

## 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.

Elisabeth Leake is a Lecturer in International History at the University of Leeds. She previously held a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at Royal Holloway, University of London. She has published articles in *The Historical Journal*, *Modern Asian Studies*, and *The International History Review*. She is coeditor, alongside Leslie James, of *Decolonization and the Cold War: Negotiating Independence* (2015), and has coedited a special issue of *Contemporary South Asia* on South Asia’s “wider worlds.”

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# The Defiant Border

*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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I have been particularly blessed to have the Centre of South Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge as my intellectual home ever since moving to the United Kingdom. There, Barbara Roe, Kevin Greenbank, and Rachel Rowe have provided academic, technical, moral, and emotional support throughout this book's entire trajectory. Barb and another non-historian, Alison Knight, also helped me to retain some sense of broader perspective throughout the project. The Centre also provided a vibrant group of friends and colleagues, including Mark Condos, Derek Elliott, Simon Layton, Sunil Purushotham, and Faridah Zaman, who made writing this book much more enjoyable. Andrew Preston and Charlie Laderman welcomed my forays into the world of U.S. foreign relations, and their influence, as well as that of Leslie James, can be seen in this book's international angles. Paul Chamberlin and Lien-Hang Nguyen fostered this as well through their support for the project and by including it in their series. Debbie Gershenowitz and her assistants, Dana and Kris, at Cambridge University Press have ensured that this book has seen fruition.

This book could never have occurred without the love and support of my parents, Ray Leake and Julie Shimada. They were the first people to

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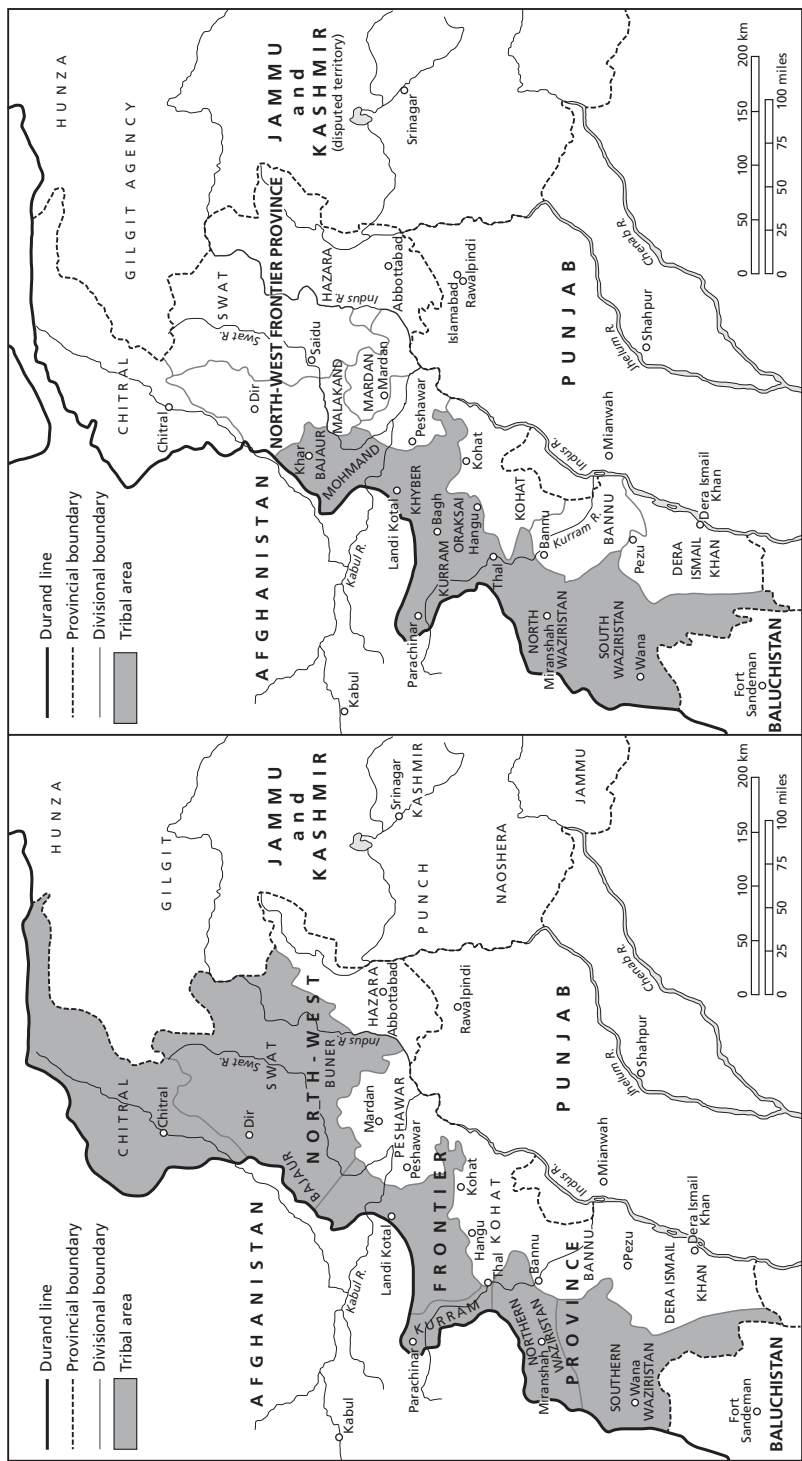
## Abbreviations

