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Having taught, for the last three decades, what I am told is the only Pakistani *history* course in the US, I propose in this paper to trace its development, address its pedagogical methods, depict its purpose and basic message to US undergraduates, confess my own theoretical approach to the various problems in its historiography, report student responses to all of the above, and ask this audience for suggestions to improve it.

The main idea is to unpack and discount the overwhelming and chronic media emphasis on the so-called Global War on Terror, while at the same time explaining Pakistan's uniqueness in the trajectory of the medieval background of conversion in South Asia; the structural effects of being the last part of South Asia conquered by European imperialism; the serial redefinitions of Islamic belief, practice, and political application before and during the British Raj; the cataclysm of Partition; its role as whipping boy in the Cold War; and its current precarious ambiguity in the face of the various stripes of insurgency and ethnic conflict during the present day. I have lived for periods of time in Lahore, travelled all over the country, and revisited it to deliver lectures and see friends. I have published a fair amount on the early modern history of the Indus Valley, mainly Cholistan/Bahawalpur, and have given many talks on the dilemmas facing Pakistan and the partial success it has had confronting them.