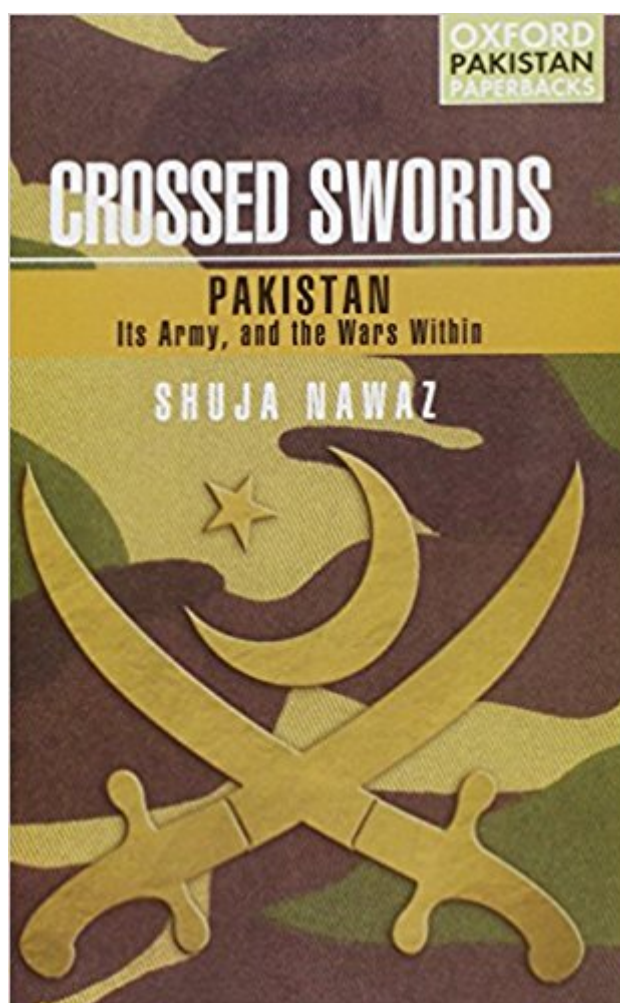


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Crossed Swords: Pakistan, Its Army, And The Wars Within (Oxford Pakistan Paperbacks)



Synopsis

Based on 30 years of research and analysis, this definitive book is a profound, multi-layered, and historical analysis of the nature and role of the Pakistan army in the country's polity as well as its turbulent relationship with the United States. Shuja Nawaz examines the army and Pakistan in both peace and war. Using many hitherto unpublished materials from the archives of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the General Headquarters of the Pakistan Army, as well as interviews with key military and political figures in Pakistan and the United States, he sheds light not only on the Pakistan Army and its US connections but also on Pakistan as a key Muslim country in one of the world's toughest neighborhoods. In doing so, he lays bare key facts about Pakistan's numerous wars with India and its many rounds of political musical chairs, as well as the Kargil conflict of 1999. He then draws lessons from this history that may help Pakistan end its wars within and create a stabler political entity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is by far the fullest and most authoritative analysis yet published of Pakistan and its army and intelligence services."--New York Review of Books "Timely... this is the best researched and most serious history of the Pakistan army."--London Review of Books "In Crossed Swords, Pakistani American scholar Shuja Nawaz fleshes out the history of the Pakistani army in a dense but carefully researched book... conclude(s) that the military domination of Pakistani society has stunted the country's political growth, and that the army's obsession with Indian hegemony has perverted

relations with neighbors and allies... explores the flaws in U.S. and Pakistani thinking that helped allow the Taliban's comeback."--The Washington Post Book World "This exceptionally authoritative book, rich in insider history, could not have come at a better time as a key to understanding the underlying power structures of Pakistan as it struggles to find its place in the world."--Barbara Crossette, former South Asia Bureau Chief, The New York Times "Crossed Swords is extremely authoritative and based on extensive research; it balances the in-depth knowledge of the insider with the critical eye of the scholar; and is both accessible enough for students while invaluable for specialists. In short, it is much needed and fills a longstanding gap on the existing literature on Pakistan."--Yasmin Khan, author of The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan "Shuja Nawaz has used his considerable expertise to delve deep into the Pakistan Army. The result is an insightful study of an institution that has been, and remains, the center of gravity in Pakistan. This superbly researched book comes at a critical time in Pakistan's history. A must read to understand the past and the ongoing events."--General Jehangir Karamat, Chief of Army Staff, Pakistan, 1996-98 "Crossed Swords is and will remain for many years the standard military history of Pakistan regardless of whether or not one agrees with Nawaz's reading of events, trends and personalities...timely and important... strongly recommended to anyone seeking to understand the phenomenon of praetorian control in general and Pakistan's military in particular."--Southasia-online.com "Shuja Nawaz's study is as definitive as we are likely to get: no other book has penetrated so deeply into the army, and so carefully examined this powerful institution in the context of Pakistan's history and politics."--Stephen P. Cohen, The Brookings Institution and author of The Pakistan Army and The Idea of Pakistan "Crossed Swords is eminently readable and exciting at times. Born into a family that had produced only soldiers, and married into one equally devoted to the military way of life, Nawaz has inherited a legacy that allows him to shed light on little-known aspects of the army and its functioning...Nawaz...takes the reader on the road from the transfer of power to the army to its present-day authority, presenting vivid portraits of the Sandhurst-trained officer cadres, with their affected accents, and the more local strains of faith."--India Today

SHUJA NAWAZ was a newscaster and current affairs producer with Pakistan Television from 1967 to 1972. He covered the 1971 war with India on the Western front. A graduate of Gordon College, Rawalpindi and the Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University, he has worked for The New York Times and the World Health Organization, and as a Division Chief at the International Monetary Fund and as a Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He has also been

Editor of Finance & Development, the multilingual quarterly of the IMF and the World Bank, and has written and spoken widely on military and politico-economic issues. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

Had dinner with Shuja before I had a chance to read the book...it is by my bed. He is fascinating.

