

THE SUBCONTINENT TIMES

Toronto, On Edition
Also published from
Lahore, Islamabad, Delhi, Karachi,
Mumbai, Kochi and globally on the
World Wide Web at
<http://www.thesubcontinent.com>

Sunday October 6th, 2013, Zi'qad 15, 1434 A.H | A project by Aam Aawaam & Other Asias, presented by SAVAC & Art Metropole, Toronto | This project and is not endorsed by or affiliated with any government. The events depicted are entirely fictive | Curated by Fatima & Zahra Hussain



LAHORE: Unity March 2014: Women march in solidarity in different parts of the subcontinent to welcome the new proposition of the borders, unveiled recently. A new wave of activism can be seen amongst women that marks a modern moment.

BRITISH-SPONSORED EX POST FACTO LAND

GRAB

by Jon Dylan Soske

Murmurs greeted the document, but few grand proclamations. Predictably, some voices declared the text a forgery, perhaps manufactured by rogue elements within Pakistan's ISI. While the Prime Minister's office guards a cautious silence, a junior minister in the Indian cabinet made a statement assenting to the document's validity, but denied that it possessed any binding force. Anonymous sources quoted in the New York Times suggests this line has the approval of the U.S. State Department. The subsequent release of more papers, and an expert evaluation of the signatures, will likely lay the question of its authenticity to rest, at least for the time being. But its meaning could not be more obscure. Signed by Gandhi, Jinnah, and Sir Cyril Radcliffe, the document agrees to the redrawing of South Asia's borders in the year 2014 on the basis of a more equitable division of natural resources and a greater ecological balance. Of course, few in power have any intention of such an event transpiring. The Hindu right wasted no time in declaring the agreement a scheme for "repartition," an even greater assault on India than the original division of the two countries. Replaying a script from two years ago, the chauvinist gang running Gujarat—spurred on by Modi's intimations of violence against the province's Muslim minority should such a scheme even be entertained—banned the text and map outright. One source reports that a high level meeting of Pakistani military officers responded to the agreement with spasms of laughter. An official remarked, "Can you imagine us absorbing the northern part of Bangladesh? It would be like a rerun of 1971." In turn, the Bangladeshi government released a statement alleging that the launch of balloons on February 19th conveys the spirit of these assemblies.

document confirmed an Islamist conspiracy against the state—an ominous message in light of the recent trials and anti-government protests. Throughout the region, those who hunger for war sense a shift in the winds. Interestingly, the Taliban and rebels in Baluchistan have greeted the text with cautious approval, supporting a new Muslim state that would decentralize power and recognize the autonomy of separate Pashtun and Baluchi provinces. No others followed suit. Yet the document has managed to cast a strange spell beyond palace walls, exerting a powerful and unexpected influence over millions of people. As Mahmoud Mandani suggested following the Tahrir Square demonstrations, the truly momentous events of history are almost never foreseen, precisely because they break free from the routines and common sense of the present. Spontaneous celebrations have erupted in far-flung and often improbable locale: Bombay and Port of Spain, Quetta and Durban, Varanasi and Scarborough (Toronto). The Undefined Border collective's massive launch of balloons on February 19th conveys the spirit of these assemblies. A few days later, maps began to appear on walls around the subcontinent's cities—montages assembled from newspapers or stitched together from old saris and head scarves—advocating impossible cartographies in which borders no longer represented instruments of exclusion. Ten thousand images of possible "Indias" and "Pakistans" blanketed cities overnight. Using the published map as a base, poster makers drew new territorial entities with symbols of peace and unity ranging from the Charkha to the Hammer and Sickle. In one design, the multiple branches of the Indus River become sections of the border—erasing the distinction between Al-Hind and Sindh—and the instrument of demarcation, a paint brush, appears as part of the map. "It's time that we grab the impossible," one young protester manically intoned to a reporter from AlJazeera, "and refuse to let it slip from our hands ever again."

