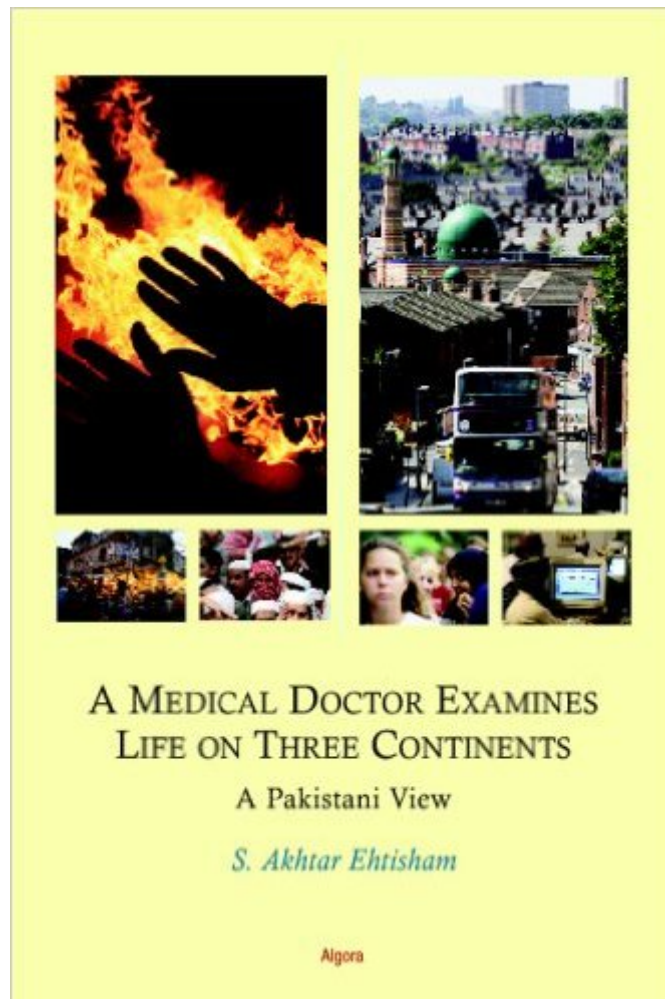


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# A Medical Doctor Examines Life On Three Continents, A Pakistani View



## Synopsis

This sweeping narrative sketches the political and economic realities of the past fifty years while tracing an eventful life from the turmoil following the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan to the present day. Discussing politics, government policies, and popular movements, Dr. Ehtisham shows how nations as well as individual lives are shaped by historical events, economic changes, religious fundamentalism, class systems and racial divides. Through his own experience as a doctor and hospital director, he compares the advanced social safety net state of the post-war UK with regimes that are determined to see people "stand on their own two feet" even when the economic system has already cut them off at the knees.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book "A Medical Doctor examines Life on Three Continents", describes the experiences of an unusual life of a person, who goes from a small town in North India where the remnants of Moghal culture were still the norm, to the cantonment town in Quetta, which is overlaid with spit and polish mode of British army life in the midst of a tribal society. He dwells on the friendly relations between Hindus and Muslims in his native village, on how followers of both creeds participated in each other's festivities and respected both belief systems. Both communities venerate the local saint, and visit the tomb in equal numbers. He perhaps, idealizes a bit, otherwise the country would not have been partitioned. The time he spent in the University of Karachi and Dow Medical College in the same city, most of which it would seem, was devoted to political activism, would make a student in Western countries wonder how they allowed it, or envious, depending upon individual disposition. Dr

Ehtisham comes across as a man of many parts and manifold experience. He was a political activist and nearly lost his career in the process. After obtaining a medical degree and initial surgical training in Pakistan, he went to the UK, and pursued higher surgical training and specialist qualifications, but continued to observe social life, especially the health care aspect of it. He went on to Canada, the USA, and during the period, spent eight years in Pakistan, to build a hospital and resume 'activism'-this time anti-nuclear and clan organization. Back in the USA, he seems to have veered to Human rights work, Peace groups and writing.

Book Review: A splash of civilizations By Dr. Mohammad Taqi Dr. Ehtisham's chronicle of the events he witnessed and became part of, in his life lived on three continents, is not a roller-coaster ride. It is however, a fast-paced train journey that takes the reader from the villages of northern India, all the way to upstate New York. The peek out of the window on to Ehtisham's canvas, arouses a curiosity to read and discover more about the tumultuous and epoch-making happenings narrated by this orthopedic surgeon who is not shy to hide the indelible Marxist imprint, received in his formative years in Karachi, from reflecting in his approach to issues such as the collapse of housing market in the USA. The police retaliated by opening fire on a group of students in front of Paradise Cinema in Saddar. Twenty-six students were killed. Nainsuk Lal, a boy-scout helping an injured striker, was the first fatal casualty. Several flags got soaked in blood. The public joined in the protest. The city was paralyzed and life came to a halt. All leaders of the opposition, trade unions and student groups condemned the police brutality ..... Writes Ehtisham in his account of the early days of the student movement in what was then the West-Pakistan. The venue was Karachi, the capital of Pakistan, and the protests were organized by the two year old Democratic Students Federation (DSF). Chapter 8 of the book highlights, and indeed dedicates the whole work to, the students' movement in Pakistan. Ehtisham himself was intimately involved in founding and organization of another earliest politically aware students' outfit in Pakistan National Students Federation (NSF) .

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