

## Dr Yasmin Khan

Dr Yasmin Khan is University Lecturer in 18th to early 20th century British History at the University of Oxford. She has a PhD on the History of the British Empire from Oxford University and has taught at the Edinburgh University and Royal Holloway, University of London. Her first book, *The Great Partition: the making of India and Pakistan*, won the Gladstone Prize for History from the Royal Historical Society.



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## Publications

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### Non-Fiction

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#### Publication Details Notes

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**THE RAJ AT WAR: A People's History of India's Second World War** 2015  
Bodley Head

India's home front in the Second World War, as told by the many lost voices of Indian soldiers and civilians

The Second World War was not fought by Britain, but by the British Empire. In The Raj at War Yasmin Khan has revived the many lost voices of the conflict as fought by India, at home and abroad, creating a rich portrait of a continent at war, told by the many Indian soldiers and civilians whose lives were upturned by war. The non-combatants, the lascars, the prostitutes, nurses, refugees and peasants. We hear from

Three soldiers, imprisoned as 'traitors to the Raj', released to a hero's welcome

A small Muslim boy arrested in Lahore for singing anti-recruitment songs

The cooks on board army boats, preparing chapattis on petrol burners on deck amidst howling gales

The family huddled round the wireless listening to illicit German radio broadcasts, with the shutters closed and a servant keeping guard

The first Indian soldier to receive the Victoria cross, Premindra Bhagat, writing to his sweetheart Mohini

It is a narrative of loyalty and rebellion, oppression and protection. India did indeed come to the aid of its colonial master, but it was the wartime transformation of India that ultimately led to Indian independence and the partition of the subcontinent, as the Raj unravelled under the pressure of war.

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**THE GREAT PARTITION: THE MAKING OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN** 2007  
YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Partition of India in 1947 promised its people both political and religious freedom—through the liberation of India from British rule, and the creation of the Muslim state of Pakistan. Instead, the geographical divide brought displacement and death, and it benefited the few at the expense of the very many. Thousands of women were raped, at least one million people were killed, and ten to fifteen million were forced to leave their homes as refugees. One of the first events of decolonization in the twentieth century, Partition was also one of the most bloody.

In this book, Yasmin Khan examines the context, execution, and aftermath of Partition, weaving together local politics and ordinary lives with the larger political forces at play. She exposes the widespread obliviousness to what Partition would entail in practice and how it would affect the populace. Drawing together fresh information from an array of sources, Khan underscores the catastrophic human cost and shows why the repercussions of Partition resound even now, some sixty years later.

The book is an intelligent and timely analysis of Partition, the haste and recklessness with which it was completed, and the damaging legacy left in its wake.

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