Why does the document exercise such magnetic force? In 19th century Russia, a story frequently circulated before peasant rebellions that the Czar had issued a degree freeing all serfs, but the landed nobility had suppressed the order. Similar rumours preceded slave rebellions in the British Caribbean. The idea of the sovereign's edict, hidden by the betrayal of his trusted advisers, remains a powerful theme in subaltern consciousness. It's a popular Gnosticism, which allows ordinary people to negate the legitimacy of an awesomely-powerful state by holding onto the promise of a more original covenant. Someday, a revelation will uncover the true nature of the law, now perverted by unjust rule. Perhaps, the map speaks to a desire to return to the moment of Partition and renew the foundation of both countries according to a different logic of belonging. Perhaps, it represents a desire to cleanse both states of a founding act of violence. The release of two different versions of the map has added considerably to the initial confusion. In early February, the international press published a leaked map demarcating only two countries—India and Pakistan—divid

ed by a horizontal line. Afghanistan lies outside the map altogether. Of South Asia's other states and regions, only Sri Lanka remains a distinct entity. This map drew sharp critique from some Sikh and Dalit political leaders, among others. Did it not once again reiterate the image of the subcontinent as consisting solely of two—mutually antagonistic—communal groups? The second map, clearly of more recent vintage, depicts a border tracing a diagonal line across Pakistan, northern India, and northern Bangladesh. Interestingly, no country names are proposed for the two new states. Nepal, Bhutan, and southern Bangladesh's status remain unclear. For equally obscure reasons, the U.N. has presented this second map as "official."

Among the signatories, Gandhi's motivations seem clearest. He believed that he was rectifying an historic injustice. By mid-1947, Gandhi was in the midst of a profound personal and spiritual crisis.

continued on Page 3

Germany is our problem

A deliberate misinterpretation

by Berlin Bordercast

Because of the close collaborations with the Churchill government a number of copies of Morgenthau's second edition of "Germany is our problem" was distributed amongst a number of high ranking British generals, politicians, industrialists and diplomats. Eventually some of these copies found their way to India and the newly founded nation of Pakistan and the book gained infamous popularity amongst anti-Commonwealth hardliners who had been trying to sensitize the people for the British "divide and rule" strategy even before the division of the two nations (which was heavily protested by both Gandhi and Nehru and who gained many followers after hundreds of thousands of people had died in the mass exodus from Pakistan to India and vice versa. During WWII Germany's aggression versus Britain had led to an increasing number of Pro-German sympathisers on the subcontinent and when "The Blitz" forced a large number of British soldiers to be relocated to Europe, these numbers only kept on growing. Members of the subcontinental congress, which strongly opposed the idea of founding any religious state, also supported these ideas, especially after Lord Linlithgow had declared war on India's behalf, without previously consulting Indian leaders, which lead to a mass resignation of Congress provincial ministries and heavy civil disobedience in the "Quit India Movement" in 1942. The adversaries of the British Raj who saw themselves as successors of Tipu Sultan and called themselves the "Mysore Tigers", deemed all things British to be harmful to the development of the subcontinent.

continued on Page 3

The Unhappening

by Ayesha Kamal Khan

The Unhappening that will take place on 23rd March 2014 is expected to reduce mayhem by some, and expected to invade peace by some.

continued on Page 3

Pakistan had questioned the “legality of the construction and operation of an Indian hydro-electric project” under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. India had said that building the dam was within its rights.

The treaty regulates the use of Indus river waters by India and Pakistan. Pakistan’s argument was that the Indian project would affect the Neelum-Jhelum project constructed by Pakistan downstream of the Kishanganga project.

“We will start work on the project immediately,” said Jyotiraditya Scindia, minister of state for power with independent charge, said. He said the project comprises 3 units of 110 megawatts (MW) each.

The project located in Baramullah in Jammu and Kashmir involves the diversion of the Kishanganga river, a tributary of the Jhelum into an underground powerhouse near Bandipur and the discharge of the water into the Wular lake.

The ICA said on 18 February that the 330 MW project was a run-of-river project. “India may accordingly divert water from the Kishanganga/ Neelum River for power generation by the Kishanganga Hydro-Electric Plant and may deliver the water released below the power station into the Bonar Nallah,” it said.

Water Works: The Indus Treaty

Watt the Kishanganga?

by Water Watts



BARAMULLAH: Kishanganga Hydroproject under construction



MUZAFFARABAD: Neelum Jhelum Project construction on hold.

Tour Trackers

Whose Natural Reserves?

by Tour Trackers

Share natural resources says the document, tour trackers are tracking down the natural reserves (parks) in order to analyze the authority over these areas in the new Subcontinent.

