



## Public Affairs Section



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# Book on history of Pakistan launched

By Saher Baloch

KARACHI: History is being re-written on both sides of the border and there are fewer books to counter the narrative which is largely biased and communal in its references, said Shahid A. Amin, former ambassador of Pakistan, at the launch of his book *A Concise History of Pakistan* on Saturday.

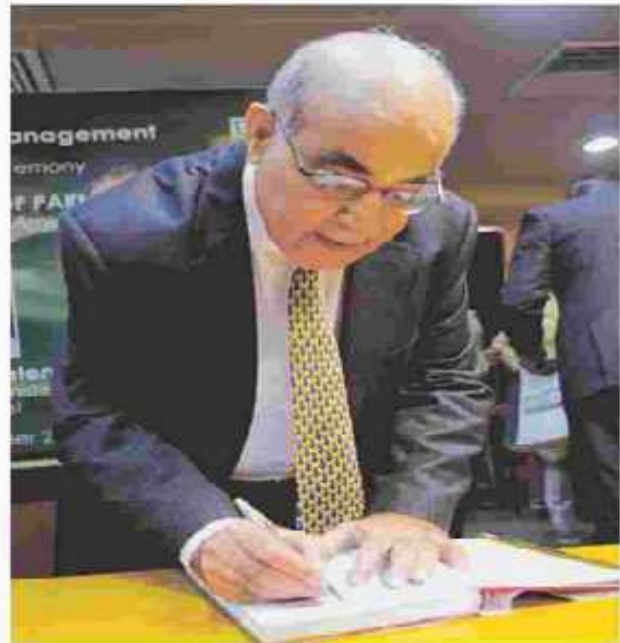
The ambassador was speaking to a packed room filled with a number of dignitaries and diplomats at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM).

Huma Baqai, associate professor and head of the department of social sciences at IoBM, presented a critique of *A Concise History of Pakistan*. "This book incorporates enough material for a student as well as a history buff and keeps a balanced tone of narration throughout," she said and added it is relevant to the times where issues such as identity, creation and future of Pakistan are being questioned.

She also pointed out that the book keeps a "diplomatic tone of writing throughout and as a reader I wished there was more on foreign policy as well especially during the trying times we faced as a country".

Ms Baqai explained the book created a perspective on partition and goes on to discuss the Hindu-Muslim divide combining it with the Hindu fundamentalism, which she said "we are witnessing at present as well, to drive home the point about Pakistan's creation".

A professor at IBA, Talat Wizarat, while critiquing the book said Mr Amin held his post during the most trying times, such as the Moscow mission in the 1970s during the Soviet Union's Cold War with the United States, and saw history in the making. With twenty-one chapters in the book, she explained, it is divided in four parts: the pre-Islamic history, the arrival of Islam, Pakistan movement and the developments after the emergence of Pakistan.



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