



Bangladesh: A Political History since Independence (International Library of Twentieth Century History)

By Ali Riaz

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Bangladesh is a country of paradoxes. The eighth most populous country of the world, it has attracted considerable attention from the international media and western policy-makers in recent years, often for the wrong reasons: corruption, natural disasters caused by its precarious geographical location, and volatile political situations with several military coups, following its independence from Pakistan in 1971. Institutional corruption, growing religious intolerance and Islamist militancy have reflected the weakness of the state and undermined its capacity. Yet the country has demonstrated significant economic potential and has achieved successes in areas such as female education, population control and reductions in child mortality. Ali Riaz here examines the political processes which engendered these paradoxical tendencies, taking into account the problems of democratization and the effects this has had, and will continue to have, in the wider South Asian region. This comprehensive and unique overview of political and historical developments in Bangladesh since 1971 will provide essential reading for observers of Bangladesh and South Asia.

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Review

‘Riaz explores several themes that are essential to an understanding of Bangladesh today... Riaz demonstrates his command of the available material and his considerable skill in weaving them together in coherent and elegant ways... a formidable compilation of appropriate information... The language is judicious, the analysis rigorous, the insights astute, the research exhaustive.’

(Ahrar Ahmad in The Daily Star)

About the Author

Ali Riaz is Professor and Chair of Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University. He has previously taught at Dhaka University, The University of Lincoln and Claflin University, South Carolina and worked as a broadcast journalist at the BBC World Service in London. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i.

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