

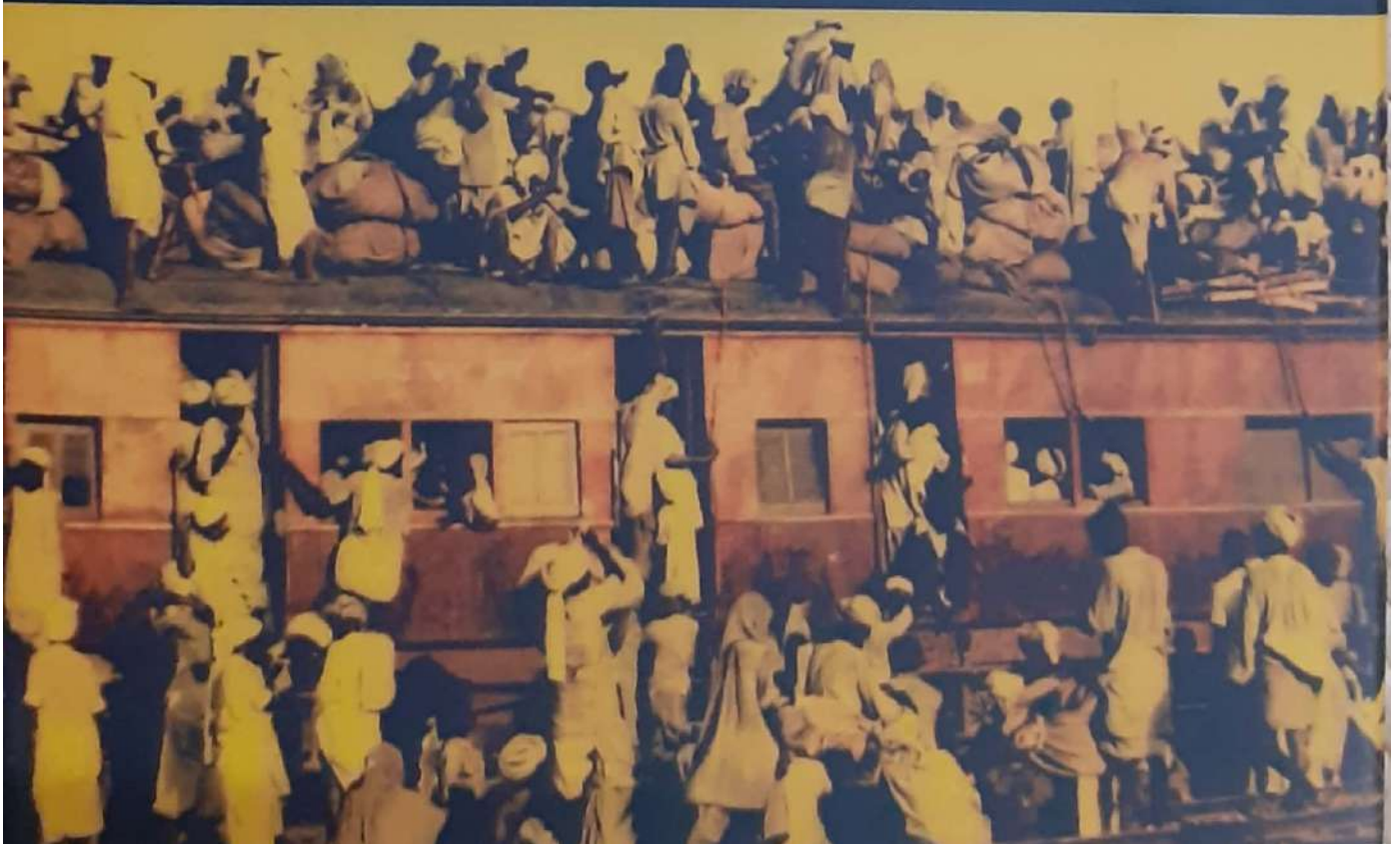
*Edited by*  
Sharmistha Chatterjee (Sriwastav)  
Himadri Lahiri

*Foreword by Manan Kumar Mandal*



# Revisiting Partition and Bangladesh Liberation War

Contemporary Perspectives



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Centre for Language, Translation & Cultural Studies  
School of Humanities  
Netaji Subhas Open University



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## **: Message :**

I am extremely happy to note that the first publication is coming up of a centre created under the School of Humanities of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU). Since 2017, the “Centre for Language, Translation & Cultural Studies” (CLTCS) has developed a praxis of collaborative research in the field of humanities which is marked by enthusiasm. The centre has taken up an optimistic project of creating a digital repository on Bengal Partition by collecting memories from the people using the huge network of study centres that this Open University has. Seminars, workshops and field studies are being organised regularly to exchange ideas and details of research to be carried out within the public domain of discussion. This title has emerged from one of the seminars organised in January 2018 as a sequel to the project activity on Bengal Partition. The blend of senior academicians and young scholars have made the title praiseworthy.

It is great pleasure for me to mention that the CLTCS has successfully completed a collaborative research project with Khulna University and going to move further with Bangladesh Open University. I extend my thanks to the editor(s) of this title and to Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal, the coordinator, CLTCS. I also congratulate Akhand Publishing House, New Delhi for having come forth to share this effort with us. This publication is a mark of appreciation to the effort that CLTCS and the publishers have jointly made it possible.

I wish all success to the publication.

**Vice Chancellor**  
Netaji Subhas Open University

(xvi)

sincere effort to bring this well shaped volume timely. Further I must appreciate the initiative taken by Akhand Publishing House, Delhi for getting the book done finally. Hope the book will add some attention to the enthusiasm seen in recent times on the issue of Partition of this subcontinent.

**Manan Kumar Mandal**

Professor in Bengali & Director  
School of Humanities, NSOU

15 May, 2019

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## Introduction

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The Partition of the Indian sub-continent has been a 'live' and protracted issue for discussion and deliberation for various reasons. Even though the division of India was accomplished in 1947, about seventy years ago, the issue has never ceased to be debated upon. Traces of the trauma of bloodshed, displacement, re-settlement continue even today and are realized through individual memory, memoir writing, archiving and by other means. Official records do exist, but the very range and scope of such attempts fail to capture the realities and often aberrations of individual and singular experiences of this holocaust. Imposing as they are, attempting to faithfully represent facts and losses in statistical terms, the scripting of the breaking and making of the nation/s remains a quantitative affair. Sadly, the qualitative dimension of the trauma remains unmapped in the politics of achieving neutrality in these official documents. Notwithstanding the state attempts to homogenize experiences, the disruptions in individual and community lives continue to impact upon the politics of everyday life as well as that of nations. The temporal distance from the grotesque 'spectacle,' adds new insights and dimensions to the ever-continuing discourses on the politics and sociology of ethnic, religious, community and nation formation and their sustenance. The genre of Partition Studies receives boost from another source – the Civil War in Pakistan leading to the birth of Bangladesh suggests that the process of 'partition' and new nation making was never