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CAS IR 586 Islam in South Asian Politics

Fall 2013

Tuesday 12:30- 3:30 pm

Course Guide

This course will examine the relations between the State, Politics, and Islam in South Asia and their 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 influence on South Asian politics, especially in relation to unresolved regional conflicts over Kashmir and to some extent in Afghanistan. Pakistanis consider the dispute concerning Kashmir an unsolved question of the partition of British India in 1947 and lay claim to the territory because the vast majority of the population is Muslim. India, a secular state, views the Kashmir question as legally settled, and it too 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 with the intention of rebuilding 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.

Reading requirements

The reading requirements for this course include a combination of books, article and online resources.

Key readings have been divided into required and recommended. Required readings are those all students are expected to read whereas recommended readings are those which would help a deeper understanding of the subject. Students are expected to either purchase or loan the required readings. Majority of the recommended readings will be posted on the course website. Recommended readings are listed in order of priority.

Students are required to check the course website as throughout the course of the semester articles will be posted on the website. Articles and reports from various think tanks and research organizations on topics under discussion will either be posted online or handout in class.

Thorough reading of a quality daily such as *The New York Times* and weekly (such as *The Economist* or *Time*) is mandatory. Access to the full daily edition of *The New York Times* is available on-line. You may also subscribe, or view hard-copy versions at Mugar library.

Grading Distribution

Class participation 40%

For undergraduates only

Mid-Term 30% **(Date: October 29, 2013)**

Final Examination 40%

For graduates only

Final Paper 70%

(Please finalize the topic of your final paper by Tuesday October 22)

Special remarks

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

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

Course Schedule:

September 3 --- Week One - Islam in South Asia

Required

Husain Haqqani. *Islam's Medieval Outposts*. Foreign Policy (Posted online)

Bernard Lewis. *The Roots of Muslim Rage*. Atlantic Monthly September 1990 (Posted online)

Edward Peters. *Firanj Are Coming*. Orbis Winter 2004 (Posted online)

Jeremy Black. *Western Encounter with Islam*. Orbis Winter 2004 (Posted online)

Recommended

Islam: A Primer (Posted Online) - *This reading is to assist students in having background material essential for the course*

Bernard Lewis. What Went Wrong? – The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East (Perennial, 2003)

September 10 & 17 ---- 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

Required

Husain Haqqani. Pakistan Between Mosque and Military – Introduction

MJ Akbar. *South Asian Muslim as a Minority* (Posted online)

Recommended

1. Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre. Freedom at Midnight. (New York. Simon & Schuster.1975) Chapters 1, 9 & 14 (On British rule, Partition and impact of Partition) pp 13-30, 205- 236, 373-400 (Posted online)
2. Ayesha Jalal. The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan (Cambridge. Cambridge University Press. 1994) (Relevant chapters have been posted online)
3. Patrick French. Liberty or Death: India's journey to Independence and Division. (London. Harper Collins.1999) Chapters 2 & 4 (on Jinnah and Gandhi, on the Indian National Movement) pp 17-30, 49-64 (Posted online)

September 24 ---- Week Four -The emergence and early evolution of Pakistan

Required

Husain Haqqani. Pakistan Between Mosque and Military – Chapters 2, 3 & 4

MJ Akbar. *Pakistan: The State within a State* (Posted online)

Recommended

Stephen Cohen. Idea of Pakistan – Chapters 2, 3, 4 (Posted online)

October 1 ---- Week Five – Islamization; Sectarianism; Islamist parties and conflicts

Required

Husain Haqqani. "Ideologies of South Asian Islamist Groups." *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology* (Hudson Institute) Vol 1 (May 2005) (Posted online)

Stephen Cohen. Idea of Pakistan. (Washington DC. Brookings. 2004), Chapters 5, 6 (Posted online)

Recommended

1. Barbara Metcalf. "The Madrassa at Deoband: A Model for Religious Education in Modern India" *Modern Asian Studies*. Vol 12 (1) 1978 pp 111-134 (Posted online)
2. SVR Nasr. "International Politics, Domestic Imperatives and Identity Mobilization: Sectarianism in Pakistan, 1979-98." *Comparative Politics*. Vol 32(2) 2000. pp 171-190 (Posted online)

October 8 ----- Guest Lecture

October 15 – No class (Monday Schedule on Tuesday)

October 22 – For Graduate students - Please finalize your paper topic by October 22

October 22 --- Week Six- The India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir

Required

Sumit Ganguly. "Will Kashmir Stop India's Rise?" *Foreign Affairs*. July 2006 (Posted online)
Husain Haqqani. "Pakistan's Endgame in Kashmir." *India Review*. Vol 2:3. July 2003 (Posted online)

