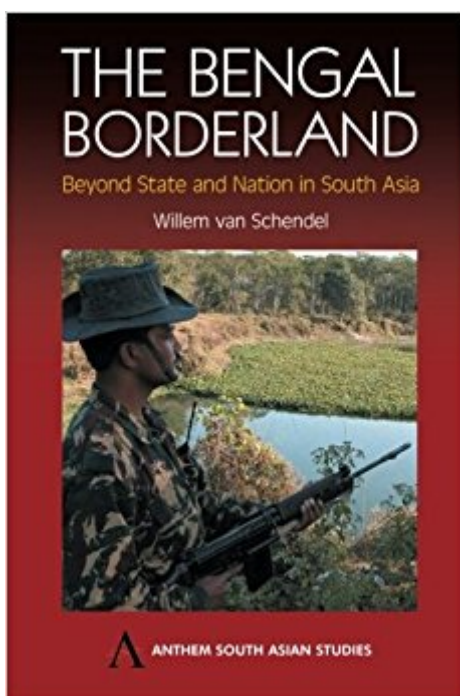


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The Bengal Borderland: Beyond State And Nation In South Asia (Anthem South Asian Studies)



Synopsis

'The Bengal Borderland' constitutes the epicentre of the partition of British India. Yet while the forging of international borders between India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma (the 'Bengal Borderland') has been a core theme in Partition studies, these crucial borderlands have, remarkably, been largely ignored by historians.

Book Information

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'In this comprehensive study, Van Schendel looks at cross-border linkages, interterritorial economies, the culture of the borderlanders, the policies of the respective states, and goods. A must-read for those interested in understanding South Asian politics.'

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'Drawing extensively on the borderlanders' own voices and experiences, and with many photographs, it paints a wonderfully rich and evocative portrait of more than half a century of Bengal borderlife. The author has added a border study of enormous significance, and one of which border scholars everywhere should sit up and take note.'

•Hastings Donnan, School of History and Anthropology, Queen's University Belfast

The author has presented an unbiased view on the Bengal Borderland issues and sincerely tried to list a few possible solutions to those. The best thing about the book is that it presents a lot of data

from various different resources. In general, these data are very difficult to gather independently, since both Indian and Bangladesh resources are a bit biased on whatever they write on. The author covered all contentious issues in a scholarly manner and from a humanitarian point of view, leaving little doubt on his neutrality. One example of his work is found when he covers the border guards and related issue. The media in India and Bangladesh try to be soft on their part of border guards. But the author, using dependable sources, covered issues such as border fight, robbery, land disputes, illegal arms and drugs traffic. To me, the only downside of this book is that the author is not always familiar with local mindset, nor is he well-informed about local politics of either of India or Bangladesh. So, some of the analysis put out-of-proportion on some of the events which I would have had ignored otherwise. Overall, the book is a good read for people who analyze South Asia and its borders. People who are interested in an unbiased view of India-Bangladesh relation and the dynamics of the same, will also find it worth reading.

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