A national park is not like a city-park or public garden with fenced boundaries and having play grounds, picnic spots, jogging and walking tracks etc. Rather it is a reserve of land usually declared and owned by a national government, meant for the protection and preservation of the outstanding scenery, natural landscape, majestic and awe inspiring places, natural flora and fauna in natural state and protected from hunting, cutting of vegetation, developmental activities and pollution.

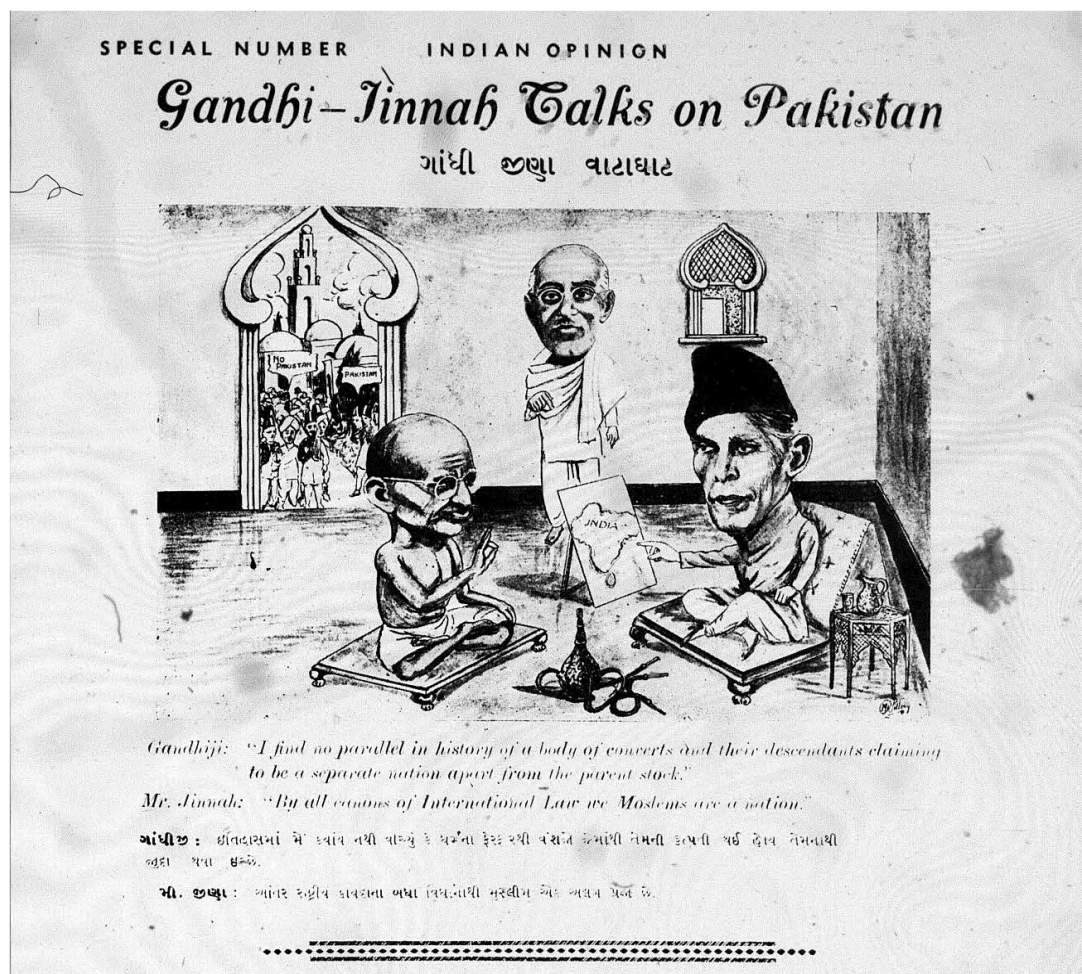
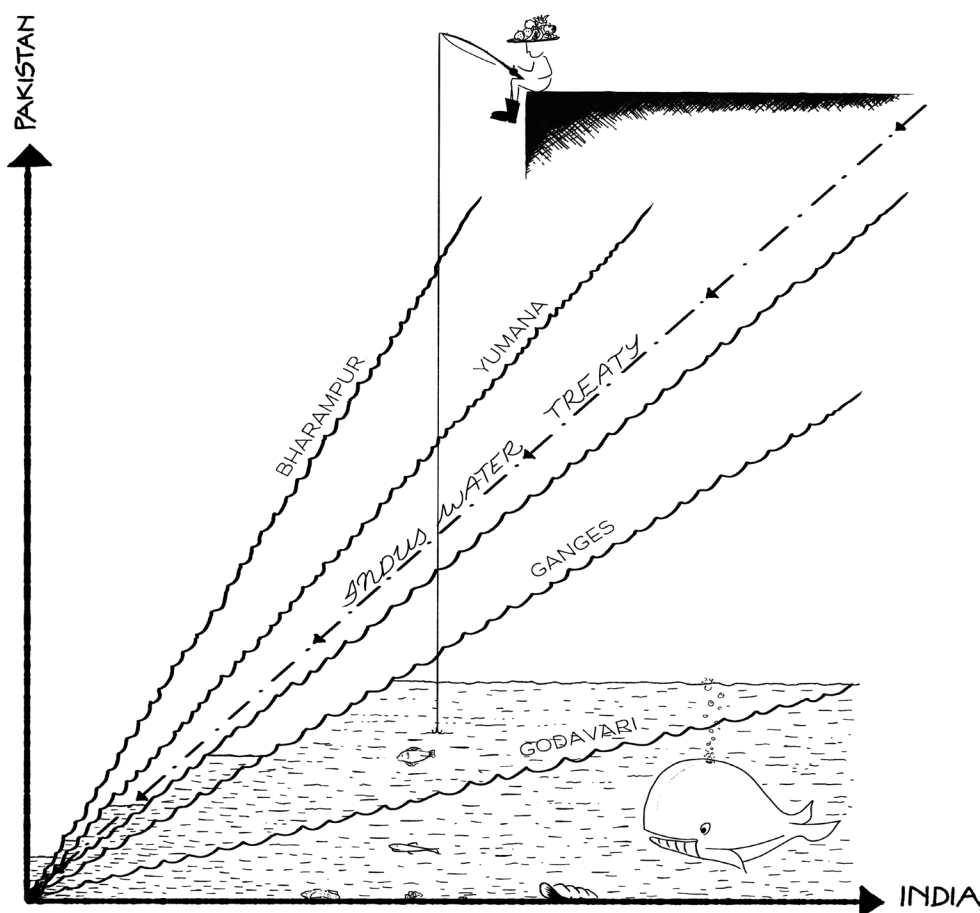
As people dig deeper into the meaning of the several points in the SC document, it is still unclear as to what is meant by

