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CAS IR 586 Islam in South Asian Politics
Fall 2007

Course Guide

This course will examine the relations between state, politics, and Islam in South Asia and its impact on international relations.

Islam became the defining element of a Pakistani identity after the partition of British India in 1947. It continues to have a strong impact on South Asian politics, especially in relation to unsolved regional conflicts over Kashmir and to some extent in Afghanistan. The Pakistanis consider the dispute concerning Kashmir an unsolved question of the partition of British India in 1947 and claim the territory because the vast majority of the population is Muslim. India, a secular state, views the Kashmir question as legally finished, and also claims the whole territory, which is at present divided along a cease fire line. Pakistan has backed Islamist insurgents in Indian-controlled Kashmir in an effort to force India's hand. India and Pakistan both have nuclear weapons, which make war and peace between them a global concern.

In Afghanistan, U.S. backed *Mujahideen* fought the Soviet forces in Afghanistan during the 1980s, fell into civil war once the Soviets left and were replaced by the *Taliban*, who claimed they were uniting the country under the banner of Islam's prophet. The *Taliban* were ousted from power through U.S. military force after 9/11 and the U.S. is playing a critical role in attempting to rebuild Afghanistan. Pakistan played an important role in the rise of the Taliban, attempting to safeguard its western border, but is now facing increasing challenges to its own stability, primarily from Islamist radicals

Islam was the motivating force for the foundation of Pakistan. When the new state was carved out of British India in 1947, it was supposed to be the home for the Muslims of South Asia. But another partition, this time between Pakistan and Bangladesh after a bitter civil war in 1971, has left South Asian Muslims divided in three different countries – India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The leaders of Pakistan have tried to build a Pakistani identity on the basis of an “Islamic ideology”, which has strengthened the forces of Islamic fundamentalism. We will try to analyze their strength and to assess their impact in case they should prevail, gaining access for forces of global Jihad to nuclear technology.

Students are expected to attend all classes except in case of a valid excuse (e.g. personal illness), in which case please e-mail me.

BU's Academic Conduct Code applies. Please make sure you have studied it.

Students are expected to read The New York Times daily to be able to follow both international and domestic developments related to the themes of the course. We will be discussing relevant events in class on a regular basis so it is important for you to be current on what is happening around you. Access to the full daily edition of the Times is available on-line. You may also subscribe, or view hard-copy versions at Mugar library.

Grading Distribution

Class participation	20%
Mid-Term	30%
Final Examination (Under graduate students)/	50%
Final Paper (Graduate Students)	

Weekly Schedule:

Week One

Islam in South Asia

(Esposito – entire book; M.J. Akbar's article on South Asian Muslims)

Weeks Two and Three

The legacy of India's partition; How and Why religion was perceived as the defining element of nationality in South Asia

(Haqqani – Introduction; Jalal – Jinnah Sole Spokesman: Introduction, Chapters 5 & 6; Maulana Azad- India Wins Freedom – Chapters 14, 15 & Epilogue)

Week Four

The emergence and early evolution of Pakistan

(Haqqani – Chps 2, 3 &4)

Week Five

The India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir

(Sumit Ganguly. "Will Kashmir Stop India's Rise?" Foreign Affairs. July 2006; Husain Haqqani.

"Pakistan's Endgame in Kashmir." India Review. Vol 2:3. July 2003)

Week Six

The creation of Bangladesh

(Haqqani – Chp 2; G.W. Choudhury – Creation of Bangladesh)

Weeks Seven and Eight

The war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and its aftermath, including the rise and fall of the Taliban

(Coll – Prologue and Part One; Rashid – entire book)

Week Nine

The rise of radical Islam in Afghanistan and Pakistan

(Husain Haqqani. "The Role of Islam in Pakistan's Future." *Washington Quarterly*. 28:1. (Winter 2004-05) pp 85-96; Coll – Parts Two and Three; Marvin Weinbaum. "Afghanistan and its Neighbors: An ever dangerous neighborhood." *USIP Special Report* 162 (June 2006); pp 1-20)

Week Ten

Pakistan's aspiration to be an Islamic state and how it may have contributed to the radicalization of Islamic movements in the region and beyond; The nuclear weapons programs of India and Pakistan

(Haqqani – Chps 5 & 7; Scott Sagan. "Perils of Nuclear Proliferation in South Asia." *Asian Survey*. 41:6. (November/December 2001) pp 1064-1086; Shamshad Ahmad, "The Nuclear Subcontinent: Bringing Stability to South Asia," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 1999); Sumit Ganguly. India as an Emerging Power. Chapter 4 (Ashley Tellis on Indian Nuclear policy) pp 61-108)

Week Eleven

U.S. policies, particularly during the cold war, and their contribution to strengthening Islamist political movements

(Articles to be distributed/posted online)

Week Twelve

The impact of the rise of Hindu nationalism (Hindutva) in India

(Articles to be distributed/posted online)

Week Thirteen and Fourteen

South Asia's significance in the global war against terrorism and Wrap Up

(Articles to be distributed/posted online)

Reading List:

Required

1. John L. Esposito, What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam (Oxford, 2002)
2. Husain Haqqani, Pakistan Between Mosque and Military (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005)
3. Steve Coll, Ghost wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan and Bin Laden from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001 (Penguin, 2004)

Recommended

1. Vali Nasr, Vanguard of the Islamic Revolution (University of California Press, 1994)
2. Ahmed Rashid, The Taliban (Yale, 2000)
3. Bernard Lewis. What Went Wrong? – The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East (Perennial, 2003)
4. Stephen Cohen. The Idea of Pakistan (Brookings. 2004)
5. Anonymous. Through Our Enemies Eyes: Osama Bin Laden, Radical Islam and the Future of America. (Brassey's Inc. 2003)
6. Sumit Ganguly. The Kashmir Question: Retrospect and Prospect
7. Gilles Kepel. Jihad – The Trail of Political Islam (Belknap Press, 2003)

Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday

2 pm – 4pm

Other times by appointment via email