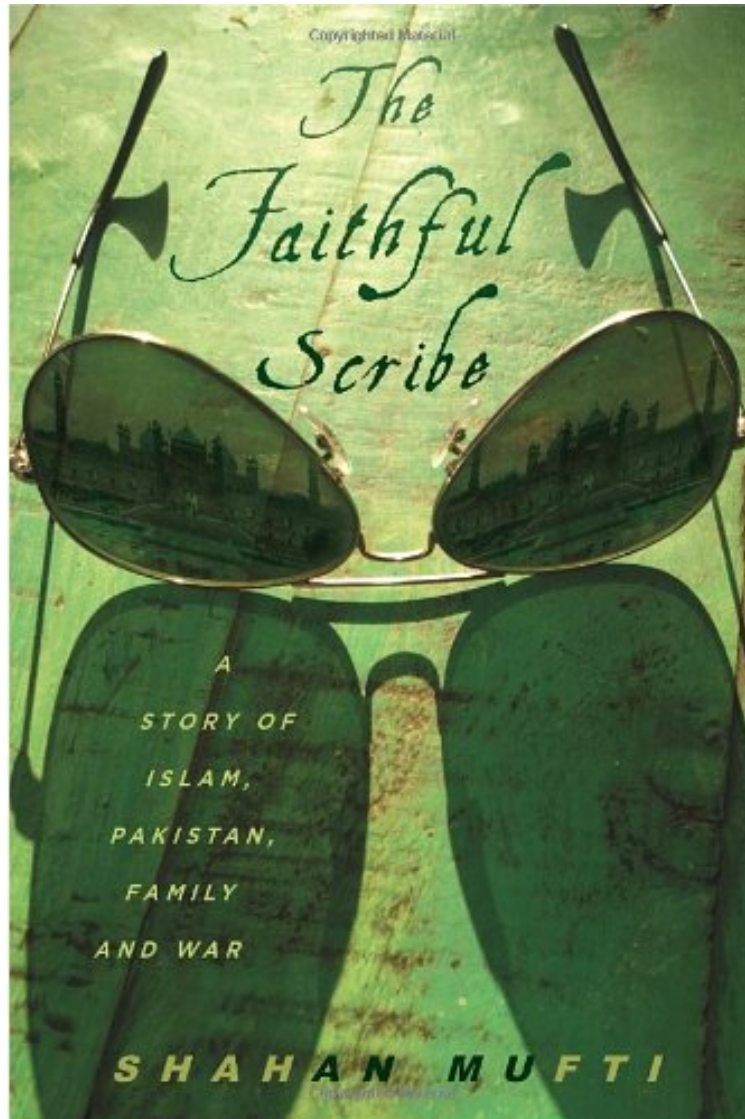


(Download) The Faithful Scribe: A Story of Islam, Pakistan, Family, and War

## The Faithful Scribe: A Story of Islam, Pakistan, Family, and War

Shahan Mufti

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**Shahan Mufti : The Faithful Scribe: A Story of Islam, Pakistan, Family, and War** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Faithful Scribe: A Story of Islam, Pakistan, Family, and War:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Insightful Lyrical Analysis By Iola P. Hanaoka Shahan Mufti's lyrical style blended his family history with the history of Pakistan with ease and clarity. I learnt much about the origin of this Islamic democracy and the problems it has faced since its inception. Too often we think of Pakistan and Islam but not of its short history and its struggle to become a democracy. The complicated internal politics of Pakistan and its

equally complicated relationship with the U.S. unraveled with seemingly effortless ease. His unbiased analysis combined with the family history lovingly woven into the history and politics gave me much needed background into an area hitherto totally unknown to me. It is a book to reread and savor. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. a deep and important book By Kathryn Zerbe, MD That is also a fast read. Mufti links the personal story of his family with historical and political events of the centuries that influence us all. I learned so much from this riveting, beautifully written memoir and political history! K. Zerbe, MD 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enlightening book...perfect for 2016 By Customer Really impressed with the writing style, and how the history is simply explained...and in an entertaining fashion that isn't boring, but illuminating.

A journalist explores his family's history to reveal the hybrid cultural and political landscape of Pakistan, the world's first Islamic democracy. Shahan Mufti's family history, which he can trace back fourteen hundred years to the inner circle of the prophet Muhammad, offers an enlightened perspective on the mystifying history of Pakistan. Mufti uses the stories of his ancestors, many of whom served as judges and jurists in Muslim sharia courts of South Asia for many centuries, to reveal the deepest roots of Islamic civilization in Pakistan. More than a personal history, *The Faithful Scribe* captures the larger story of the world's first Islamic democracy, and explains how the state that once promised to bridge Islam and the West is now threatening to crumble under historical and political pressure, and why Pakistan's destiny matters to us all.

