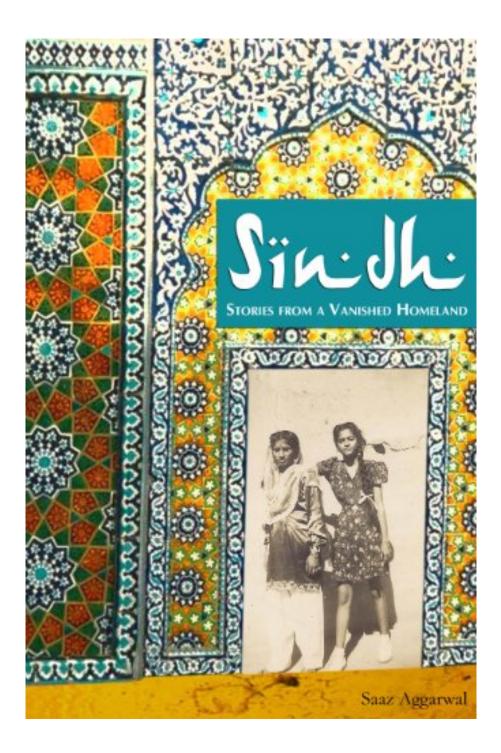


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About the Author

Saaz Aggarwal is a humour columnist, ghost writer, literary critic, and corporate biographer. She is also known for her Bombay Clichés, quirky paintings of contemporary urban India done in a traditional Indian folk style.

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In 1947, as Independence approached, plans were made to partition the country into India and Pakistan. Punjab and Bengal would be split in two, with a part going to each country. Sindh, however, would be given intact to the new country, Pakistan. Hindus had been a well-integrated minority in Sindh for centuries, and would continue to be so.

However, the creation of a new country on religious lines mobilised the population along the new borders, creating terror and bloodshed in a way that no one could control. The Sindhi Hindus felt a growing fear and uncertainty and began to pack their bags to leave. Many believed they would return soon – when things settled down. As history tells us, things never 'settled down'. The Sindhi Hindus left Sindh, never to return.

In their new, and often resentful, environment, they did not pause to feel sorry for themselves or to contemplate what they had lost. All their energy went into establishing themselves and restoring the lives of dignity and comfort they had been accustomed to.

Much has been documented about the Punjab Partition experience – but the Sindhis have never spoken. The generation of Sindhis uprooted by Partition was focussed on succeeding and did not have the comfort or confidence to pass on their heritage and memories, many painful, to their children. As the diaspora scattered around the world, they never looked back, never told their stories, intent on adapting to their new lives. Soon they had established themselves and even improved their situation. Unlike the Jews and Tibetans, they cast aside their traditions too easily. Unlike the Palestinians, they tore themselves away from their ancestral land. Somewhat like the gypsy Romani, they did not know how many they had lost – because they had not counted in the first place.

Using a narrative constructed of childhood memories from various sources, this book reconstructs life in Sindh before and during Partition. It is a journey into Sindh – its history, its beauty, different aspects of its culture and traditions, long-forgotten essential facts about Sindhi-ness.

While it is a tribute to the community for moving forward in difficult times, leaving behind their cultural heritage to make new lives for themselves – it is also a wake-up call to the Sindhi community that says, hey, enough time has passed; you can look back without those feelings of hostility and betrayal, to see who you are and where you came from.

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Fills a need

By Hubert F. Addleton

I often wondered how the Hindu Sindhis fared after they left their Sindh homeland at Partition in 1947. This books tells me. As missionaries, my wife and I moved from America to Sindh a few years after they left. We lived in several of their homes for many years and raised our children in various cities of Sindh. I often wished that I could know some of these Sindhis who fled from their ancestral homes and what happened to them..This books tells me, story after story. My wife and I absolutely loved reading it. We came to love Sindh as they did, and being retired now and back in America, we look back upon Sindh as our vanished homeland too!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Memories of a Lost Land ....

By Ajit Harisinghani

Reading this book brought alive all the stories my mother told me about her beloved Larkana (where she was born) and about Karachi and Gaibi Dera and many such places. These stories were all my parents had been left with. After half a life spent in affluence, they now were living in a shabby two room tenement in not-very-welcoming post-independence Bombay. Saaz Agarwal's stories ring true because of her meticulous research and I salute her for her effort in bringing back to life so many dormant tales of guts, perseverance and spirit that the Sindhis have demonstrated so amply in modern India.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great book. Very few people know about the hardships  $\ldots$ 

By maheshmj

Great book. Very few people know about the hardships faced by the Hindu- Sindhis when they were forced to migrate from Pakistan. Having no state of their own they were treated as outsiders by their own countrymen and never got the respect they deserved. This book should enlighten those who would like to learn a bit more of the Sindhi heritage

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