At the launching of Ambassador Shahid Amin’s book “A concise history of Pakistan” published by the Institute of Business Management, Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and the Chief Guest, said that the youth home and abroad needs to be informed about Pakistan History, struggle and sacrifices made for Pakistan, we are on the right trajectory of growth and development understanding the genesis of Pakistan and that Ambassador Shahid Amin’s book has been an instrumental contribution in this regard.

Imagine noble and gentle kind of personal and professional background of an author writing “A Concise History of Pakistan” in letter and spirit. This is Mr. Shahid Amin with unparalleled flair for Pakistani Studies in personal capacity, with gracious reputation as a seasoned diplomat in Pakistan Foreign Service, acknowledged by men of letters and men at the helm of affairs alike, hearthrob of hundreds of students in Pakistan Studies and International Relations. Published by the Institute of Business Management where Mr. Shahid Amin is the Visiting Faculty for Pakistan Studies and International Relations, this book speaks volumes for its truthful, objective and fair account of history based on facts, free of bias and preconceived notions. The approach adopted is to include diverse views and analyses for completeness of the record. This book is useful for students of Pakistan Studies and Pakistan History, for general readers and those in pertinent research, journalism, from the Pre-Islamic to the Muslim past: and its political landscape since independence has been heavily influenced by that legacy. A the same time, an awareness of the region’s pre-Islamic past – Indus Valley civilization, Aryan, Hindu, Buddhist, Persian, Scythian and Greek – is also relevant for understanding the historical and cultural heritage of Pakistan. From the Pre-Islamic period in Pakistan’s history to the Pakistan Movement, the first half of the book incisively and concisely comprises such chapters as Islamic rule over India till the Mughals, Mughal dynasty (1526-1707) impact of Muslim rule over India, decline of the Mughal empire (1707-1857), rise of the British (1757-1857), 1857 mutiny, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, political developments in India (1885-1922) and the Hindu-Muslim divide (1922-1940). From the Independence and early days of Pakistan, the book moves on with Political and Constitutional developments (1947-1958), Field Marshal Ayub Khan: the first military takeover (1958-1969), including the 1965 India-Pakistan war, General Yahya Khan: the second military takeover (1969-1971), including 1971 India-Pakistan war, the Bhutto years (1971-1977), General Zia-ul-Haq: the third military takeover (1977-1988), return of civilian rule (1988-1999), General Pervez Musharraf: the fourth military takeover (1999-2008), Pakistan since 2008 and Pakistan's foreign policy examined in all is different forms and manifestations.

The highlight of the very introduction of the book suggests Pakistan's history can't be separated from the history of Muslims of the rest of South Asia. For about a thousand years, Muslims help political power in much of India (or Hindustan, as it was called). The 1100s-long Islamic period has profoundly influenced the thinking and attitudes of the Pakistani people. Today’s Pakistan is a continuation of that Muslim past: and its political landscape since independence has been heavily influenced by that legacy. The a the same time, an awareness of the region’s pre-Islamic past – Indus Valley civilization, Aryan, Hindu, Buddhist, Persian, Scythian and Greek – is also relevant for understanding the historical and cultural heritage of Pakistan. From the Pre-Islamic period in Pakistan’s history to the Pakistan Movement, the first half of the book incisively and concisely comprises such chapters as Islamic rule over India till the Mughals, Mughal dynasty (1526-1707) impact of Muslim rule over India, decline of the Mughal empire (1707-1857), rise of the British (1757-1857), 1857 mutiny, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, political developments in India (1885-1922) and the Hindu-Muslim divide (1922-1940). From the Independence and early days of Pakistan, the book moves on with Political and Constitutional developments (1947-1958), Field Marshal Ayub Khan: the first military takeover (1958-1969), including the 1965 India-Pakistan war, General Yahya Khan: the second military takeover (1969-1971), including 1971 India-Pakistan war, the Bhutto years (1971-1977), General Zia-ul-Haq: the third military takeover (1977-1988), return of civilian rule (1988-1999), General Pervez Musharraf: the fourth military takeover (1999-2008), Pakistan since 2008 and Pakistan's foreign policy examined in all is different forms and manifestations.