“Demands that the revision be made on the basis of the division of the natural resources within the region”.

It is unclear if the natural resources are to be shared under this new document or have the countries been divided by counting natural resources in the total area. This confusion has been caused due to the information that was leaked out earlier that clearly said, “Based on the idea of sharing natural resources the re-drawn border within the subcontinent, once again introduces a divide between land, communities and people.”

This ambiguity has caused the people to question the authority over Natural resources and natural reserves. The environmentalists are quite interested in the matter and are looking into investigating this thread, “We are still waiting to see if another document will be revealed that explains this dilemma about sharing the natural resources?” says the Minister of Tourism in Pakistan as he met with heads of organizations and research units directly concerned with Natural resources and reserves.

The Ministry of Tourism regards this matter as a cause for concern as it may present a difficult task for the current Border Control Law Agency.



Screening and Talk by Jon Soske & Rajee Jeshergill at the University of Toronto on October 15th 2013 <http://internalfrontiers.wordpress.com/>



The narcissism of minorities is the new Common Wealth
Join the Berlin International Legion of Foreigners and become a global foreigner.
Find our recruitment desk at “The Subcontinent” events and at the Art Metropole, Toronto.
<http://berlin-border-cast.tumblr.com/>

Uncertainty

Correspondent reporting live from Lucknow.

It is imminent and nobody can stop it from happening. The day is slowly drawing near when the Line of Control (LOC) as we know it will cease to exist and new boundaries will divide the subcontinent. There is a sense of helplessness on the faces of the general public as they now know for sure that nothing can revert what lies ahead.

