*Where Worlds Collide: Pakistani Fiction in the New Millennium*.

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Forward by Muneeza Shamsie

Although there is much being done on Pakistan, most of that work focuses on Pakistan as a problematic partner in the so-called war on terror, a failed state which is a hotbed of extremism and a security nightmare. Little has been done on this current generation of writers – writing (in English) from a Pakistani point of view – and what they have to say about the present situation, its causes and possible solutions, as well as the future. Muneeza Shamsie is a notable exception, having published « And the World Changed, » and Cara Cilano from the USA has also written on the subject – but book length studies are still relatively rare (this will evolve, as young scholars begin to publish their theses and such). My book, largely intended for university audiences, looks at this writing as primarily historical fiction, and the interconnections of family, history and the making of a nation which is both ancient and very young, born out of colonialism and Partition, and the questions of identity which arise in an Islamic republic, not to mention the collective trauma which the current generation carries as part and parcel of Partition and the 1971 war. I’ve included some of the most popular of the current writers, chosen on the basis of how well they fit my book’s general thesis, as well as my own personal preferences, including works that I use with my students. The book doesn’t necessarily assume prior knowledge, yet one learns a great deal of history from this genre of writing, and my own work assumes relative ignorance of the works under discussion, so I provide at least basic summary as I go along.

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