments**

From *Partitioned Lives: Migrants, Refugees, Citizens in India and Pakistan* by Haimanti Roy. Introduction is made available in the repository in accordance with the archiving policies of the publisher. Permission documentation is available in the repository.

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**Publisher**

Oxford University Press

**Place of Publication**

New Delhi, India

**Keywords**

Partition, South Asia, historiography, borders, refugees, state-national identity

**eCommons Citation**

Roy, Haimanti, "Partitioned Lives: Migrants, Refugees, Citizens in India and Pakistan" (2012). *History Faculty Publications*. 21.

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