

Sindhis Between Region, Religion and Nation
Abstract

Despite having produced figures of national eminence, and having founded numerous philanthropic societies and institutions of higher learning, Sindhi Hindus find almost no representation within narratives of the modern Indian state. Moreover, since the majority of Sindhi Hindus migrated from Pakistan—almost an entire year after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent—the community is not only absent from Indian nationalists' accounts, but their legacy has been erased from nationalized histories of Pakistan as well.

Seeking to understand this muting of Sindhi Hindu voices, my dissertation will investigate how Sindhis positioned themselves within the emerging discourse of the Indian nation in the pre-independence era, the extent to which their conception of themselves as part of this entity was shaped by the events of 1947, and the ways in which they have sought accommodation in post-colonial India, even as they continue to identify culturally with Sindh, a constituent province of Pakistan.