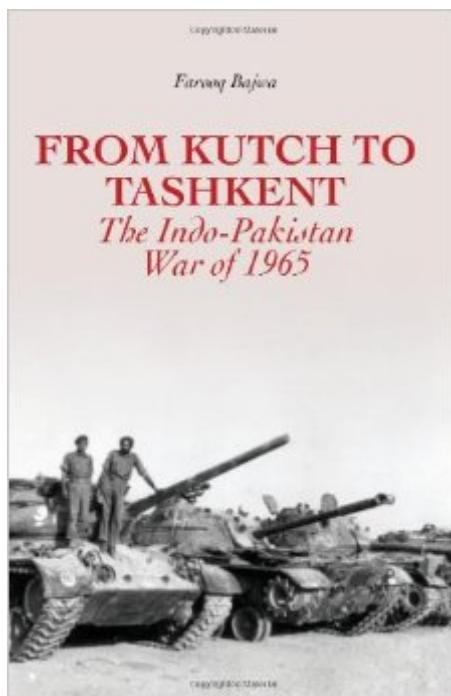


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From Kutch To Tashkent: The Indo-Pakistan War Of 1965



Synopsis

Decades of Pakistani resentment over India's stance on Kashmir, and its subsequent attempt to force a military solution on the issue, led to the 1965 war between the two neighbours. It ended in a stalemate on the battlefield, and after a mere twenty-one days, the war was brought to a dramatic end with the signing of a peace treaty at Tashkent. The opposing sides both claimed victory, however, and also catalogues of heroic deeds that have since taken on the character of mythology. Although neither prevailed outright, the one undoubted loser in the conflict was the incumbent President of Pakistan, General Ayub Khan, who staked his political and military reputation on Pakistan emerging victorious. With the superpowers unwilling assist in negotiations, and Pakistan reluctant to damage its alliance with America, the agreement that followed only reinforced India's position not to surrender anything during diplomacy that Pakistan had failed to gain militarily. This book examines in detail the politics, diplomacy and military manoeuvres of the war, using British and American declassified documents and memoirs, as well as some unpublished interviews. It provides a comprehensive overview of the conflict and makes sense of the morass of diplomacy and the confusion of war.

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Customer Reviews

Farooq Bajwa's book, "From Kutch to Tashkent" is a must read for any student of modern South Asia history since India's and Pakistan's independence from Great Britain in 1947. Dr. Bajwa puts the 1965 war in context of the ongoing dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad over the disputed status of India's northern state of Kashmir. This is also a great book on understanding the decision

making of the political-military leadership of both countries and how they performed regionally and internationally. The author gives a very detailed and well resourced description of the 1965 war's beginning in the Rann of Kutch; and of the fighting in Kashmir and along the Indian-Pakistan international border; and the war's conclusion and negotiations held in Tashkent. The only thing the book lacks are maps showing the locations of the battles in 1965.

I really wanted to enjoy this book, as Pakistani/Indian hostilities are a major world problem. Unfortunately, I found this book uninspiring and tedious. I didn't finish it, though some day, when I've waded through all the other histories I've ordered recently, I'll give it another shot. If you have a special interest in this particular conflict, this book may be for you. Otherwise, I'd skip it. If you really want to understand why these two countries hate each other so much, read *Train to Pakistan*, by Khushwant Singh.

Having grown up in Pakistan there is a general lack of credible accounts of the war, with both sides conflating their own achievements and reasons. This book thankfully does not belong to the same mold, and is truly an enlightening account of the conflict.

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