October 29 – Mid term exam for undergraduates in the first hour of the class (12:30-1:30pm; Rest of the class period will be used for a lecture)

October 29 ----- Week Seven - The creation of Bangladesh

Required

Husain Haqqani Pakistan Between Mosque and Military – Chapter 2
G.W. Choudhury. "Bangladesh: Why It Happened" *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-)*, Vol. 48, No. 2 (Apr., 1972), pp. 242-249 (Posted online)

November 5 ----- Week Eight -Afghanistan: Creation and formation; The war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and its aftermath, including the rise and fall of the Taliban

Required

Rasul Baksh Rais. "Afghanistan and Regional Powers." *Asian Survey*. Vol 33(9) 1993 (Posted Online)
Ahmed Rashid. The Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia. (New Haven. Yale University Press. 2000) Chapters 1, 6, 7, 10 & 14

Recommended

1. Craig Davis. "A is for Allah, J is for Jihad" *World Policy Journal* Spring 2002 (Posted online)
2. Ahmed Rashid. "Taliban" *Foreign Affairs*, 1999 (Posted online)
3. Steve Coll. Ghost Wars. Parts Two and Three
4. Barbara Metcalf. "Traditionalist Islamic Activism: Deoband, Tablighis and Talibs" (ISIM. Lieden. 2002) (Posted online)

November 12 --- Week Nine -The rise of radical Islam in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Required

Husain Haqqani. "The Role of Islam in Pakistan's Future." *Washington Quarterly*. 28:1. (Winter 2004-05) pp 85-96 (Posted online)

Marvin Weinbaum. "Afghanistan and its Neighbors: An ever dangerous neighborhood." *USIP Special Report* 162 (June 2006); pp 1-20 (Posted Online)

Recommended

1. Frederic Grare. "Pakistan: The Myth of an Islamist Peril." *Carnegie Policy Brief* No. 45, February 2006 (Posted online)
2. Jessica Stern, "Pakistan's Jihad Culture," *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2000) (Posted online)

November 19 ---- Week Ten – Pakistan's Nuclear Policy

Required

Haqqani Pakistan Between Mosque and Military – Chapters 5 & 7

Shamshad Ahmad, "The Nuclear Subcontinent: Bringing Stability to South Asia," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 1999) (Posted online)

Recommended

Hasan-Askari Rizvi. "Pakistan's Nuclear Testing." *Asian Survey* 41,6 (November/December 2001) pp. 943-955 (Posted online)

November 26 ---- Week Eleven- U.S. policies, particularly during the cold war, and their contribution to strengthening Islamist political movements

Required

Steve Coll. Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan and Bin Laden from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001 (Penguin 2004) Prologue, Part One

December 3 --- Week Twelve - The impact of the rise of Hindu nationalism (Hindutva) in India

Required

Sumit Ganguly. "The Crisis of Indian Secularism." *Journal of Democracy*. 14:4 (2003) pp 11-25
(Posted online)

Rafiq Zakaria. "Indian Muslims: Victims of Prejudice." In *Seminar* Vol 416 (1994) (Posted online)

December 10 ---- Week Thirteen and Fourteen - South Asia's significance in the global war against terrorism and Wrap Up

Required

Husain Haqqani. Pakistan between Mosque and Military. Conclusion

Stephen Cohen. Idea of Pakistan. Conclusion

Recommended

Benazir Bhutto. Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West (New York. Harper Collins. 2008)
(Relevant chapters posted online)

Ahmed Rashid. Descent Into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia (New York. Viking. 2008) Introduction and Conclusion

Reading List:

Students are expected to have some basic knowledge of Islam and its history. For that reason, you are advised to read --- John L. Esposito, What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam (Oxford, 2002) – or some other introductory book on the subject

Required

1. Husain Haqqani, Pakistan Between Mosque and Military (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005)
2. 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. Bernard Lewis. What Went Wrong? – The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East (Perennial, 2003)
2. Michael Scheur. Through Our Enemies Eyes: Osama Bin Laden, Radical Islam and the Future of America. (Brassey's Inc. 2003)
3. Robert Dreyfuss. Devil's Game: How the United States Helped Unleash Fundamentalist Islam (NY, Metropolitan Books, 2006)
4. Benazir Bhutto. Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West (New York. Harper Collins. 2008)
5. Gilles Kepel. Jihad – The Trail of Political Islam (Belknap Press, 2003)
6. Stephen Cohen. The Idea of Pakistan (Brookings. 2004)

7. Ahmed Rashid, The Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia. (New Haven. Yale University Press. 2000)
8. Ahmed Rashid. Descent Into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia (New York. Viking. 2008)

Office Hours

Tuesdays 4-5pm

Wednesdays 2-4 pm

Thursdays 11am – 12 noon

Other times by appointment via email