

## FOREWORD

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It gives me great pleasure to introduce Radicalization in Jammu & Kashmir, a work of Shri A.K. Dewani. The book covers a very momentous period the State of J&K has gone through. It is on-the ground report of our times and alludes to the significant geographic features and historical events of the state.

Kashmir is a complicated entity. Late Shamim Ahmad Shamim would, in his inimitable manner, say "geography of Kashmir starts with no introduction and ends without a conclusion. With an ungainly position, it is situated in India and Pakistan, though China too has laid itself on a portion of it." This location has rendered J&K a pivot to the unending uncertainties in this part of the world and made its history as complicated as the geography. The complexities have evolved over six centuries of momentous change. Kashmir has always remained conscious of its separate ethnic identity. After 1931 Kashmir the sense got accentuated and a struggle to have a distinct identity, ideology and nationhood commenced. Nonetheless, till 1989, by and large, the Valley remained wedded to the pluralistic ethos and syncretic values. Then, erupted a violent sectarian battle, launched by some Kashmiris (read Muslims) to create a separate identity, remarkably different from what Kashmir is, famously, known for. According to the observers, "Some Kashmiris vacillated between a nationalist construct that included various types of Kashmiris and one dominated by the Sunni Muslim majority."

The assertion of separate nationhood and separate identity gained ground in the middle of 20th Century when the Indian sub-continent went through a cataclysmic change, and both history and the geography of the sub-continent got redefined. The partition of the mainland, based on the skewed two-nation theory, hardened the positions. Though majority of Kashmiri Muslims went with Sheikh Abdullah and tied their fate with the Indian Dominion, some harbored love and preferences for Pakistan-formed on the religion based nationality.

To the Kashmiris, driven by the sectarian urge and whose heart bled for Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan's Objective Resolution introduced to the 'failed' Constitution of Pakistan, in 1949, became a reigning principle to follow. The Resolution accepted the premise that "Sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to God Almighty." And declared, "Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accord with the teachings and requirements of Islam." General Zia took the premise to the highest level by emphasizing on all out Islamization of the Pakistan society and polity. The zealots in Kashmir borrowed a leaf from across the LOC and unleashed armed sectarian forces in the Valley. Pakistan actively abetted and aided the move. The devastating effect whereof-in terms of change in demographic character of the Valley and radicalization of the young minds, is examined in this book.

True value of the book lies in its integrated narrative, to which the attention of the readers will be

focused-who have varied interest in the events that shaped themselves in and around the beleaguered State. The work will be of great interest to the scholars, historians, the mangers of the state affairs and general readers. It will certainly be a valuable addition to the historical archives.

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