Their lives will turn upside down, the new borders will rip families apart and new national identities will emerge. An uncertainty hangs in the air where people on both sides of the border are asking the question why was their fate decided so, six decades ago.

Petitions and protests have met a dead end.

The first team of armed UN military observers have started arriving in the region to oversee the smooth demarcation of the new borders and help control the spread to violence which can erupt such as was witnessed in 1947.

23rd March 2014, the dawn of a new beginning for Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. What does the future hold?

CONTRIVED?

FORENSIC ANALYSIS UNDERWAY



Correspondent reporting live from Islamabad

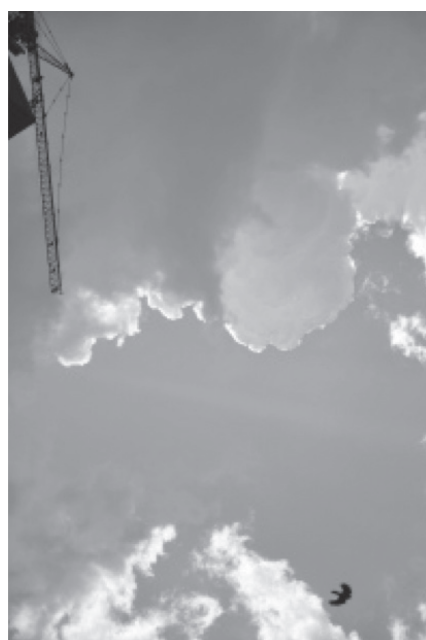
Government of Pakistan issued a statement earlier this morning claiming that the documents found are a major scandal that could have links to other sources trying to create havoc in these times of crisis. The government is trying to tell the courts that there are serious dangers to public security from these documents that have suddenly appeared out of nowhere. It claims that the archives confirm that there is no evidence of such a meeting being held in 1947 or of such a document being produced. The Supreme Court has although formed a forensic committee to review, analyse and scrutinize the documents and produce a statement within the next 30 days. The Forensic committee is to work independently and free from any political & religious pressure, hence the members of the committee have been kept undisclosed.

The Unhappening

by Ayesha Kamal Khan

continued from Page 1

There are some that deny the infusion altogether, but then there are also people who don't believe in the man on the moon. However, most expect that this Unhappening will be a piece of history that will mark a border- new border- new border line- new Pakistan/ India/ Bangladesh border line. This Unhappening awaits a response; a response generated to dissect the happenings of this Unhappening. But the people from this region, oblivious to this Unhappening decide to narrate happenings from their own imagination, instead of the actual scene of the Unhappening. All inhabitants are trained news reporters of a kind, compelled by their lucrative nature-reporting third world country juice to the international, sound borders of the other end of the world. This Unhappening is communicated by imagery of bloodshed, grenades, etc etc- whereas the operation is a silent one which has not yet taken any physical shape in the material existence of the new border site. The details of the operation that will take place is top secret and neither the general public on all sides of the new border, nor all governments' officials know the implementing bodies of the new border. Some of them still deny that the Unhappening is happening at all. There are rumors that the worlds most renowned illusionists have been contacted to leave no proof of this unhappening. Some believe that the redrawing of the border- the Unhappening will happen in broad day light but will have no proof of how. It will be as if magic. The unhappening unwitnessed in the wink of the eye.



Reporting for Duty

Correspondent reporting live from Islamabad

The Islamabad I've arrived in is quiet, unlike the one I've visited over the years. It seems that recent events have done what wars, floods and famine had failed to do; Islamabad is awake. The air is ripe with an energy; a collective holding of the breath, waiting for the other shoe to drop. My sources inside the power nexus of the capital have confirmed that following the UN's confirmation of both the document and the official map of the partition, the government has gotten very busy. The Pakistani High Commissioner (Ambassador) in Delhi and his counterpart in Islamabad have been very busy these past few days. It seems that both governments are looking beyond Plan A: wait for all this to blow over.

The local media has so far greeted the document with suspicion, and openly (and repeatedly) questioned its integrity. Full coverage has been given to the protests decrying the re-partition (as some are calling it) as a Zionist conspiracy to undermine the Muslim world. Little or no coverage has so far been given to the fast growing public sentiment supporting the move, especially in the southern parts of the province of Punjab. I have lined up interviews with leading business, economic and legal experts over the next few weeks. I will report to you as soon as I have anything concrete.

