The Cold War in South Asia provides the first comprehensive and transnational history of Anglo-American relations with South Asia during a seminal period in the history of the Indian subcontinent, between independence in the late 1940s, and the height of the Cold War in the late 1960s. Drawing upon significant new evidence from British, American, Indian and Eastern bloc archives, the book re-examines how and why the Cold War in South Asia evolved in the way that it did, at a time when the national leaderships, geopolitical outlooks and regional aspirations of India, Pakistan and their superpower suitors were in a state of considerable flux. The book probes the factors that encouraged the governments of Britain and the United States to work so closely together in South Asia during the two decades after independence, and suggests what benefits, if any, Anglo-American intervention in South Asia’s affairs delivered, and to whom.

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The Cold War in South Asia

Britain, the United States and the Indian Subcontinent 1945–1965

Paul M. McGarr
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Acknowledgements

This book is the product of a long-held fascination with contemporary South Asia and its interaction with the wider global community. Over the past decade, I have accumulated many debts in striving to better understand and explain the evolution of India and Pakistan’s role in the Cold War. Much of this work is based on primary research in archives on three different continents, and would have proved impossible to complete without the support of a host of individuals and institutions. Financial support has come from the British Arts and Humanities Research Council; the Mellon Fund; the History Department at Royal Holloway, University of London; the Department of American and Canadian Studies at the University of Nottingham; and the Rothermere American Institute at the University of Oxford. Numerous librarians and archivists in the United Kingdom, the United States and India have extended invaluable help with the identification of research materials. Without the generous support, wise counsel and unstinting encouragement of Professor Matthew Jones of the University of Nottingham, this project would not have seen the light of day. It was my extreme good fortune that as a doctoral candidate Matthew agreed to take me under his academic wing. A number of additional scholars have played an important part in bringing this book to fruition. At Royal Holloway, University of London, Tony Stockwell and Sarah Ansari acted as astute and incisive sounding boards on matters South Asian. Colleagues at the University of Hertfordshire, where I held a visiting research fellowship, offered sound advice and innumerable moments of good cheer. Likewise, at the University of Warwick, Richard Aldrich, Chris Moran and Simon Willmetts, with whom I had the privilege to work on the AHRC-sponsored research project Landscapes of Secrecy: The Central Intelligence Agency and the Contested Record of US Foreign Policy, 1947–2001, helped to make this a better book. The Department of American and Canadian Studies at the University of Nottingham is a wonderfully convivial place in which to work on the history of the United States’ foreign policymaking. At Nottingham, I have been privileged to receive
the support and encouragement of Graham Thompson, Celeste-Marie Bernier, Sharon Monteith and Judie Newman. Eric Pullin, at Carthage College, proved an invaluable intellectual collaborator.

Another significant debt is owed to the faculty and participants of the 2010 National History Centre International Seminar on Decolonization in Washington, DC. Under the guiding hand of Wm. Roger Louis, and his able assistants, Miriam Cunningham, Dane Kennedy, Philippa Levine, Pillarisetti Sudhir and the incomparable Jason Parker, I was able to develop and refine my understanding of the Cold War in the context of post-war decolonisation. Fellow seminarians, and most especially Rob Fletcher, Andrew Cohen, Gerard McCann, Greg Harper, Rachel Leow and Mathilde Von Bulow, helped to make the seminar a truly memorable experience. In 2007, an earlier excursion to Washington, on this occasion to take part in the George Washington University/University of Santa Barbara/London School of Economics International Graduate Student Seminar on the Cold War, proved equally important in the evolution of this study. In the United Kingdom, I benefited enormously from a research fellowship at the University of Oxford Rothermere American Institute (RAI) in the Michaelmas term of 2011. Under the guidance of the Institute’s Director, Nigel Bowles, the RAI provided an ideal forum in which to hone my research conclusions.

My greatest debt of gratitude remains to my family, who have endured the frequent bouts of distraction and prolonged absences associated with the completion of this study with exceptional good grace. My three young sons, Robert, William and Oliver, cheerfully came to accept, if not understand, their father’s preoccupation with South Asia, while my wife, Louise, helped to sustain the project with her unstinting support and encouragement. It is to Louise, with much love, that this book is dedicated.
Between August 1947, when Pakistan came into existence as an independent sovereign state, and 1958, the country’s national capital was the city of Karachi. Situated in the southern province of Sind, on the coast of the Arabian Sea, Karachi was then, and remains today, Pakistan’s largest city, principal port and major financial centre. In 1958, under the direction of Pakistan’s president, General (later Field Marshal) Mohammad Ayub Khan, the national capital was shifted from Karachi to the northern city of Rawalpindi, the headquarters of Pakistan’s armed forces. At the same time, Ayub Khan announced plans to construct a new and purpose-built seat of government at Islamabad, adjacent to Rawalpindi. Several factors lay behind Ayub Khan’s decision to relocate Pakistan’s capital. Chief amongst them was the desire to devolve some of the bureaucratic power and influence concentrated in Karachi. A more northerly capital was also considered to be easier to defend, more accessible from all corners of the country and to have the advantage of being closer to the military hierarchy in Rawalpindi, who exerted considerable sway over Pakistani politics. The official transition of Pakistan’s capital from Rawalpindi to Islamabad was completed on 14 August 1967, the twentieth anniversary of the country’s independence from British rule. In the narrative that follows, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Islamabad are all deployed as synonyms for the government of Pakistan during the periods in which they served as the nation’s capital.
Abbreviations

AID      Agency for International Development
CAB      Cabinet Papers
CCP      Chinese Communist Party
CDS      Chief of Defence Staff
CENTO   Central Treaty Organization
Chicom   Chinese Communist(s)
CIA      Central Intelligence Agency
CPI      Communist Party of India
CRO      Commonwealth Relations Office
DLF      Development Loan Fund
EEC      European Economic Community
FO       Foreign Office
FRUS     Foreign Relations of the United States
GNP      Gross national product
GOP      Government of Pakistan
HMG      Her Majesty’s Government
IAF      Indian Air Force
IB       Delhi Intelligence Bureau
IBRD     International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICA      International Cooperation Administration
JCS      Joint Chiefs of Staff
JFKL     John F. Kennedy Library
JIC      British Joint Intelligence Committee
LBJL     Lyndon Baines Johnson Library
LOC      Library of Congress
MAAG     Military Assistance Advisory Group
MAP      Military assistance programme
MEA      Ministry of External Affairs
MI5      British Security Service
MiG      Mikoyan i Gurevich (Soviet fighter aircraft)
MoD      Ministry of Defence
List of abbreviations

NARA      National Archives and Records Administration
NATO      North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEA       Bureau of Near Eastern, South Asian and African Affairs,
          Department of State
NEFA      North-East Frontier Agency
NMML      Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
NSAM      National Security Action Memoranda
NSC       National Security Council
PLA       People's Liberation Army
PLP       Parliamentary Labour Party
PRC       People's Republic of China
PREM      Prime Minister's Office files
RAF       Royal Air Force
RCAF      Royal Canadian Air Force
SAM       Surface-to-air missile
SEATO     South East Asia Treaty Organization
SLO       Security Liaison Officer
SOA       Office of South Asian Affairs, Department of State
UK        United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
TNA       United Kingdom National Archives
UN        United Nations
UNSC      United Nations Security Council
US        United States of America
USAF      United States Air Force
USIA      United States Information Agency
USIS      United States Information Service
USSR      Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Map 1 South Asia post-1947
Map 2 South Asian territorial disputes, 1947–65