

**Department of History**  
**MA in History, Part-II**  
**Course Title: History of India's Partition**

**Course Objectives**

The history of India's Partition forms an inalienable part of the subcontinent's history. A thorough and objective study of the event, the processes and the aftermath shall equip students with a greater understanding of a significant part of India's modern and contemporary history. The students at the level of the Masters need to undertake an in-depth study of how the country was partitioned with the complex interplay of parties and forces, including the Congress, the Muslim League, the Colonial State, and others. The millions of people who got displaced as a result and crossed boundaries led to a massive transformation in culture, economy, demography and urban settlement patterns. These continue to affect and challenge modern-day realities. The representation of Partition in history books is paralleled by some serious engagement with the process and its impact in literary genres and visual media. Recent thrust on studies on Partition has made this course all the more imperative. Students would find space for serious engagement with the topics and various nuances through assignments, class tests, presentations, visits to archives and museums, watching films, and engaging in discussions on important literary texts on and around the theme of Partition.

**Learning Outcomes**

After completing this course, students shall be able to—

- (i) Appreciate better the complex process of politics at play in leading India to Partition.
- (ii) Connect better the various processes in India's late colonial past.
- (iii) Understand better the objectives, slogans, electoral politics, individual aspirations, colonial machinations in modern Indian history.
- (iv) Students would be able to study the history of the growth of Indian nationalism, along with currents of communal divide and politics around identities and communities.
- (v) They would be able to visualize the process of Partition and its impact, as well the changes in geographical boundaries caused by Partition.

**Course Content**

**Unit-I: (Week 1-3):** Strategies of Mapping and Enumeration, Legislative Expansion, Growth of Communalism, Khilafat and Non-Co-operation, Shuddhi and Tabligh, Nehru Report, Round Table Conferences Minority Committee, Historiography on Partition,

**Unit-II: (Week 4-5):** From Communal Award to Simla Conference, Elections and formation of governments under Provincial Autonomy 1937, Second World War and Resignation of Ministries; Muslim League's Two-Nation theory, Gandhi-Jinnah Talks (1944).

**Unit-III: (Week 6-8):** High Politics of India's Partition (1945-47), Cabinet Mission Plan, Interim Government, Setting up of Constituent Assembly, Direct Action.

**Unit-IV: (Week 9-11):** Partition turns into reality, Regional variations, Transfer of Power and Integration of States.

**Unit-V: (Week 12-13):** Migration, Displacement, Rehabilitation, Impact on Women.

**Unit-VI: (Week 14-15):** Visual and Literary Landscapes, Representation of Partition and its related events in literature and films.

### **Essential Readings and Unit Wise Learning Outcome**

**Unit-I: (Week 1-3):** This unit will familiarize students with the impact of census operations and legislative expansion and develop a general understanding of communalism and growth of communal divide, as it progressed gradually after the end of the First World War. It shall also provide a glimpse of the historiography on Partition.

Jones, Kenneth W. (1981), 'Religious Identity and the Indian Census' in N.G. Barrier, ed, *The Census in British India: New Perspective*, Delhi: Manohar, 73-101.

Pandey, Gyanendra (1990), *Construction of Communalism in Colonial North India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Hasan, Mushirul (1979), *Nationalism and Communal Politics in India, 1916-1928*, Delhi: Manohar.

Chandra, Bipan (1990) 'Communalism and the State: Some Issues in India, *Social Scientist*, Vol. 18 (8/9), 38-47.

Kumar, Dharma (1994), Left Secularists and Communalism, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29 (28), 1803-9.

Chakrabarty Bidyut (1989), 'The Communal Award of 1932 and its Implications in Bengal', *Modern Asian Studies*. 23(3),493-523

Minault, Gail (1982), *Khilafat Movement: Religious Symbolism and Political Mobilization in India*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Robinson, Francis (1974), *Separatism among Indian Muslims: The Politics of the United Provinces' Muslims, 1860-1923*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Page, David (1982), *Prelude to Partition: The Indian Muslims and Imperial State System of Control 1920-1932*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Jha, Bhuwan Kumar (2020), 'Nehru Report, Muslim Demands and the Hindu Mahasabha: Elusive Consensus on Future Constitution', *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 66 (4), 534-51.

