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THE BENGAL BORDERLAND

BEYOND STATE AND NATION IN SOUTH ASIA

Willem van Schendel
CONTENTS

Figures, Plates, Tables vi
Abbreviations ix
Acknowledgements x
1 Studying Borderlands 1
2 Partition Studies 24
3 Radcliffe's Fateful Line 39
4 A Patchwork Border 53
5 Securing the Territory 87
6 Defiance and Accommodation 118
7 The Flow of Goods 147
8 Narratives of Border Crossing 191
9 Migrants, Fences and Deportation 210
10 Rebels and Bandits 256
11 'Rifle Raj' and the Killer Border 296
12 Nation and Borderland 332
13 Conclusion: Beyond State and Nation 363

Appendix 398
References 400
Index 419
FIGURES

2.1 One into Four – State fragmentation in Southern Asia
3.1 Bengal in 1947
3.2 The Radcliffe line through Bengal
3.3 The Partition border
3.4 The 201 parts of partitioned Bengal
3.5 Majority populations on either side of the Bengal border
4.1 Component parts of the Bengal border
4.2 Border disputes mentioned in this chapter
7.1 Some borderland trade flows, about 2003
10.1 Location of some borderland rebellions

Appendix 1 The Partition border and adjacent districts
Appendix 2 New administrative units in the borderland, 1947-2003

PLATES

4.1 After the political earthquake
4.2 An Indian motor boat on the Karnaphuli
4.3 A guard of honour stands next to the flag-covered coffins
4.4 Bangladeshi border guards training their gun at India
5.1 Cross-border nationalism: ‘We Want Kamata Land…!’
5.2 States controlling their borders
6.1 Opening paragraphs of the first issue
6.2 Ziratia tenants drew up a petition
6.3 Visitors entering Rangamati
6.4 Market day at Bandarban
7.1 Railway tracks coming to an end at the border
7.2 After a break of 36 years
7.3 Sanctioned trade
7.4 The border crossing between Tamabil and Dawki
7.5 Indian coal trucks waiting for clearance to enter Bangladesh
7.6 Travellers in no man’s land
7.7 Unloading a Bhutanese truck
7.8 Burmese trader visiting the border town of Teknaf
7.9 Swapping
7.10 A winter morning
7.11 Burmese mule caravan in Mizoram
7.12 Bangladesh border guard at Hili railway station
8.1 Government signboard on a tree in Chawngtwe/Kamalanagar
8.2 Muslim refugees waiting at the border railway station
8.3 Cartoon from Shankar’s Weekly
8.4 Map from a book entitled Assam’s Agony.
8.5 ‘If the eviction of Bengalis from Assam does not stop’
8.6 Informal border crossing
8.7 Indian border villager being frisked by Indian border guards
8.8 Locked-out Indian cultivators and their cow waiting
8.9 Triple Indian border fence
8.10 Posed photograph from an Indian newspaper
8.11 Cartoon by Champak Barbora
8.12 &
8.13 Border guards barring stranded deportees from entering
8.14 Indian police arresting 50 ‘suspected Bangladeshis’
8.15 A borderland rebel: Charu Mazumdar
8.16 &
8.17 Mizo guerrillas retreating from the Sajek hills
8.18 Saluting another nation
8.19 President Yahya Khan of Pakistan is seen shooting across the border
8.20 A borderlander ferries Bangladeshi freedom fighters
8.21 Indian troops ensconced in the border town of Hili
8.22 Members of the Shanti Bahini, a guerrilla army
8.23 Inhabitants of the Chittagong Hill Tracts
8.24 The borderland under military rule
8.25 Bangladesh Rifles patrolling Lake Kaptai
8.26 Patrolling a closed border
8.27 An armed Bangladeshi guarding the closed border
8.28 Indian truck drivers having lunch at the border
8.29 The wife of Mohammad Yusuf wails over her husband’s body
8.30 Stone collector and his workplace
8.31 Bangladeshis collecting boulders and sand
8.32 Village woman and patrolling Indian border guard
8.33 A Bangladeshi border guard with two blindfolded Indian guards
8.34 Indian border guards, helped by villagers, are loading
8.35 Bangladeshi borderlanders wounded
8.36 Pillar marking the border
8.37 This buoy in the mouth of the river Naf
8.38 A flag meeting
8.39 A member of the Bangladesh Rifles
8.40 Pakistani tank in the border town of Cooch Behar
8.41 Statue of anticolonial hero Khudiram Bose
8.42 The Central Monument to the Martyrs
8.43 ‘Place of Pilgrimage for Independence’
8.44 Quashed borderland market
8.45 A national event in the borderland: Pakistan’s Liberation Day
8.46 Borderlanders dressed up
12.12 A cross-border birth
12.13 Borderlanders expelled from the nation
12.14 Body codes of the nation
12.15 The flag of independent Bangladesh being raised
12.16 The flag of independent Bangladesh covers the corpse
12.17 Outline of the national territory
12.18 Signpost at Banglabandha (Tetulia)
12.19 ‘Today’s National Weather’
12.20 Installing the Provisional Government of Bangladesh
12.21 &
12.22 The mausoleum at Mujibnagar

TABLES

3.1 Hindu, Muslim and other populations on the Bengal border
4.1 Demarcation of the Bengal border, 1947-2003
11.1 Persons killed, wounded and abducted
### ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BDR</td>
<td>Bangladesh Rifles; the border guards of Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>Bharatiya Janata Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOP</td>
<td>Border outpost, usually manned by 20 to 25 border guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSF</td>
<td>Border Security Force, the border guards of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHT</td>
<td>Chittagong Hill Tracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CID</td>
<td>Central Intelligence Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPI(M)</td>
<td>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB</td>
<td>East Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBR</td>
<td>East Bengal Regiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP</td>
<td>East Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPR</td>
<td>East Pakistan Rifles, the border guards of East Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMDT</td>
<td>Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act of 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISI</td>
<td>Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan’s foreign intelligence agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasaka</td>
<td>Border Administration Force of Burma/Myanmar (also spelled Na Sa Ka)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIF</td>
<td>Prevention of Infiltration Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re., Rs.</td>
<td>Rupee, Rupees (the currencies of India and Pakistan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAARC</td>
<td>South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tk.</td>
<td>Taka (the currency of Bangladesh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHP</td>
<td>Vishwa Hindu Parishad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>West Pakistan</td>
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### NOTE

The modern history of the region explored in this book has been turbulent. The region has been named and renamed, and as a result there is a confusing multiplicity of geographical and political designations. The following explanation may help some readers.

**East Bengal, East Pakistan** and **Bangladesh** refer to the same territory, now the independent state of Bangladesh. In 1947 the region of Bengal was divided and its eastern part joined the new state of Pakistan. In 1971 it broke away from Pakistan and formed the independent state of Bangladesh.

**India, Hindustan and Bharat** refer to the same state, India.

**Burma and Myanmar** refer to the same state, currently known as Myanmar in official parlance.

**Assam**, a state (province) of India, gradually broke into several smaller states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland (See Appendix Figure 2).

The official spelling of many towns and districts has varied during the period under review, for example **Dacca/Dhaka, Calcutta/Kolkata, Gauhati/Guwahati**. For current spellings of district names, see **Appendix Figure 1**.
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