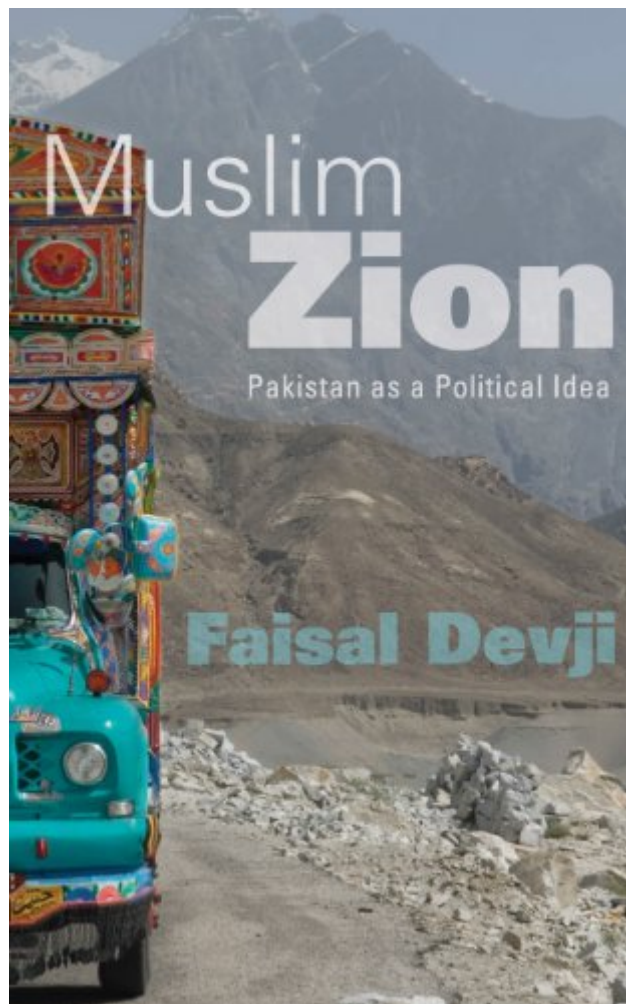


The book was found

Muslim Zion



Synopsis

Muslim Zion argues that Pakistan has never been a nation-state, grounded in the historic connections of lands and peoples. Just as Israel is the only Jewish state, Pakistan is the only Muslim state to make religion the sole basis of its nationality. Faisal Devji offers a penetrating critique of founding a state on nothing but the idea of belonging.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed Mr. Devji's book very much, although I had to concentrate hard. Muslim Zion is a complex and intellectual assessment of Pakistan and her foundation as a nation. A foundation which has much in common with that of Israel, hence the title. This is a very interesting and fascinating analysis and I was impressed with the author's conclusions. Pakistan is a complex and contradictory nation and certainly one which was a product of it's time in the immediate post-War world. If you want to know about Pakistan then you should invest in Muslim Zion. According to the author, Pakistan is a paradox; a country which rejects history and territory in favour of a 'homeland'. Yet this homeland itself is a nation state with historical roots in Punjab, Bulochistan, Sindh and also Kashmir. Pakistan is nation established on the sole basis of religion (just like Israel). Because of this, Pakistan rejects the more traditional nation state concepts such as 'blood and soil', which tended to characterise traditional forms of nationalism in Europe. Indeed, Devji makes many

parallels between this Muslim Nationalism and Zionism, claiming that there is significant similarity in the aims of both. Initially, the concept of a Muslim homeland developed out of the ideas of the Muslim philosopher Mohammed Iqbal. Iqbal was concerned for the fate of India's Muslims and was in favour of recognition of a Muslim province in any future independent Indian nation. These ideas fermented and were taken up by the secular Muslim politician Mohammed Ali Jinnah. Jinnah and his Indian Muslim League were to ultimately advance these ideas and declare at the 1940 Lahore Convention the desired aim of a separate Muslim nation. Mr. Devji makes a good case for Pakistan as a political idea.

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