Appadurai, Arjun (1993) 'Number in the Colonial Imagination', in Peter van der Veer and Carol Breckenridge (eds.) *Orientalism and the Post-colonial Predicament*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 314-39.

Chatterji, Joya (2009), 'New Directions in Partition Studies,' *History Workshop Journal*, 67 (1), 213-20.

गुप्ता, सौम्या (2019), 'विभाजन का इतिहास-लेखन: बदलती रूपरेखा', *आलोचना* (त्रैमासिक पत्रिका) , अंक-59, 29-41.

**Unit-II: (Week 4-5):** This unit will cover the period from the Communal Award (1932) to the Simla conference of 1945 and familiarize students with the most decisive phase leading to Partition when ideas around the Two-Nation theory became formidable.

Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi (2014), *The Defining Moments in Bengal: 1920-47*, Delhi: Oxford

University Press (Chapters 6-7)

Singh, Anita Inder (1987), *The Origins of the Partition of India 1936-1947*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi (Chapters 1-3)

Talbot, Ian A. (1982), 'The Growth of the Muslim League in the Punjab, 1937-46', *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, 13 (1)

Chatterjee, Partha (1982), 'Bengal Politics and the Muslim Masses, 1920-47', *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, 13 (1)

Bolitho, Hector (2006), *Jinnah: Creator of Pakistan*, OUP, Karachi [First published by John Murray Publishers in 1954] (Chapters 3-4)

Datta, V.N. (2002), 'Iqbal, Jinnah and India's Partition: An Intimate Relationship', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 37 (50), 5033-38

Hasan, Mushirul (1986), 'Muslim Mass Contact Campaign: An Attempt at Political Mobilisation', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 21 (52), 2273-82

Misra, Udayon (2017), *Burden of History: Assam and the Partition—Unresolved Issues*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press (Chapters 1-3)

**Unit-III: (Week 6-8):** This Unit is intended to provide students with details of processes in the two most eventful years in late colonial India with the intricate interplay of competing political forces.

Chhanda Chatterjee (2021), *Syama Prasad Mookerjee, The Hindu Dissent and the Partition of Bengal, 1932-1947*, Routledge

Tanwar, Raghuendra (2021), *The Story of India's Partition*, Delhi: Publications Division

Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi (2014), *The Defining Moments in Bengal: 1920-47*, Delhi: Oxford University Press (Chapters 8-9)

Nanda, B.R. (1970), 'Nehru, the Indian National Congress and the Partition of India, 1935-47,' in C.H. Philips and Mary Doreen Wainwright (eds), *The Partition of India: Policies and Perspectives, 1935-1947*, London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.

Prasad, Bimal (1987), 'Gandhi and India's Partition,' in Amit Kumar Gupta (ed), *Myth and Reality: The Struggle for Freedom in India, 1945-47*, Delhi: Manohar.

Singh, Anita Inder (1987), *The Origins of the Partition of India 1936-1947*, OUP, New Delhi, 1987 (Chapters 4-7)

Mahajan, Sucheta (2000), *Independence and Partition: The Erosion of Colonial Power in India*, Sage, New Delhi (Chapters 6-8)

Talbot, Ian A. (1980), 'The 1946 Punjab Elections', *Modern Asian Studies*, 14 (1), pp. 65-91

Jalal, Ayesha (1985), *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (chapters 4-5)

**Unit-IV: (Week 9-11):** This Unit shall attempt to uncover the events and processes from the beginning of 1947 to the actual division of the country, along with its regional variation. It shall also make students aware of the herculean task of the integration of Princely States.

