The great divide: Britain, India, Pakistan, Henry Vincent Hodson, Oxford University Press, 1985, 0195773403, 9780195773408, 590 pages. On August 15, 1947, the new nation of Pakistan was born and Britain's century-long rule over the Indian subcontinent finally came to an end. Here, H. V. Hodson offers an authoritative account of this dramatic step in the retreat of the British imperialism. The book first describes the historical events that paved the way for The Great Divide. Hodson then goes on to chronicle, in fascinating detail, the hectic five months of the last viceroyalty of India and the aftermath of the transfer of power, which saw dreadful massacres and migrations in Punjab and sharp struggles over Kashmir and other regions. The epilogue summarizes events since partition and assesses their effect on the fragile stability of nations in the subcontinent.

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The Indian Army Its Contribution to the Development of a Nation, Stephen P. Cohen, Jan 1, 1971, India, 216 pages. This book explores the origins of the Indian army from its early exploitative role, to its performance in World War II when it confronted extreme political and military ....

Costa Rica-panama Arbitration Memorandum on Uti Possidetis, John Bassett Moore, 2008, History, 52 pages. Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works ....


The making of the Pakistan resolution , Muhammad Aslam Malik, 2001, History, 292 pages. Based on original sources, this book is an objective analysis of the events leading to the Pakistan Resolution. Malik provides a number of new explanations and startling insights..

Jinnah of Pakistan , Stanley A. Wolpert, May 3, 1984, , 421 pages. Recounts the life and career of the first leader and founder of Pakistan, and examines his political rivalry with Gandhi.

Pakistan explained , Alp Arslan, 1945, History, 113 pages. .


On August 15, 1947, the new nation of Pakistan was born and Britain's century-long rule over the Indian subcontinent finally came to an end. Here, H. V. Hodson offers an authoritative account of this dramatic step in the retreat of the British imperialism. The book first describes the historical events that paved the way for The Great Divide. Hodson then goes on to chronicle, in fascinating detail, the hectic five months of the last viceroyalty of India and the aftermath of the transfer of power, which saw dreadful massacres and migrations in Punjab and sharp struggles over Kashmir and other regions. The epilogue summarizes events since partition and assesses their effect on the fragile stability of nations in the subcontinent.

15th August accede accept accession advised agreed agreement all-India April Armed Forces asked Azad Bengal British Government British India British raj Cabinet Mission plan Calcutta central Centre Commander Committee Commonwealth communal conference Congress leaders Constituent Assembly constitutional decided decision declared Delhi demand Dominion Status draft elections federation Field Marshal Auchinleck Government of India Governor Governor-General Hindu Hyderabad independence India and Pakistan Indian leaders Interim Government Jinnah Joint Defence Council Junagadh June Kashmir Lahore later Liaqat Ali Khan London Lord Ismay Lord Mount Lord Mountbatten Lord Wavell Maharajah Majesty's Government majority matter Maulana meeting ment military minorities Muslim League Nawab negotiations Nizam North-West officers organisation Pandit Nehru partition politicians Prime Minister Princes proposed Punjab replied Report representatives responsibility Rulers Sardar Patel Secretary Sir Stafford Cripps staff tion told transfer of power troops United V. P. Menon Viceroy Viceroy's wrote

On August 14, 1947, the greatest and most decisive step in the retreat of British imperialism occurred: the new nation of Pakistan was created out of the body of India, and Britain's century-long domination over the Indian sub-continent ended. Fifty years later, the trauma and subsequent chequered history of political development have led author H.V. Hodson to ask: was it inevitable? Now in a special gift edition published for the 50th anniversary of the founding of Pakistan, this authoritative and impartial account places the events surrounding partition in an historical perspective, providing a major contribution to contemporary history.

The upside is that it is a good book for someone trying to find a non-Indian, non-Pakistani version of the reasons and account of partition. The downside is that it is somewhat pro-British, which considering the fact that the author was a senior British official during the Raj, shouldn't be surprising. On the whole a good book for someone trying to find out more about partition. However, my choice for the best book in this category would still be "Freedom at Midnight".

If only. If only I could rewind time to that fateful moment when I first picked up this book!! I thought it would be an unbiased look into what had occurred during that tumultuous time in history--I was wrong. This book is extremely pro-British. It does NOT do an adequate job of accurately describing the events that led up to, or followed the Partition. Therefore, if you enjoy reading about how the British brought a sense of "civilization" to the "savages" of South Asia, then please, disregard my review and cocoon yourself in Hodson's glorified account. However, if you're looking for something a little more in line with reality, then do skip this one. In all honesty, the book was quite upsetting. How you can shine a positive light on Britain's role in the "Great Divide" is beyond me.
The book for which he is best known is *The Great Divide: Britain-India-Pakistan*, published 1969, and re-issued in 1985. This is the official History of the Transfer of Power from the British Raj. The family owns the copyright of this work, it has been transcribed to e-text, and is available to anyone who asks for it. The reason for not presenting it on this website is that it still needs a detailed proof-reading, and we would hate to affect the history of the world by some misprint which might anger the governments involved.

Hodson was born in Edmonton, London.[1] He was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and Balliol College, Oxford, becoming a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, in 1928. He was later a member of the Economic Advisory Council and Editor of The Round Table from 1934-1939. He was Director of the Empire Division of the Ministry of Information from 1939 to 1941, then became Reforms Commissioner of the Government of India.