Decision

At the 309th meeting on 10th August 1947, the council decided to invite the representative from the Indian National Congress and All India Muslim League to participate with vote in the discussion of the subcontinent.

Resolution 26th (1947)

of 13th August 1947

The council having discussed the grave situation in the subcontinent, which remains ambiguous to the International Peace and Security, decides

-Noting All India Muslim League's Resolution 1392 of 23rd March 1940,

-Noting the stance of the Indian National Congress,

-Noting the reply of Sir Radcliff,

-Having heard the statements from Lord Mountbatten,

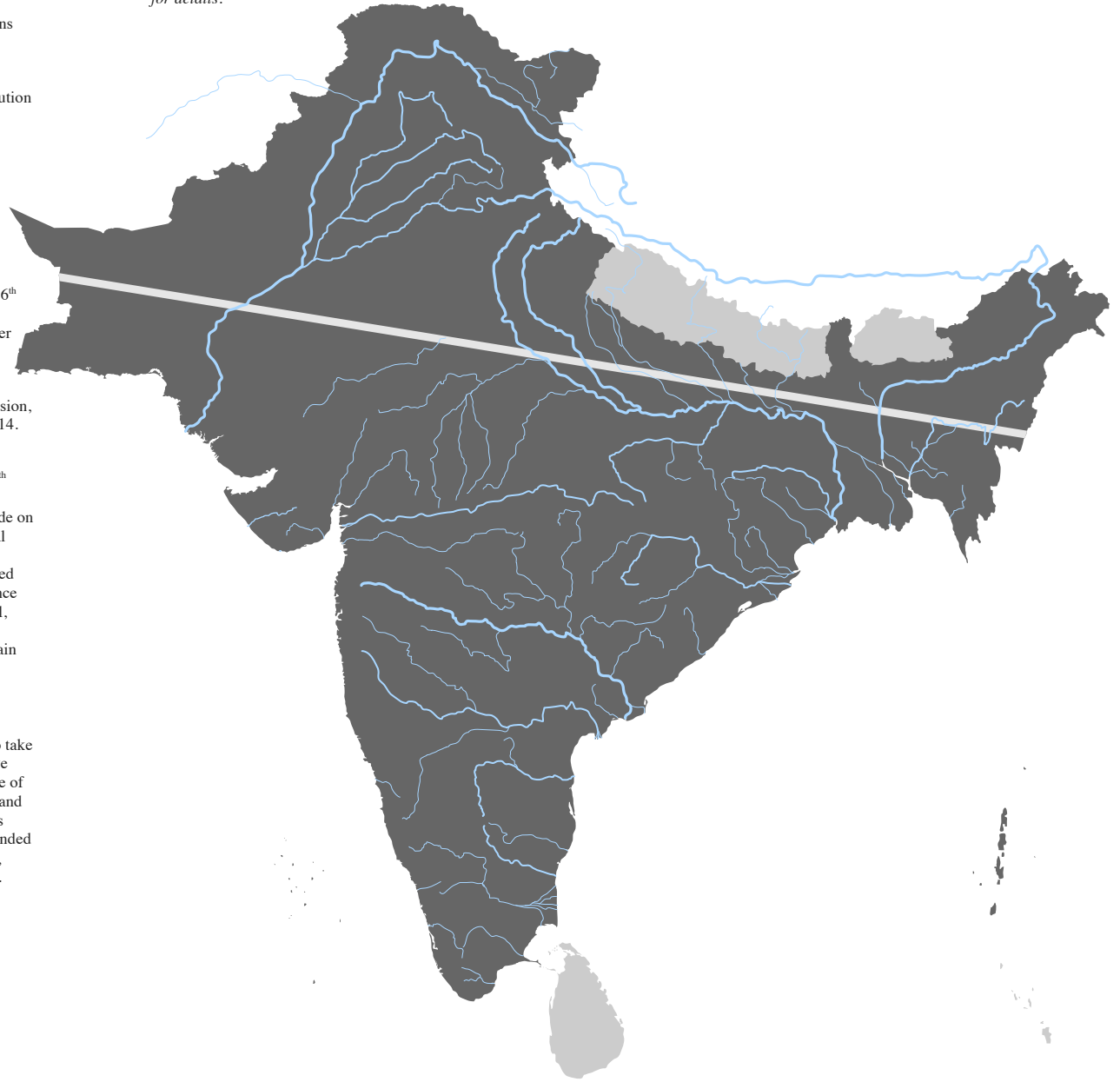
Noting further the statement made at the 16th Meeting of all parties by Sir Radcliff containing a unilateral declaration of border demarcations of the subcontinent.

