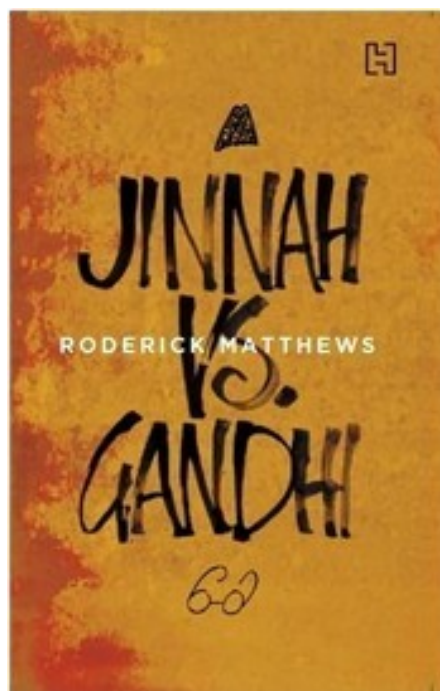




Jinnah vs. Gandhi

Roderick Matthews

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Jinnah vs. Gandhi Roderick Matthews

The modern history of South Asia is shaped by the personalities of its two most prominent politicians and ideologues – Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi.

Jinnah shaped the final settlement by consistently demanding Pakistan, and Gandhi defined the largely non-violent nature of the campaign. Each made their contribution by taking over and refashioning a national political party, which they came to personify. Theirs would seem, therefore, to be a story of success, yet for each of them, the story ended in a kind of failure.

How did two educated barristers who saw themselves as heralds of a newly independent country come to find themselves on opposite ends of the political spectrum? How did Jinnah, who started out a secular liberal, end up a Muslim nationalist? How did a God-fearing moralist and social reformer like Gandhi become a national political leader? And how did their fundamental divergences lead to the birth of two new countries that have shaped the political history of the subcontinent?

This book skilfully chronicles the incredible similarities and ultimate differences between the two leaders, as their admirers and detractors would have it and as they actually were.

Jinnah vs. Gandhi Details

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From Reader Review Jinnah vs. Gandhi for online ebook

Chakravarthy says

A fantastic analytical piece. Roderick Matthews lays out facts and argues like, may I daresay like Jinnah himself would have. The book demystifies the 2 most prominent characters of the sub-continent. A must read for any history student of the Indian sub-continent's freedom movement.

Ali Abdullah bajwa says

An extremely disappointing read, the writers opinions are highly skewed and ooze throughout the text and to top it all off he gets some facts wrong too. I honestly don't want to waste any more time going into details.

Sumit Singla says

This has to be the most ill-researched and poorly written book on Indian History that I have ever come across.

The author's premises are absurd, and his conclusions on the motives of Jinnah and Gandhi are preposterous. It makes no sense whatsoever to judge people by their writing styles alone, and no objective/anecdotal data.

I strongly suggest giving this book the miss and saving your time and money.

Babar says

Have to start reading.

Nadeem Akhtar says

Gives insight of both the individuals but capturing two lives in these many pages restricts so many incidents .

Bharani Krishnan says

Was good... Considering my not so good knowledge of History this book was an eye opener reg the traits of Gandhi and Jinnah...Though I felt this was slightly biased towards Gandhi vis-a-vis Jinnah ...

Aisha Sarwari says

Probably the most ill informed book yet

Anoop Chatterjee says

I have just two words for this book...LOOPS and DRAG!! End of review.

Chetna says

A very well researched and thought out book. Not only is it informative, like any book on history would be, but it makes you question both the leaders and their intentions. It investigates them at par and if Gandhi comes out to be better, it's only because he was fighting for a bigger cause which is universally accepted. Matthews' well researched book mentions why and where some other prominent books on these leaders folly, it makes you realise why this was the best one to pick. Impartial, rational, considerate and enlightening. It is all. You end up questioning your previously held notions about these leaders justly and definitely understand them much better by the end.

"Fate was kind to the Mahatma. He never achieved his dream, and so, unlike Jinnah's, it has remained unsullied by failure."

