

Thierry Di Costanzo's New Book

Reviewed by David Waterman

L'idée séparatiste dans la presse anglo-musulmane du Bengale: Le cas du Star of India, 1937-1947. Thierry Di Costanzo. Frankfurt: Peter Lang. Anglo-Amerikanische Studien / Anglo-American Studies, 2011. 293 pages. ISBN-13: 9783631613825.

Readers of *Pakistaniaat* who are competent in French will be interested in Thierry Di Costanzo's new book, *L'idée séparatiste dans la presse anglo-musulmane du Bengale: Le cas du Star of India, 1937-1947.* Thierry Di Costanzo is Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Strasbourg, France. His research focuses on colonial India, the history of former Anglophone colonies, the relation between nationalism and journalism, the autobiographies of politicians and the notion of "self-writing." Thierry has lived in Bangladesh, Algeria, the UK and New Zealand.

A brief resume of the book from the publisher is as follows: The *Star of India* is an English-language journal of colonial India. Between 1937, the date of colonial India's last Constitution, and Partition in August 1947, its readership – the Anglo-Muslim elite of eastern India – evolved toward an idea of separation along religious and territorial lines: the Pakistan project. The newspaper, however, only intermittently supported the idea of Pakistan, and numerous editors from western Bengal in particular, staunchly defended the idea of an Indian and Pakistani confederation. Indo-Muslim nationalism, then, became very fragile in the public sphere at the moment of independence(s).

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