The Defiant Border

*The Defiant Border* explores why the Afghan–Pakistan borderlands have remained largely independent of state controls from the colonial period into the twenty-first century. This book looks at local Pashtun tribes’ modes for evading first British colonial, then Pakistani governance; the ongoing border dispute between Pakistan and Afghanistan; and continuing interest in the region from Indian, U.S., British, and Soviet actors. It reveals active attempts by first British, then Pakistani agents to integrate the tribal region, ranging from development initiatives to violent suppression. *The Defiant Border* also considers the area’s influence on relations between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India, as well as its role in the United States’ increasingly global Cold War policies. Ultimately, this book considers how a region so peripheral to major centers of power has had such an impact on political choices throughout the eras of empire, decolonization, and superpower competition, up to the so-called War on Terror.

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The Afghan–Pakistan Borderlands in the Era of Decolonization, 1936–1965

ELISABETH LEAKE

University of Leeds
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Preface and Acknowledgments

I was introduced to Pakistan’s frontier tribal area as an undergraduate at Yale University, where hours spent reading *Kim*, watching *The Man Who Would Be King*, or debating more critical questions about imperial governance with Paul Kennedy sparked my interest in the region. Ever since, Paul has continued to show eager interest in the progress of a book that likely would not have emerged without those early discussions. At the University of Cambridge, Christopher Bayly generously and kindly guided me through my doctorate. Chris was the best of mentors, constantly providing wise advice, trips to the pub, and a wry sense of humor. He went to great lengths to help this book develop, even having an emergency cup of coffee in Washington, DC, during an eight-hour layover. I am particularly grateful for Chris’s encouragement to blur the boundaries between global and regional histories and not to submit to any particular classification. I am deeply saddened that Chris did not live to see this book’s publication, but I hope it can live up to his legacy.

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Abbreviations

CID: Committee of Imperial Defence
CRO: Commonwealth Relations Office
DDRS: Declassified Documents Reference System
EA: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
EPL: Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene, Kansas, United States
FO: Foreign Office, United Kingdom
FRUS: Foreign Relations of the United States
HMSO: Her Majesty's Stationary Office
IAF: Indian Air Force
IOR: India Office Records, British Library, London, United Kingdom
LBJL: Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas, United States
LC: Library of Congress, Washington, DC, United States
NAI: National Archives of India, New Delhi, India
NAP: National Awami Party
NARA: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland, United States
NDC: National Documentation Centre, Islamabad, Pakistan
NSC: National Security Council
NWFP: North-West Frontier Province
OCB: Operations Coordinating Board
OSAA: Office of South Asian Affairs
RAF: Royal Air Force
SOA: Office of South Asian Affairs
UKNA: The National Archives, Kew, United Kingdom
USGPO: U.S. Government Printing Office
i. South Asia, c. 1950
II. The North-West Frontier Province and Tribal Area, 1907 and 1972
III. Pashtuns of the Afghan-Pakistan Borderlands
iv. Pakistan in the Cold War