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BRITISH PERSPECTIVES LEADING TO THE CREATION OF PAKISTAN

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Abstract
Generally, it is believed that the partition of India and, subsequently the creation of Pakistan occurred as a result of post-World War II scenario during the process of decolonisation because the British Empire confronted unbearable financial burdens to administer its colonies especially India (the jewel in the British crown) in the face of strong sentiments for freedom among the indigenous population, as well as amidst the renewed international order. However, there is yet another perception by some Muslim quarters that the Two-Nation Theory was the root cause of the post-World War II developments in South Asia which forms the foundation of Pakistan's national identity. Contrary to these perspectives, there is yet another viewpoint which spells out that the readjustment of geographical boundaries (or partition) of India was a longstanding venture of the British Empire in the 19th century aimed at securing the colony of India from the Russians as well as the French invasions. Basing on aforementioned perceptions, this study will dilate on the question of British perspectives of probable Russian invasion of India prompting the partition that led to the creation of Pakistan

Prelude

1. In 1791, the Russian military planners presented a plan to invade India to Empress Catherine II the Great (1762 – 1796) through Bukhara (Central Asia) and Kashmir (a province of the Afghan Durrani Empire). She appeared interested but Grigory Potemkin, a nobleman, statesman and military commander rejected the idea being impractical (Strong , 1965). In January 1801, Tsar Paul I ordered the Russian Army to advance towards the British India but the expedition was shelved when Emperor Paul I was assassinated on 23rd March 1801 (van der Oye, Paul's great game: Russia's plan to invade British India, 2014). But, his son Tsar Alexander I upon succession, reversed anti-British foreign policy (Phillips, 1911). It was a top-secret Russo-French military expedition whose strategic objective was to invade Britain's colony India through the (unmapped) desert stretches of Central Asia, Afghanistan (Sutherland E. H., 1885) and Persia (van der Oye, 2015). This plan was supported by Napoleon Bonaparte who also set a goal of attacking India in order to circumvent the British global power (Sutherland E. H., 1885). In 1854, the Duhamel Plan of attack on India through Afghanistan and Persia was conceived with the objective to divert British resources from the Black Sea to India (Druhe, 1970). This is the gist of a "Great Game", a term coined by a British intelligence officer Captain Arthur Conolly in 1840, that encompasses the Russian Empires' eastward conquests which arguably threatened the British India. Although, signing of the Anglo-Russian Convention (1907) seemed to have settled the rivalry, but the British perspectives on Russian ambition for India persisted which subsequently redrew the map of India (Malcolm , 2004).

Aim

2. The aim of this study is to analyse British perspectives of anticipated Russian invasion of India, undisputedly one of the foremost causes of partition of India that led to the creation of Pakistan.

Structure of the Study

3. The study will be covered under the following headings:

a. Literature Review
b. Research Methodology
c. Theoretical Framework
d. British Russophobia, one of Factors that Shaped the Future of India
e. The British Strategic Options to save India from the Russian Invasion
f. Conclusion

Literature Review

4. In early 19th century, it was the French Revolution (1789-1799) initiating a series of military conflicts (1792-1797 and 1798-1802) which united the constitutionalist Britain and autocratic Russia somewhat in an ideological alliance against the French republicanism. Fundamentally, it was a geopolitical collaboration-based pragmatism with the objective of securing their monarchical domains (Darwish , 2022). According to some critics it was a marriage of convenience which precipitated into the Russo-French invasion of India, an unsuccessful top secret military plan. In 1812, Britain and Russia concluded an alliance again to defeat Napoleon in his invasion of Russia which succeeded. In 1815, Congress of Vienna gave birth to the Concert of Europe, an intercontinental political philosophy emphasising the preservation of politico-geographical limits, the balance of powers, and upholding the spheres of influence of every state in Europe. This was the precise era when Russian military campaigns stormed eastward to subjugate the Kazakh Steppe (1820-1840), capture Tashkent (Kokand Khanate) in 1865, occupation of Samarkand (Emirate of Bukhara) in 1868, conquered Khanate of Khiva in 1873, conquered Khanate of Kokand (Ferghana Valley) in 1876 and brutal annexation of Merv (Turkmenistan) in 1884 (Morrison, 2021). These expeditions justifiably created genuine suspicion in the minds of British strategists (Razzakov, 2024).