Nair, Neeti (2011), *Changing Homelands: Hindu Politics and the Partition of India*,

## Permanent Black (Chapter 5)

Mahajan, Sucheta (2000), *Independence and Partition: The Erosion of Colonial Power in India*, Sage, New Delhi (Chapters 12-13)

Jalal, Ayesha (1985), *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (chapters 6-7)

Roy, Asim (1990), 'The High Politics of India's Partition', *Modern Asian Studies*, 24 (2)

Chatterji, Joya (2002) *Bengal divided: Hindu communalism and partition, 1932-1947*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Menon, V.P. (1956), *The Story of the Integration of the Indian States*, Bombay: Orient Longmans.

Copland, Ian (1995) 'The Integration of the Princely States: A Bloodless Revolution?', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 18 (sup 001), 131–51.

Misra, Udayon (2017), *Burden of History: Assam and the Partition—Unresolved Issues*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press (Chapter 4)

Jha, Bhuwan Kumar (2022), Political Voices, Colonial State and Partition of India' in Himanshu Roy and Jawaid Alam, eds, *A History of Colonial India 1757 to 1947*, New Delhi: Routledge, 221-49

**Unit-V: (Week 12-13):** This Unit shall study the streams of migration, massive displacement of human population and refugee rehabilitation and consequent changes in demography, urban patterns and culture, and differential impact on women.

Datta, V.N. (1986), 'Punjabi Refugees and the Urban Development of Greater Delhi' in R.E Frykenberg (ed.), *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society* New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Khosla, G.D. (1989), *The Stern Reckoning: A Survey of the Events Leading Up To and Following the Partition of India*, Oxford University Press (Chapters 4-7)

Nair, Neeti (2011), *Changing Homelands: Hindu Politics and the Partition of India*, Ranikhet: Permanent Black (Chapter 6)

Talbot, Ian, and Darshan Singh, (eds.) (2005), *Epicenter of violence: Partition Voices and Memories from Amritsar*, Ranikhet: Permanent Black

Pandey, Gyanendra (2003), *Remembering Partition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Chapters 2, 6)

Zamindar, Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali (2007), *Making of Modern South Asia: Refugees, boundaries, histories*, Columbia University Press (Chapters 1-2)

Chakravartty, Gargi (2005), *Coming out of Partition: Refugee Women of West Bengal*, New Delhi: Bluejay Books.

Ghosh, Papiya (2010), *Muhajirs and the Nation: Bihar in the 1940s*, Delhi: Routledge.

Yong, Tan Tai and Kudaisya, Gyanesh (2000). *The Aftermath of Partition in South Asia*. London: Routledge.

Butalia, Urvashi (2000), *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India*, Duke University Press

Menon, Ritu and Kamla Bhasin (1998), *Borders and Boundaries: Women in India's Partition*. New Delhi: Kali for Women.

Das, Tista (2023), *Unattached Women, Able-Bodied Men: Partition, Migration and Resettlement in Bengal*, Oxon: Routledge

किदवई, बेगम अनीस (2000), *आज़ादी की छाँव में*, नयी दिल्ली: नेशनल बुक ट्रस्ट.

**Unit-VI: (Week 14-15):** In this Unit, students shall become familiar with literary and visual representation of Partition and its aftermath.

Manto, Saadat Hasan (1991). *Partition Sketches and Stories*, New Delhi: Viking.

Bhalla, Alok (1994). *Stories about the Partition of India*. 3 vols. New Delhi: HarperCollins.

