

The Spoils of Partition: Bengal and India, 1947-1967 (Cambridge Studies in Indian History and Society)

By Joya Chatterji

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The partition of India in 1947 was a seminal event of the twentieth century. Much has been written about the Punjab and the creation of West Pakistan; by contrast, little is known about the partition of Bengal. This remarkable book by an acknowledged expert on the subject assesses the social, economic and political consequences of partition. Using compelling sources, the book, which was originally published in 2007, shows how and why the borders were redrawn, how the creation of new nation states led to unprecedented upheavals, massive shifts in population and wholly unexpected transformations of the political landscape in both Bengal and India. The book also reveals how the spoils of partition, which the Congress in Bengal had expected from the new boundaries, were squandered over the twenty years which followed. This is an intriguing and challenging work whose findings change our understanding and its consequences for the history of the subcontinent.

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About the Author
Joya Chatterji is Lecturer in International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is the author of Bengal Divided: Hindu Communalism and Partition (1994).

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