This book is filled with Roderick Matthews' brilliance.

Hamid Rizvi says

I am puzzled where this author is getting his mis-information? Partition was never about Gandhi and Jinnah it certainly was never about Gandhi Vs. Jinnah. To begin with it was a bad idea that was horribly implemented by an incompetent viceroy in cahoots with Nehru. Even when Jinnah was informed that the demand for a separate nation was accepted he and the majority of the Muslim leaguers were surprised. Gandhi was a social reformer and a British loyalist but one who was astute enough to recognize that non violence would be the best weapon against a militant empire. The idea of non-violence and the Sathyagraha was not original and one he borrowed from amongst many people Tolstoy. Jinnah was one on whom leadership was thrust upon and bungled his way through a fait accompli the real architects were the bankrupt empire, a vengeful Churchill, the incompetent viceroy Mountbatten, his wife and wily Nehru her bed warmer.

Afshan says

The author gives his conclusion and his stand on the Gandhi vs Jinnah debate on the very first page making further reading futile and burdensome. He pleads that Gandhi left a lot about his life in his writings while Jinnah was a closeted man who rarely shared his personal life. At one point this plea becomes boring and tiresome. Moreover writing about two public figures basing oneself on their own writings is refracted and subjective. As the author clarifies his position on the debate in the beginning one may skip the book and go for any history textbook for facts.

Rohan Nahar says

A very good and well-coded book. The book is well researched and speaks volumes about how ill-informed we are when we think and label Jinnah/Gandhi for the partition. Its, after reading this book, that I feel our partition was more about what was gauged by Jinnah would be the plight of fellow Muslims in an Hindu India. The power struggle is evident with the distinction in their respective ideals/ideologies. A very crude approach would be to label Gandhi/Nehru to be ignorant of Jinnah's aspirations and potential as a true leader for Muslims in Pre-independent India. An overall good read. I feel every person who reads it will have a different opinion on Partition. Must read for every Indian and ironically its written by a Brit whose grand-mom served with Gandhi, wow!!

Vivek says

A well researched chronological sequence of events is what I'd sum this book as. A lot of facts thrown all over and the reader is expected to connect the dots. The author does play it safe by not sharing too many opinions or adding color over the facts to the different styles that these two men followed to the path of Independence. Was a tough read.

Divakar says

All of us in India have been brought up on the belief that Gandhi was The Mahatma...and Jinnah... the cigarette smoking, whisky drinking evil lawyer who split India...well, the Villain...made more famous to us by Attenborough's epic movie GANDHI where Alyque Padamsee essayed it like a sophisticated version of Ajit's / K N Singh's roles in countless Bollywood movies. Unfortunately I have never come across a book on Jinnah ever...he did not spawn an industry like Gandhiji did. Any Indian books on the Independence or Gandhiji..Mostly portrayed Jinnah in an extremely unfavorable light.. Roderick Mathews, based in UK is a freelance historian who specializes on Indian history. He recreates Indian independence history for us and takes us thru the role of Jinnah and Gandhiji in it...dispassionately written without the usual hagiography associated with books on Gandhiji.

Very well written...also gives us a refresher on the Indian independence story... At the end of the book, we still end up falling in love with Gandhiji (at a rational level as a saintly philosopher and freedom fighter with his own failings and not as Mr. Perfect) and his idiosyncrasies...and continue to regard him as the Mahatma....and poor Jinnah...we become a little more sympathetic...as we try to understand his motives and mechanisms. He had his own beliefs and agenda and was not such a vile character as India makes him out to be. Possibly if we had good relations with Pakistan, Jinnah would not be seen as the nasty guy he is made out to be.

An interesting point that the author drives is that a large part of Gandhiji's greatness hinged on the superb and also diverse followers that he had (Nehru, Sardar Patel, Azad et al) whom he held together and who could continue his mission of building an united India...and it is here that Jinnah comes across poorly...no great followers...Well, this also sums up why we have Gandhian thought, Gandhigiri, Gandhism today which is understood and respected universally and no Jinnaism!

Eswar says

<http://tokyotitan.com/jinnah-vs-gandh...>
