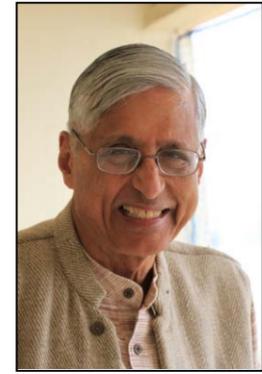


Institute Lecture

The 1947 Partition of Punjab: Why and How it Happened



Prof. Rajmohan Gandhi,

Research Professor at the Center for
South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
(recently retired)

Tuesday, 4th February 2014, Time: 6.00 PM, Venue: L-17,
Lecture Hall Complex

Abstract

In Punjab's and India's long history, an ideological clash between elites, one side proud of a pure monotheistic faith and the other side proud of purity of birth, was accompanied for much of the time by peaceful co-existence and interdependence at ground level.

The struggle for independence from imperial rule appeared to be a common struggle against a common foe. Yet it reignited the conflict between elites and ultimately produced the 1947 Partition and its trauma, chiefly experienced in Punjab and Bengal.

Based on the lecturer's latest book, Punjab: A History from Aurangzeb to Mountbatten, the lecture will look at the long-term impulses for Partition, at its imperial context, and also at the precipitating events that led to it.

The lecture will also observe the light that history sheds on relationships within a heterogeneous population, a question that modern India continues to face.

About the speaker

Prof. Rajmohan Gandhi, historian and biographer, served for some years (until end-2012) as Research Professor at the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA.

His book 'Punjab: A History from Aurangzeb to Mountbatten' was published by Aleph, New Delhi, in September 2013. His earlier study, 'A Tale of Two Revolts: India 1857 & the American Civil War' (2009) looked at two 19th-century wars occurring in opposite parts of the world at almost the same time. His book 'Mohandas: A True Story of a Man, His People and an Empire' received the prestigious Biennial Award from the Indian History Congress in 2007. It has since been published in several countries. In 2002, Prof. Gandhi received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his 'Rajaji: A Life', a biography of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878-1972). Other books written by him include 'Revenge & Reconciliation: Understanding South Asian History', 'Eight Lives: A Study of the Hindu-Muslim Encounter', and biographies of 'Vallabhbhai Patel' (1875-1950) and 'Abdul Ghaffar Khan' (1890-1988).

In the early 1990s, Rajmohan Gandhi served as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha. Before that he was Resident Editor, Indian Express, in Chennai, and Chief Editor, Himmat, Mumbai.

He has been associated from 1956 with the NGO, Initiatives of Change, formerly known as Moral Re-Armament.

Tea at 5.45 PM

All interested are welcome.

Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi
Dean of Research and Development