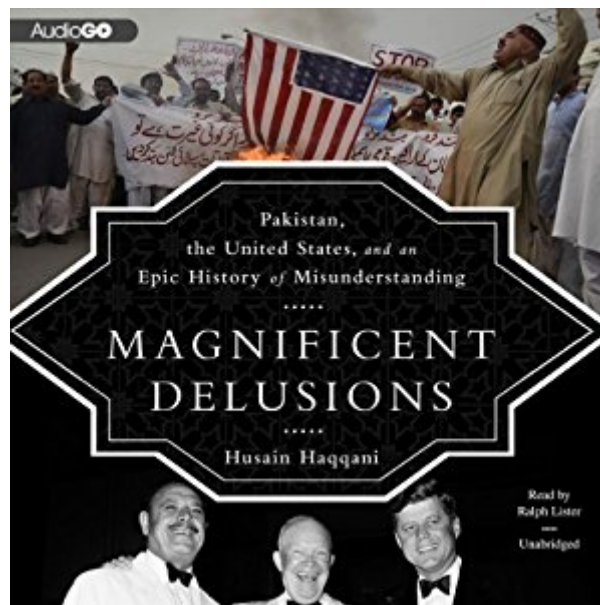


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Magnificent Delusions: Pakistan, The United States, And An Epic History Of Misunderstanding



Synopsis

A character-driven history that describes the bizarrely ill-suited alliance between America and Pakistan, written by a uniquely insightful participant: Pakistan's former ambassador to the US. The relationship between America and Pakistan is based on mutual incomprehension, and always has been. Pakistan - to American eyes - has gone from being a stabilizing friend to an essential military ally to a seedbed of terror. America - to Pakistani eyes - has been a guarantee of security, a coldly distant scold, an enthusiastic military supplier and ally, and now a threat to national security and a source of humiliation. In their sixty-five year relationship, one country has become a global superpower, the other perilously close to a failed state - perhaps one of the most dangerous places in the world. Husain Haqqani has a unique insight into Pakistan, his homeland, and America, where he was the Pakistani ambassador and is now a professor at Boston University. His life has mapped the relationship of Pakistan and America, and he has found himself often close to the heart of it - sometimes in very confrontational circumstances, even under house arrest - which has allowed him to write the story of the two countries' turbulent affair, here memorably laid bare.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I thank Mr. Haqqani for an excellent review of the history that is very relevant to me personally. It is written very well and helped tremendously filling the gaps in my knowledge. Chapters explain history of relations between Pakistan and the United States chronologically starting from the very beginning. Both of my parents' families moved to Pakistan from India to Sukkur, Sind upon partition witnessing the horrors of the century. I grew up reading mostly in Urdu language. Schools taught

Islamiyat and Pakistan Studies and did not encourage reading other than what selective little was in the textbooks. In early 1980s entire country's schools were mandated to be Urdu medium by president Zia-ul-haq. Saint Mary's high school Sukkur first built 125 years ago under British raj was transferred to the government authorities that led to its decline in not only quality of education but also in the overall structure and maintenance. Once I made a poster for my classroom about the history of Urdu language that was promptly removed by the teacher for being "out of course". Being the only channel in the entire country, Pakistan television was main source for information. It showed the government authorities touring places and making statements about "qarar waqai saza" for rampant crimes. No one was ever caught or punished by the way. There was an "invisible outside" hand in everything. Century old Saint Mary's church was set on fire by a mob in 2005 over a Christian child writing something in a school paper that was considered blasphemous. Reading the book Magnificent Delusions helps understand how the country and its people reached this point. As anyone can imagine being a medical student I was mostly busy studying.

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