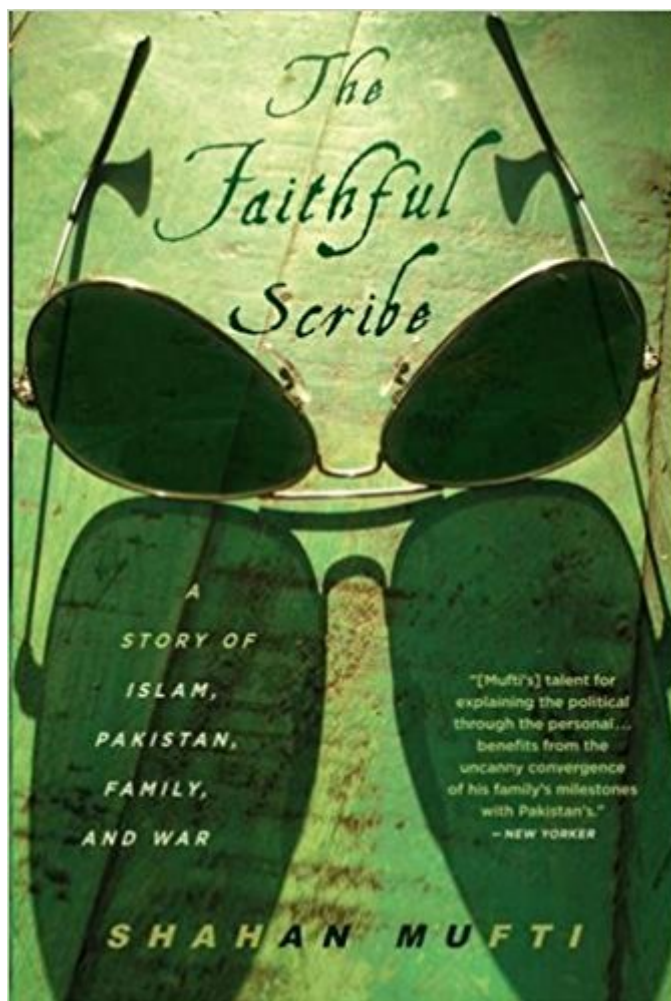


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# The Faithful Scribe: A Story Of Islam, Pakistan, Family And War



## Synopsis

A journalist explores his family's history to reveal the hybrid cultural and political landscape of Pakistan, the world's first Islamic democracy. Shahan Mufti's family history, which he can trace back fourteen hundred years to the inner circle of the prophet Muhammad, offers an enlightened perspective on the mystifying history of Pakistan. Mufti uses the stories of his ancestors, many of whom served as judges and jurists in Muslim sharia courts of South Asia for many centuries, to reveal the deepest roots—real and imagined—of Islamic civilization in Pakistan. More than a personal history, *The Faithful Scribe* captures the larger story of the world's first Islamic democracy, and explains how the state that once promised to bridge Islam and the West is now threatening to crumble under historical and political pressure, and why Pakistan's destiny matters to us all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Journalist Mufti, incorporates the stories of his family and ancestors into a larger history of Pakistan and its post-9/11 political turmoil. He begins on the eve of his parents' wedding in 1971, which coincides with the day India intervened in Pakistan's civil war. This story is followed by discussions of clashes between supporters of Socialist Zulfikar Bhutto and the devout Jamaat-e-Islami party, whose followers incited violence at Punjab University where Mufti's father was a professor. The author discusses the complicated relationship between Pakistan and America, focusing on the Cold War and the Reagan administration's funding of the guerrilla mujahideen, as well as the more recent wave of attacks ordered by President Obama. Moving toward the personal, Mufti describes his

family's alienation and harassment while briefly living in Ohio at a time rife with anti-Muslim sentiment and memories of acclimating when they moved back to Pakistan. He recalls living in Pakistan during the deadly protest at the Red Mosque and the hotel bombing that was an attempted assassination of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's first female prime minister. Mufti takes readers on a tour of Lahore, his parents' hometown, Sodhra, the town where his grandfather was born, and Islamabad, the nation's capital, sharing his remarkable family tree, which includes an ancestor who was a close adviser to the prophet Muhammad. This astonishingly detailed, well-researched history is brought to life by the addition of Mufti's personal story' and journalistic acumen. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

""The Faithful Scribe" is an impassioned and insightful look into the heart of a troubled but vital country. This is a history of Pakistan from the pen of a keen observer, whose own story represents Pakistan's past and whose vision reflects its hope for the future." --Vali Nasr, "New York Times" bestselling author of "The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat"

Shahan Mufti's lyrical style blended his family history with the history of Pakistan with ease and clarity. I learnt much about the origin of this Islamic democracy and the problems it has faced since its inception. Too often we think of Pakistan and Islam but not of its short history and its struggle to become a democracy . The complicated internal politics of Pakistan and its equally complicated relationship with the U.S. unraveled with seemingly effortless ease. His unbiased analysis combined with the family history lovingly woven into the history and politics gave me much needed background into an area hitherto totally unknown to me. It is a book to reread and savor.

That is also a fast read. Mufti links the personal story of his family with historical and political events of the centuries that influence us all. I learned so much from this riveting, beautifully written memoir and political history!K. Zerbe, MD

Really impressed with the writing style, and how the history is simply explained...and in an entertaining fashion that isn't boring, but illuminating.

Writing in the context of his family's history in Pakistan, Mr. Mufti tells a great and understandable story. I'm beginning to really get a picture of all the hopes for that new country and an insight into governing in a modern age.

There is beauty, there is continuity in family line of work, there is injustice and justice. There is more beauty. There are mysteries to be solved. There are puzzles. There are surprises. Read it.

This is a great story and a great book. You can really feel yourself walking back into history and you will come away with a new view of Pakistan. Not all roses but also not all violence.

This is a wonderful book - a good history of Pakistan told within a family history - both very interesting, told with honesty, love and respect. I highly recommend reading this book!

The Faithful Scribe brings together an autobiography, a deeply engaging family history, and a national political overview. Each theme energizes the others. Shahan Mufti makes a compelling case early on: America's future is bound up with Pakistan's, and those ties will not be shaken loose. This is not a shrill book, it's a warm one. But just the same it gives us a clear look at the rotting oligarchy that runs things in Pakistan; the gang of fundamentalist thugs that wants to take over; and the fickle American policies that fail to improve the odds of success for our own interests. The nuclear threat looms behind all, but is not overplayed. The author, a colleague, has pulled high-voltage story-telling out of what, in other hands, would have been numbingly complex.

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