



## **BOOK REVIEW: PAKISTAN OR THE PARTITION OF INDIA – DR. BR AMBEDKAR**

---

**Jahnnvi Mishra\***

Dr BR Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian constitution, was an Indian jurist, economist, politician, writer and a social reformer. His works predominantly focus on social justice, caste oppression and political philosophy. This book is just another masterpiece written by him, which focuses on the detailed examination of the political landscape that led to the partition of India in 1947. This work is not merely a historical document but a critical inquiry into the factors that led to the creation of Pakistan and exposes the communal tensions of that period.

The part that inspired me to read this book is the context of the Partition of India, which has answers to why it occurred and whether it was inevitable or not. The Partition of 1947 is the defining moment of modern history for both nations. There are many narratives to it, and the thrill to know it all remains the same. This one by Dr Ambedkar is a balance of opinions and deep research, which makes it a must-read. His perspective intrigued me, for he was not a direct stakeholder in the communal politics of the time but a keen observer who had voiced his thoughts without any biases of the Congress, the Muslim League, or the British Raj.

The book is divided into multiple parts, and each one displays a different facet of the partition debate. In the first part of the book, the author mentions the genesis of the divide that occurred in 1947. It mentions the historical incidents that led to the widening chasm between Hindus and Muslims. The author says, “The pity of it is that two communities can never forget or obliterate their past. Their past is embedded in their religion, and for each to give up its part is to give up its religion. To hope for this is to hope in vain”. It also reasons that because of the multiple invasions by Muslim invaders such as Muhammad Gori, Mughals, etc. This led to an increase in the gap between the two communities and is one of the reasons

---

\*BA LLB (HONS.), SECOND YEAR, NMIMS, INDORE.

why the Muslim League demands partition. Along with that, Congress's actions and the British colonisation are critically evaluated by him, too.

In the second part of the book author discusses the demand of Pakistan by the Muslim League and evaluation whether this demand whether justified or not. In addition to this, he describes the tactics and interventions made by the British Government, for example, in “The communal decision”. He critically evaluates the opinions of both sides, and with the help of data, he answers the question being raised about the availability of resources, be it army, revenue, or reduced figures in terms of communities. Here he wants to make the point that even if Pakistan forms, what impact will it have on India and the Hindu people residing over here. In the further chapters, he holds both Hindus and Muslims accountable for the deteriorating communal divide and also presents the arguments of Muslims who are in the minority and thus were often overlooked by the leading party, like Congress, which made their hunger for a new State grow more. He evaluates that the Hindu society needed to reform to cooperate and give recognition to other minorities, if they really want to talk about a diverse country, with different cultures and unity.

Later on, in the next parts, he describes Pakistan being a separate state for Muslims and assesses what kind of state Pakistan would be, through assumptions being made on its economic conditions, military and political influence in that area. The author discusses various challenges that will be faced, along with the communal violence that shall take place. He makes a point that partition might not be the best solution. He talks in favour of Muslims that they faced the ignorance and unrecognition by the Congress and suggests having separate electorates for Muslims, which shall safeguard their constitutional rights. He also raises his concern about the situation of minorities in future, living in India and predicts that this partition will lead to nowhere. He mostly picks up the Hindus’ point of view to compare because they are in the majority, and their opinion matters a lot as they tend to follow the sayings of the leader of the political party. Though his prediction was true as the partition caused destruction and infringed on harmony on a large scale, many refugees got to leave their homes and harm was caused in all senses.

Key takeaways from the book are that it talks about partition being inevitable, and he describes partition to be a consequence of deep political and social failures rather than an unavoidable reality. If both communities’ leaders had acted wisely and with greater foresight, the course of history would have been different. The next thing mentioned is about the

Hindus, as their rigidity and caste bases exclusion contributed significantly to Muslim alienation. It's also the most provoking aspect of the book and is a crucial lesson for any society aspiring for inclusivity. The author has described a very rational and data-driven analysis. He also included texts of various professors and historians like Prof. Toynbee, Prof. Barker, Dr Titus, Lane Poole, Bryce and many more.

The fact that he did not favour any side shows what a great vision and insight Mr Ambedkar had, pre-when you read it mentions of how he criticises the Congress and Hindu Mahasabha for neglecting the Muslim alienation and collecting the majority in the name of nationalism. “True unity cannot emerge from historical amnesia or majoritarian hubris.” He believed that both Hindus and Muslims are inhabitants of the same state, can't form a single nation, and he was able to foresee that partition would take place in future, leaving behind the problems of minority and communal tensions. As we see today, though the countries got divided after the partition of India, the Hindu minority in Pakistan and the Muslim minority in India have become permanent political minorities, in a position where they are not liked by the majority and are seen with a sense of hate.

This book is, in total, a work of profound historical and political significance and is relevant in today's time too, as it was at that time. The book makes a point that understanding of the past requires not only emotions but also reason, balance and intellectual honesty. It has deep insight into Hindu – Muslim relations and rationally analysed opinions of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and the Britishers. Giving the readers not only a new perspective but also telling the story that has been unheard for years. Even after becoming the fourth fastest-growing economy, our roots should never be forgotten. The struggle, patience and perseverance of all freedom fighters is what we have as a fruit in the form of our nation today. So, for ones who want to know the narratives other than the blame game and victimhood, this book offers a deeper and better understanding of the event which reshaped our country.