From Publishers Weekly: Journalist Mufti, incorporates the stories of his family and ancestors into a larger history of Pakistan and its post-9/11 political turmoil. He begins on the eve of his parents' wedding in 1971, which coincides with the day India intervened in Pakistan's civil war. This story is followed by discussions of clashes between supporters of Socialist Zulfikar Bhutto and the devout Jamaat-e-Islami party, whose followers incited violence at Punjab University where Mufti's father was a professor. The author discusses the complicated relationship between Pakistan and America, focusing on the Cold War and the Reagan administration's funding of the guerrilla mujahideen, as well as the more recent wave of attacks ordered by President Obama. Moving toward the personal, Mufti describes his family's alienation and harassment while briefly living in Ohio at a time rife with anti-Muslim sentiment and memories of acclimating when they moved back to Pakistan. He recalls living in Pakistan during the deadly protest at the Red Mosque and the hotel bombing that was an attempted assassination of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's first female prime minister. Mufti takes readers on a tour of Lahore, his parents' hometown, Sodhra, the town where his grandfather was born, and Islamabad, the nation's capital, sharing his remarkable family tree, which includes an ancestor who was a close adviser to the prophet Muhammad. This astonishingly detailed, well-researched history is brought to life by the addition of Mufti's personal story and journalistic acumen. "The Faithful Scribe is an impassioned and insightful look into the heart of a troubled but vital country. This is a history of Pakistan from the pen of a keen observer, whose own story represents Pakistan's past and whose vision reflects its hope for the future." Vali Nasr, New York Times bestselling author of *The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat* "In *The Faithful Scribe*, Shahan Mufti, who calls himself '100 percent American and 100 percent Pakistani,' sets out to explain the country's present-day turbulence through the prism of its history. Mr. Mufti deserves credit for framing Pakistan's story in terms of ideas, not merely events. He intuitively grasps that, though Pakistan is no theocracy, it shares some of the Saudi and Iranian sense of a larger Islamic mission." *Wall Street Journal* "[Mufti's] talent for explaining the political through the personal—particularly the 'tormented embrace' between his home countries—benefits from the uncanny convergence of his family's milestones with Pakistan's." *New Yorker* "A penetrating, carefully crafted, and sometimes moving account that presents Pakistan through the lens of Mufti's family's history, offering a vivid new perspective on a troubled country that is at once intimate and sweeping." Declan Walsh, *New York Times* Pakistan Bureau Chief Journalist Mufti incorporates the stories of his family and ancestors into a larger history of Pakistan and its post-9/11 political turmoil. This astonishingly detailed, well-researched history is brought to life by the addition of Mufti's personal story and journalistic acumen. Publishers Weekly "The rich cultural and religious history of Pakistan dictated through a journalist's personal stories...An undeniable visionary, Mufti insightfully glances back at Pakistan's past and nods hopefully toward its precarious future." Kirkus "Mufti's incisive, sensitive book is half memoir, about his family's deep roots in Pakistan, and half history of the state, which he tells through the discovery of his own sprawling family tree. It describes a place that might as well be invisible in that explosive analogy: a country with a unique, founding mission to merge constitutional democracy and Islam; a country defined today not by its people's extremism but by their shared history." *Daily Beast* "[A]n enlightened perspective on the history of Pakistan." University of Richmond Newsroom If you want to understand Pakistan and the Pakistani-American relationship, read this book. Mufti combines the personal, familial, national and international narratives in a uniquely revealing manner. He is Pakistani and an American. And he brings that special blend to a brilliant work. Ryan Crocker, American Ambassador to Pakistan, 2004-2007. "After reading Shahan Mufti, a political junkie like me feels as though she's begun to understand Pakistan for the first time. Movingly and compellingly written, *The Faithful Scribe* is invaluable reading for anyone who's ever asked 'What's really happening there?'" Lesley Hazleton, author of *The First Muslim* and *After The*

Prophet[Mufti] has written a book that takes you from the beginning of Pakistan in 1947 to now. He does this effortlessly, telling the story through his family's experience. The Chester Telegraph "Recounting the way the Islamic legal system was integrated with religion but was then plucked away as Western influence grew, discovering at the same time his own family's connection to that system, are Mufti's twin foci as he takes us back through the lives of his parents and then his ancestors and at the same time his country's complicated history, its relationship to the Western world and the world at large. Mufti manages to let us see Pakistan from its own perspective and from ours—something of vital importance to all of us if we are to understand the world as it exists today. The Inklinger Doing complete justice to the title, this book gives you detailed circumstantial evidences of the past and current political situations in Pakistan. Mufti has intelligently used his family as the protagonist with the political instability of a merely 66-year-old nation as the backdrop. A good read for those who have an interest in history, and for those who want to know more about the first Islamic republic of the world, Pakistan. Hindustan Times "Recommended...for those interested in Pakistan's history or in how political decisions impact citizens." Library Journal "Both a personal and political memoir, The Faithful Scribe brilliantly blends the history of one family with the history of a nation as a whole. As he traces his family's past, Mufti writes with deep insight into the relationship between the two countries during the Reagan, Bush and Obama eras without ever feeling overly dogmatic. He is able to point out specific parallels between Pakistan and the United States that could have fallen flat in a strictly historical text, making The Faithful Scribe a readable, fascinating peek into the hidden connections binding the countries from around the globe." River City Reading "A very lucid book that clarifies much of Pakistan's history and gives us food for thought." Arab Spring News "Mufti really shines...[His] curiosity leads him to come up with a very interesting narrative, one that will go a long way towards helping Pakistanis (and people outside Pakistan) make sense of the nation." Medium "With clarity and depth, [Mufti] penetrates [Pakistan's] complex history." Minneapolis Star Tribune "Heart-felt and beautifully written." Book News "[The Faithful Scribe] is unique because Mufti's perspective is pretty unusual...[T]his book is ultimately about humanity, and how ordinary lives are played out against a backdrop of violence and struggle." TouchBASE About the Author Shahan Mufti is a journalist who has written about Pakistan and the political evolution of Islam for Harpers, Atlantic Monthly, New York Times Magazine, The Nation, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Businessweek, and many others. He splits his time between Pakistan and Richmond, Virginia, where he lives with his wife and teaches journalism at the University of Richmond. You can learn more about him and his work at his Web site, [shahanmufti.com](http://shahanmufti.com).