Noting all party leaders agreement to the demarcations and the proposition of a revision, which will take effect from 23rd March 2014.

1. *Demands* that the borders of the subcontinent be revised in the 67th year of its existing formation.
2. *Demands* that the revision be made on the basis of the division of natural resources within the region.
3. *Demands* that this division is based on geographical, ecological balance free from cast, creed, and cultural, linguistic and religious ties.
4. *Calls upon* member states to refrain from any action, which may aggravate the situation in the subcontinent or endanger international peace.
5. *Calls upon* all those concerned to take all measures necessary to preserve human life and for the observance of the Geneva conventions of 1940 and to apply in their full provisions as regards the protection of the wounded and mentally and physically sick, prisoners and civilian population.

6. *Calls upon* the civilian population to remain calm and not migrate during and after the border modification.
7. *Demands* that this demarcation be treated purely as a geographical rearrangement.
8. *Authorizes* the Intellectual Faculty to appoint, if necessary, a special plan to lend their good services for the solution of humanitarian problems.

The map is enclosed with the document and should be referred to for details.



FOUND DOCUMENTS - UN Security Council Document & Map of subcontinent with proposed borders for 2014

British-sponsored...

by Jon Dylan Soske

Initially, he rejected the idea of Partition as "potentially disastrous." But faced with the sectarian violence unleashed by the Noakhali massacre and other events, Gandhi reacted with horror and an almost unfathomable sense of personal failure. He toured the country fasting for an end to the reciprocal slaughter. He boycotted the independence celebrations, spending it in Bengal praying and spinning. He asked Nehru and Patel to transfer funds due to Pakistan. He spoke of being buried in Pakistani soil after his death. These acts summoned an assassin's bullet. By the time Gandhi signed the document, local Congress bosses were actively refusing the interventions of national leaders. Forces were moving rapidly to create "facts on the ground." A significant strand of conservative Hindu sentiment portrayed Patel as holding strong against Muslim demands in the face of Nehru's sterile intellectualism and Gandhi's "capitulation." Many Congress activists held Gandhi's philosophy of ahimsa in open contempt. What then does his signature mean? Perhaps everything. And probably nothing. As always, Jinnah's thinking remains the more inscrutable. A few papers, including the Times of India, have characterized the agreement as a "British-sponsored ex post facto land grab." Quaid-i-Azam makes a convenient devil. Historians have argued that Jinnah used the demand for Pakistan in order to procure stronger safeguards for Muslims in a constitutional settlement only to become ensnared by his own brinkmanship. Did this unlikely head of a Muslim state—a more staunchly secular politician than Nehru by a stretch—understand the extent that the new boundaries would radically transform the

continued from Page 1
make up of Pakistan, perhaps even eliminating its clear Muslim majority? In 1920 at the Nagpur conference, Jinnah alone opposed Gandhi's Non-Cooperation movement on the basis that it would inject religious fanaticism into the anticolonial struggle. For years, he tried to build an All-India alliance between the Muslim League and Congress, more than once offering to abandon communal electorates in favour of strong representation at the centre. When he revitalized the Muslim League in 1934, his principle supporters were Muslim minorities in Hindu majority provinces like U.P., not the Punjabi elites who were to dominate Pakistan. Did Jinnah understand, in Ayesha Jalal's words, that "the most striking fact about Pakistan is how it failed to satisfy the interests of the very Muslims who are supposed to have demanded its creation?" The new map not only unifies a country severed at birth. It also creates a Pakistan that more closely resembles Jinnah's utopian vision of Hindu-Muslim parity.

