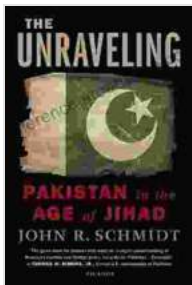


# The Unraveling Pakistan: A Must-Read for Understanding the Age of Jihad

## A Comprehensive Examination of Pakistan's Recent History

In the wake of 9/11 and the subsequent "War on Terror," Pakistan has emerged as a crucial player in the fight against global jihadism. Its strategic location bordering Afghanistan and its history as a haven for extremist groups have made it a focal point of international attention. To fully grasp the complexities of this region and the challenges it poses, a comprehensive understanding of Pakistan's recent history is essential.



## The Unraveling: Pakistan in the Age of Jihad

by John R. Schmidt

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 920 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 289 pages



*The Unraveling Pakistan: In the Age of Jihad* is a meticulously researched and highly informative book that delves into the intricate tapestry of Pakistan's past to shed light on the forces that have shaped its present. Drawing on extensive fieldwork and interviews with key policymakers, scholars, and ordinary citizens, the author provides a nuanced and balanced account of the country's political, economic, and social dynamics.

## **The Genesis of Extremism**

The book traces the origins of extremism in Pakistan back to the country's founding in 1947. The partition of British India along religious lines created deep-seated divisions that have persisted to this day. The influx of refugees from India and Afghanistan further fueled these tensions, as did the government's decision to adopt a conservative interpretation of Islam as the state religion.

Over the years, successive governments have used religious rhetoric to legitimize their rule and mobilize support. This has created a fertile ground for extremist groups to flourish, particularly in the aftermath of the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s, which saw Pakistan become a conduit for funding and arms to the Afghan mujahideen.

## **The Rise of the Taliban**

The book provides a detailed account of the Taliban's emergence in Afghanistan and its subsequent impact on Pakistan. The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law and its brutal suppression of dissent sent shockwaves through the region and emboldened extremist elements within Pakistan.

The Pakistani government's decision to support the Taliban initially brought strategic benefits, but it also had unintended consequences. The Taliban's influence spilled over into Pakistan's tribal areas, creating a safe haven for militants and fueling sectarian violence.

## **Pakistan's Double Game**

The author meticulously documents Pakistan's double game in the fight against terrorism. While publicly aligning itself with the United States in the

"War on Terror," Pakistan has often provided covert support to extremist groups, including the Taliban and the Haqqani network.

This duplicitous policy has been driven by a combination of factors, including mistrust of India, a desire to maintain influence in Afghanistan, and a fear of blowback from radical elements within Pakistan itself. However, it has ultimately undermined Pakistan's own security and stability.

### **From 9/11 to the Present Day**

The book examines the impact of 9/11 on Pakistan and its relationship with the United States. Pakistan's cooperation with the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan initially earned it billions of dollars in aid, but it also intensified the conflict within its own borders.

The book meticulously chronicles the Pakistani military's offensives against militants in the tribal areas, as well as the devastating terrorist attacks that have targeted civilians and security forces alike. It also analyzes the complex and evolving political landscape, with the rise of Imran Khan's populist Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and the ongoing challenges of corruption, poverty, and ethnic tensions.

### **A Path Forward**

*The Unraveling Pakistan* concludes with a sobering assessment of the challenges facing the country and the international community. The author argues that a lasting solution to Pakistan's problems requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both security and socioeconomic issues.

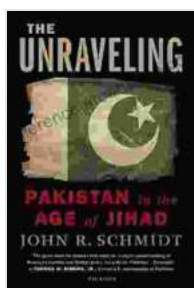
The book calls for a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that combines military action with efforts to counter extremist ideologies and

provide economic opportunities for marginalized communities. It also emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation, particularly with Afghanistan and India, in addressing shared security threats.

## A Critical Perspective on Pakistan's Past and Future

*The Unraveling Pakistan* is an essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the complex dynamics of Pakistan in the age of jihad. It is a well-written and meticulously researched book that provides a critical perspective on the country's past and future. By shedding light on the historical and contemporary factors that have shaped Pakistan's trajectory, the book offers invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

For policymakers, scholars, and general readers alike, *The Unraveling Pakistan* is an indispensable resource for navigating the complexities of this vital region.



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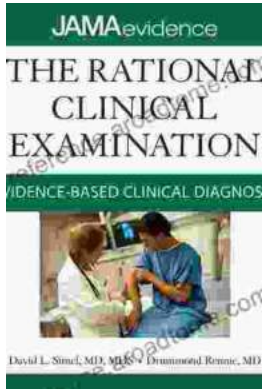
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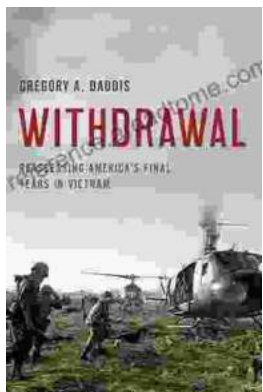
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