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

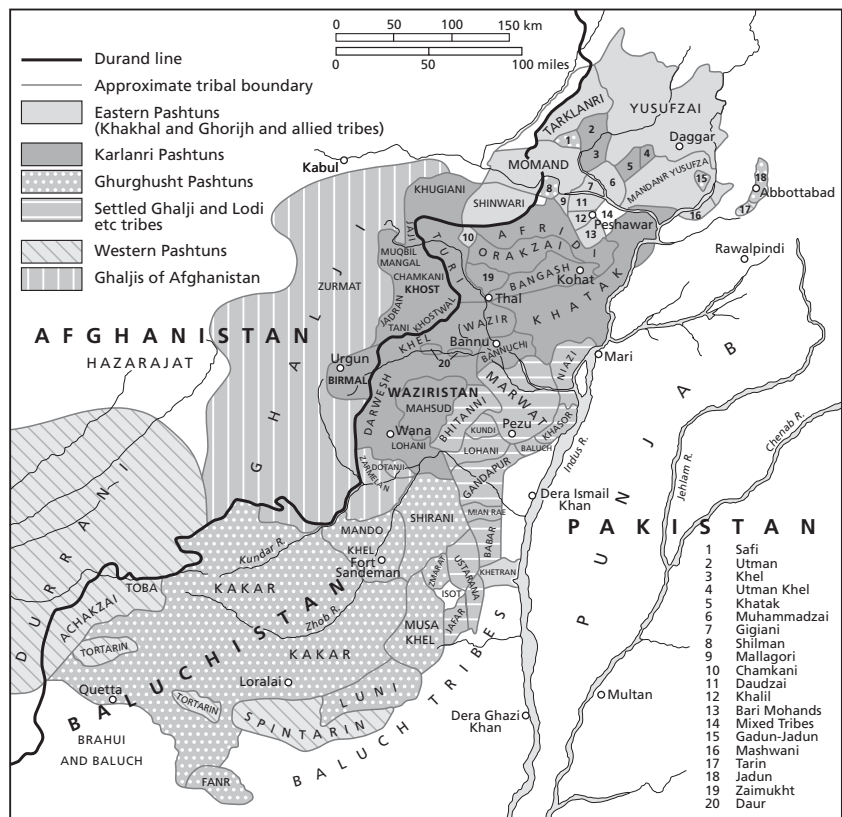
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1. South Asia, c. 1950



ii. The North-West Frontier Province and Tribal Area, 1907 and 1972



III. Pashtuns of the Afghan-Pakistan Borderlands

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iv. Pakistan in the Cold War