Since the documents' discovery, a tremor has spread throughout the Africa and the Near East. Needless to say, India and Pakistan are not the only countries born through partition. Last week, an anonymous Palestinian leader (by rumour, Marwan Barghouti) asked pointedly: "Are there other documents still hidden in the Colonial Office's vaults?" The South African satirical news site, Hayibo, came out of retirement to produce a spoof agreement that resettles the country according to a fixed ratio of white to black every square kilometre. The document has become a point of discussion at more than one international negotiating table. It may represent the ultimate lèse-majesté. From its beginning, the nation state was an ad hoc contrivance.

Germany is our problem

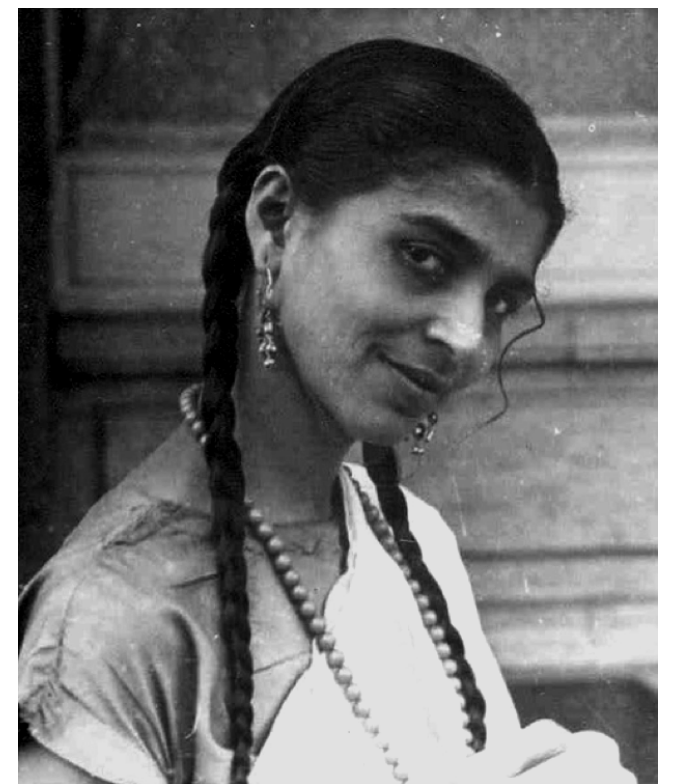
A deliberate misinterpretation

by Berlin Bordercast

continued from Page 1

They thoroughly stressed the fact that British officials made it a point of speaking of Indians as the people of India and avoid speaking of an Indian nation in order to render them incapable of national self government. They never accepted neither the "Two Nation Theory" nor Jinnah's "Lahore Resolution" and welcomed all anti-British propaganda.

Even though the Mysore Tigers lost more and more influence as Jinnah's "All India Muslim League" gained support, some of the Tigers' interpretations of Morgenthau's ideas remained attractive to leading politicians.



In 1959 Indian choreographer Gul Bardhan and Pakistani choreographer Indu Mitha had collectively worked Duncans sketches into what is now called the "Wahgah Border Ceremony", a daily military practice that is, unbeknown to most, based on parts of Morgenthau's vision for the BIZ.



NATURALLY DEMILITARIZED ZONE

by factAgency

Natural isolation has created an involuntary park in the north-west border military buffer zone.

In the past decades, the north-west border has been a deadly place for humans, making inhabitation impossible. It is the most heavily militarized border in the world. As it is so heavily guarded that almost nobody ever enters, it has inadvertently created a nature preserve. This natural isolation along the 160miles (258km) length and 2.5 miles (4km) wide has created an involuntary park which is now recognised as one of the most well-preserved areas of temperate habitat in the world. Several endangered animal and plant species now exist among the heavily fortified fences, landmines and listening posts. Ecologists have identified some 2,900 plant species, 70 types of mammals and 320 kinds of birds within the narrow military buffer zone. Additional surveys are now being conducted throughout the region. The area owes its varied biodiversity to its geography, which crosses mountains, swamps, lakes and marshes. It is notable that it does not delineate a border per se; rather, it surrounds a "Military Buffer Zone" (MBZ).

** Above-described area is completely fictional and therefore the used images are illustrative rather than documentary. Thanks to Ömer Metehan Danacı, Adam Gering, Thomas Goodwin, Naveen Gupta, and Makarand Sahasrabudde.*

