

Fatima Jinnah

Although fifty years have passed since the death of Fatima Jinnah – author, activist and stateswoman known in Pakistan as the “Mother of the Nation” – this is the first scholarly biography to tackle her life and works in full. Her background and contribution to Muslim nationalism under the British Raj, as well as her various efforts to consolidate the state, including a run for president in 1964, are told through previously untapped archival sources. Examining her life in the context of scholarship on South Asia and on women in Islam, Pirbhai assesses Fatima Jinnah’s role through the theoretical lens of the colonial “new woman.” This is essential reading for all those interested in modern South Asian and Islamic history, particularly the themes of gender and colonialism, the roots of Muslim nationalism and the early challenges facing the Pakistani state as revealed through the extraordinary lived experience of its most influential female activist.

M. REZA PIRBHAI has been an associate professor of history at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in Qatar since 2013. His research is focused on Modern South Asia and his writings on such topics as Islamic thought and institutions, Muslim and Hindu nationalism, British colonialism, and gender in regional focus have appeared in the *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Law*, *Journal of Asian History*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* and *Harwa*. He is also the author of the book titled *Reconsidering Islam in a South Asian Context* (2009).

Fatima Jinnah

Mother of the Nation

M. Reza Pirbhai

Georgetown University, Qatar



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-19276-8 – Fatima Jinnah
M. Reza Pirbhai
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107192768
DOI: 10.1017/9781108131728

© M. Reza Pirbhai 2017

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2017

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Pirbhai, M. Reza, author.

Title: Fatima Jinnah : Mother of the Nation / M. Reza Pirbhai (Georgetown University, Qatar).

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2017. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016057674 | ISBN 9781107192768 (hardback : alkaline paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Jinnah, Fatima, 1893-1967. | Women politicians–Pakistan–Biography. | Politicians–Pakistan–Biography. | Pakistan–Politics and government–20th century.

Classification: LCC DS385.J49 P57 2017 | DDC 954.9103/5092 [B] –dc23 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016057674>

ISBN 978-1-107-19276-8 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-19276-8 – Fatima Jinnah
M. Reza Pirbhai
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

For Reem and Ilyas

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page viii</i>
Introduction: Separating Fatima from Her Brother	1
1 A Tale of Three Cities (1893–1929)	21
2 Being Muslim, Becoming Pakistani (1929–1946)	57
3 The Hope and Hardship of Partition (1946–1948)	106
4 Dear Mother (1948–1958)	160
5 Democracy or Dictatorship (1958–1967)	209
Conclusion: Life and Legacy	256
<i>Selected Bibliography</i>	267
<i>Index</i>	274

Acknowledgments

The institutions and individuals who have contributed to this work are scattered across continents. I began researching this book thanks to a Manship Grant from Louisiana State University, while on the faculty at the Department of History. But research was largely completed and the work entirely written as a member of the faculty, benefitting from multiple grants, at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar. The aid of both institutions and the generosity of SFS-Q in particular has allowed me to travel, visit archives and consult colleagues far and wide, without which the book could not have been completed. As for colleagues closer to home, I must note Professors Amira Sonbol and Rogaia Abusharaf in particular – the first being a source of reassurance from the moment we met and the latter encouraging me to publish my early works on gender and nationalism. As well, Lucy Rhymer at Cambridge University Press has provided invaluable editorial comment, as have the peer reviewers who remain unknown to me, but whose contributions I recognize and appreciate well. No less a contribution has been made by my research assistants, Mariam Diefallah and Muhammad Abdullah, who are due many thanks. Muhammad's years of diligent and sometimes difficult work with me have in fact played no small part in bringing to life the story told. And finally, the most constant sources of support and inspiration in my life, my family (also dispersed here and there though never far from my thoughts), must be extended much gratitude, none more so than my wife and colleague, Professor Reem Meshal.