

Book Review

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Syed Wiqar Ali Shah (Kakakhel), *Pir Manki Sharif Sayed Aminu'l Hasanat Aur Unki Siasi Jidd-o-Juhd*, (Urdu) National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad, 1990, 184, Rs.70.00 (paperback)

The North West Frontier Province has a unique place in the history of the freedom movement. Tempered by incessant wars against the Sikhs during the first half of the nineteenth century, the Pakhtuns continued their struggle against the British successors throughout the later half of the same century. The wars of Totaki (1850) and Bahadur Khel (1852) bear ample testimony to the tough time given to the Imperial power. Almost sixty severe skirmishers occurred between the British army and the Pakhtun tribes during 1849-1901. It was in such a precarious setting that Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India (1899-1905) proposed the separation of Pakhtun region from the province of the Punjab. The formation of the new province of North-West Frontier was announced on 9 November 1901 but it formally came into existence on 12 April 1902. It is, however, an unfortunate episode of modern history that owing to its 'exceptional' situation the new province did not receive any benefit from the Reforms Acts of 1909 and 1919. Laws like the Frontier Crimes Regulation and the Ghazi Act were promulgated in the province which militated against all norms of human decency and basic human rights.

Oppressive rules invariably cause political awakening of the people. The twentieth century marked the inculcation of political awareness in the Province. Its first formal manifestation came in 1912 in the formation of