An excellent anthology on Pakistan's Army since the birth of the nation. A must-read for anyone studying Pakistan and its Army.

good

Authoritative and easy to read, this book offers great insight into South Asian issues and their relations with world affairs. Compared to the book store... the price is RIGHT.

A bit dry for those of us who crave for excitement in a book, but it seems to be factually accurate and a book that is worth citing.

This book presents an excellent review of the role of the Pakistan Army in Pakistani society from its creation sixty years ago to the present.

This is a great book on Pakistan and its history. I've read several over the past few months including "Pakistan Between Mosque and Military", "Deception: Pakistan, the United States and the Secret Trade in Nuclear Weapons", "Descent into Chaos", "The Duel", "Military Inc." and "Pakistan Deep Inside the World's Most Frightening State". This is the most comprehensive-detailed account of the history of Pakistan and fills in a lot of history that was skimmed over in some of these other works. I consider it an essential part of anyone trying to learn, in depth, about the nation. However, all of these books share 2 common issues for Westerners though. 1. These works all sorely lack maps and graphical representation of data. This title and many like it are presenting a tremendous amount of information about a region and people that many of the readers are not in any way familiar with. I find I need to keep Google maps open and make copious notes while reading these titles just to keep track of some of the events, especially when they describe battles... Also some charts laying out the power structure of the government and the relations between the political parties, mullahs and military would've made understanding some of the information a lot easier to comprehend. 2. More pictures of the people/places being discussed in context. I understand these

are scholarly texts but modern printing technology affords these writers many bells and whistles that were not available to their predecessors. Knowledge transfer would definitely be improved by some of the above mentioned features.

This is a very long and well researched treatment of the history of the Pakistani army. The author is tied by family to the elite in the country and provides a view into events that few could match. Its almost six hundred pages long and there is nothing else really like it. The book covers the entire history of the Pakistani military since the 1940s. The only cautions I would give is that what's presented is very much a military perspective and that the book sometimes assumes the reader is somewhat familiar with Pakistani & South Asian history. In other words, this isn't a great introductory book to the subject nor should everything in it be taken as the only point of view on events. The most difficult thing about understanding Pakistani is understanding that the various groups in the country (military, landowners, business) all see things from their own perspective and never see the big picture. The book is good at showing all the different permutations that Pakistani government has taken on and is really wise in terms of explaining why military governments fail in the long run. The book makes a good case as to why a two-leader configuration never works and shows the superiority of the "triumvirate" (in Pakistan's case, the President, the Prime Minister and the Army Chief). The triumvirate seemed to work well in Pakistan but its flaw was that the structure would fail when it came time to replace one of the members. The Prime Minister was a political selection and reflected the political will of the country (to an extent). But replacing the president or army chief would inevitably increase the power of the prime minister. The book offers perhaps the best ever description of events in 1971 (Bangladesh & war with India) from an internal Pakistani point of view I've seen. It's not the one pure way to look at events in 1971, but it explains the motivations of some of the players very well. It's also comprehensive in terms of looking at the relationship between Pakistan and the US government over the decades from the Pakistani point of view. It illustrates the complexity of the relationship and how the US has tended to depend on Pakistan during times of crisis and then abandon it after. The most interesting bits concern why the US shifted away from Afghanistan and Pakistan in the 1990s. The book's contention, somewhat, is that the shift was due to pro-India instincts of the Clinton Administration. The Clinton Administration re-organized the state department so that Pakistan and India would be dealt with by the same administrative unit. The book also suggests that the relationship was able to recover somewhat due to Bill Clinton's personal fascination with Benizir Bhutto. A general theme of the book is the failure of the Pakistani Army at the higher command level. The army is very competent at a small unit level (companies/battalions),

but has generally failed in its wars due to failures at a higher level. Coordinated attacks at the brigade or division level tended to break down over communications problems. There was too much dependence on one man at the top giving orders, a failure to coordinate with the other services and too much indecision at critical moments. There were also just bad ideas. At one point, the high command was obsessed with the idea of obtaining "strategic depth" versus India. The theory, incredibly, was that agreements with Afghanistan or Iran would allow the Pakistani Army to be able to lose the core of the country and still continue fighting. Lost on the generals seemed to be the plain fact that if the army lost the bulk of the population of Pakistan along with its economic heart, continuing the fight from Afghanistan or the deserts of eastern Iran would have been both impractical and pointless. The closer it gets to the present day, obviously the more blurry its presentation becomes. He avoids going out on a limb on a variety of controversial issues or presents a very standard version of them sometimes. (as an example, the death of Benazir Bhutto) and AQ Khan). He covers the enormous scope of the military within the economy, its institutional beliefs about itself and its international relations. Its a great work of modern history and enormously useful. But again its perhaps not for the casual reader.

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