Singh, Khushwant (1956), *Train to Pakistan*, New York: Grove Press

Ravikant and Saint, Tarun K., eds. (2001), *Translating Partition: Stories, Essays and Criticism*. New Delhi: Katha

रज़ा, राही मासूम (1966), *आधा गाँव*, दिल्ली: राजकमल. Translated into English as *A Village Divided* by Gillian Wright (1994), New Delhi: Penguin

सोबती, कृष्णा (2018), *गुजरात पाकिस्तान से गुजरात हिंदुस्तान तक*, दिल्ली: राजकमल

यशपाल, झूठा सच

भीष्म साहनी, तमस

अमृता प्रीतम, पिंजर

Films – *Lahore* (1949), *Pinjar* (2003), *Khamosh Pani* (2003)

रविकांत (2019), 'विभाजन के बावजूद: चंद गुमनाम "गैर-विभाजित" फिल्में', *आलोचना* (त्रैमासिक पत्रिका), अंक-59, 110-122

### Suggested Readings

Ambedkar, B. R. (1946, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) *Pakistan or the Partition of India*, Thackers Publishers, Bombay.

Menon, V. P. (1957), *The Transfer of Power in India*, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Azad, Abul Kalam (1959), *India Wins Freedom*. New Delhi: Orient Longman.

Prasad, Rajendra (1946), *India Divided*, Bombay: Hind Kitabs.

Lohia, Ram Manohar (1960), *Guilty Men of India's Partition*. Allahabad: Nava-Hind

Low, D. A. and Brasted, Howard (eds) (1998). *Freedom, Trauma, Continuities: Northern India and Independence*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

Cowasjee, S. and Duggal, K. S., (eds) (1995) *Orphans of the Storm: Stories on the Partition of India*. New Delhi: UBS Publishers.

Ghosh, Amitav (1998), *The Shadow Lines*, New York: Viking.

Hasan, Mushirul (1987), 'Nationalist and Separatist Trends in Aligarh, 1915-47' in Amit Kumar Gupta (ed), *Myth and Reality: The Struggle for Freedom in India, 1945-47*, Delhi: Manohar, 123-26

Singh, Neerja (ed) (2010), *Nehru-Patel: Agreement within Differences, Select Documents and Correspondences 1933-1950*, New Delhi: National Book Trust.

Gilmartin, David (1998), 'Partition, Pakistan, and South Asian History: In Search of a Narrative', *The Journal of Asian History*, 57 (4), 1068-95

Jones, Kenneth W. (1976), *Arya Dharm: Hindu Consciousness in Nineteenth Century Punjab*, Delhi: Manohar.

Andersen, Walter and Shridhar D Damle (1987), *The Brotherhood in Saffron: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Hindu Revivalism*, Boulder and London: Westview Press.

Gould, William (2005), *Hindu Nationalism and the Language of Politics in Late Colonial India*, Delhi: Cambridge University Press.

Kala, Anirudh (2018), *The Unsafe Asylum: The Stories of Partition and Madness*, New Delhi: The Speaking Tiger.

Jha, Bhuwan Kumar (2013), 'Militarizing the Community: Hindu Mahasabha's Initiative (1915-1940)', *Studies in History*, 29 (1), 119-146

आज़ाद, अबुल कलाम (2015), *आज़ादी की कहानी*, दिल्ली: ओरिएंट ब्लैकस्वान

जॉन्सन, एलन कैम्पबेल (1960), *भारत के विभाजन की कहानी* (अनुवादक- रनवीर सक्सेना), दिल्ली: सस्ता साहित्य मंडल

महाजन, सुचेता (2005), *स्वाधीनता और विभाजन*, दिल्ली: ग्रंथशिल्पी

मंटो , सआदत हसन (2019), *दस्तावेज़*, खंड-2, दिल्ली: राजकमल

आलोचना (त्रैमासिक पत्रिका), *विभाजन के सत्तर साल: 1 एवं 2*, अंक 59- 60, 2019

<https://in.1947partitionarchive.org/> (A common online archives on Partition)

<https://exhibits.stanford.edu/1947-partition> (Stanford University's online repository on Partition)

<https://www.partitionmuseum.org/> (Partition Museum at Delhi and Amritsar)

<https://cips.du.ac.in/> (Newly-established Centre for Independence and Partition Studies, Delhi University)

**Note:** Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.