



Public Affairs Section



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Distorted history?
Shahid Amin's concise history of Pakistan

Politicians and scholars attend the launch of Amin's fifth book

A CONCISE HISTORY OF PAKISTAN

Writing history is never easy as you have to correct lots of bad ideas and make people understand what the actual facts are, said Shahid Amin, former ambassador and diplomat, at the launch of his fifth book 'The Concise History of Pakistan'.

The book launch was held at the Institute of Business Management on Saturday, which was attended by scholars and renowned personalities. Talking about the topic of his book, Amin said he decided to write about the history of Pakistan as it is highly distorted and there is only some part of it in the curriculum.

"I critically examined all the facts and sources so that I can explain the great Muslim heritage, political struggle of Muslims before Partition and to remove misconceptions about Pakistan," Amin said. He believes his book will create a great impact on the mindsets of youth, as the book reveals new facts about Pakistan's history.

Praising the author and his book, Dr Tahir Waseem, a scholar of International Relations, said that Amin has interpreted facts in a way that it leads us to the truth and reality. "The book tells about his book is that he tries to fill the gap between our teachings of history," she said, adding that it depends on who's view is chosen that which lens we use to understand the reality.

Calling Amin one of the best diplomats of Pakistan, Tariq Faraz said:

Administration social science department chairperson Dr Huma Saqal advised Amin for being objective in his book. "The book is one way more of a reality check and he (Amin) cleverly selected the most interesting part to share, such as the pre-Partition era and most importantly the military rule in Pakistan," she said.

Dr Faraz Farooq, the special assistant to the prime minister on foreign affairs, appreciated Amin for stating facts accurately in his book. He added that when it comes to the history of the sub-continent, only a few Pakistanis have written about it and mostly Indian or Western scholars have used their bias.

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His social science department chairperson Dr Huma Saqal

Talking about the time of Partition, Faraz said that when Pakistan came into being, India had the opinion that Pakistan would not survive for long.

"But we must thank the leaders of that era who kept Pakistan stronger," Faraz said, adding that Pakistan is now on the right track and moving faster towards prosperity.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Amin said his new book will also help the new-age Pakistanis in learning the dynamics of their country, as he believes they have little knowledge about the history of Pakistan.