5. Amidst this era of Anglo-Russian geopolitical espionage, a number of British and Russian military and intelligence officers operated in Central Asia to document the latest developments taking place on both sides especially the Russian advance which was taking place with a sustained pace, raising alarms among the British hierarchy.

a. Among this most renowned category of officers, Captain Arthur Conolly tops the nominal roll since his beheading in Bukhara on 17 June 1842 (Kaye, 1867). He belonged to the Sixth Bengal Light Cavalry of the British East India Company and served as a military intelligence officer in Afghanistan, Bukhara (Central Asia) and the north-western frontier region of British India. He conducted a number of reconnaissance missions into Central Asia (Chichester, 1887). He chronicled his reconnaissance accounts in following books;

(1) "Journey to the North of India; Overland from England, Through Russia, Persia, and Affghaunistaun; Volume I" (Conolly , Journey to the North of India, Overland from England, Through Russia, Persia and Affghaunistaun, in two volumes, 1834).

(2) "Journey to the North of India: Overland from England, Through Russia, Persia, and Affghaunistaun; Volume 2" (Conolly, 1838)

b. Captain Sir Alexander Burnes (Fellowship of the Royal Society) was a Scottish military officer and a diplomat deeply associated with military intelligence operations in Central Asia (David, 2009). He documented his memoir in a book form, "Travels into Bokhara" (Burnes , 1834).

c. Major General Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson (1810–1895) was one of the most professional British military officers who was a political agent in Kandahar (Afghanistan). He championed the "Forward Policy," based on aggressive strategy to halt Russian advance in Central Asia. His authorship includes "England and Russia in the East; A Series of Papers on the Political and Geographical Condition of Central Asia" (Rawlinson, 1875).

d. Captain Fred Burnaby (1842–1885) was a highly adventurous officer from Britain's Royal Horse Guards who despite being unpermitted embarked upon a highly dangerous reconnaissance mission and traversed through the strictly prohibited territory of the Khanate of Khiva which had been captured by the swift Russian military advance. His book, "A Ride to Khiva: Travels and Adventures in Central Asia" dilates on how the tsarist armies concealed their military campaigns in Central Asia (Burnaby, 1877).

e. Colonel (later Major General) Sir Charles MacGregor (1840–1887), Quartermaster-General and head of the Intelligence Department of the British Indian Army documented a comprehensive and highly classified assessment examining Russians' possible invasion of India through Afghanistan.

(1) His book, "The Defence of India – A Strategical Study" strongly advocated extensive fortifications and heavy garrisoning of the North-west Frontier region of India to ward off the Tsar's military ambitions (MacGregor, The Defence of India, 1884).

(2) Embarked upon a journey through Persia and Afghanistan, his "Narrative of a Journey Through the Province of Khorassan and On the N.W. Frontier of Afghanistan" in 1875, encompasses a thorough chronicle which provides a unique glace at the geographical and socio-political environment of a region hidden from the Western world. It is an exceptional document which preserves a vital historical account of a transformative era of Central Asia (MacGregor, 1879).

(3) On his way back from Khorasan to India, Sir MacGregor conducted extensive reconnaissance missions in Balochistan, a region by virtue of its proximity was strategically important to the British. Prompted by exclusive unquenchable curiosity, he traversed through one of the harshest yet fascinating terrains of Balochistan which he documented in his travelogue, "Wanderings in Balochistan" (Macgregor, 1882).

(4) The Second Afghan War (1879-80) is considered as one of those military campaigns which crystallised the British mindset related to its policies towards Central Asian. After this campaign, the British military had concluded that overpowering the Afghan army in the battlefield was never difficult. Similarly, the exploitation process of the local success was controllable. But consolidating any achievement in the north-west frontier region of India was strategically problematic. "War in Afghanistan, 1879-80: The Personal Diary of Major General Sr Charles Metcalfe MacGregor" is one of the most relevant accounts of a general's thoughts on military strategy, campaign intelligence, operations and logistics and aggressive "British Forward Policy". (MacGregor, 1985).

6. The aforementioned detail of prominent British military officers who demonstrated unparalleled professionalism in their pursuits related to the Russian advance into Central Asia that threatened the defence of India would remain inclusive, but it amply explains the British perspectives moulding their future strategy.

Research Methodology

7. This article pertains to one of the most extensively debated matters throughout the 19th century and, even thereafter during the Cold War period (1945-1991) by the world military as well as civil service officers. Based on the nature of the study, its research methodology encompasses "multi-layered archival" and purely "qualitative" techniques. The structure of research article has been arranged in the "hierarchical pattern" proceeding from "broad collection to descending the individual personal and professional chronicles" contributed by prominent personalities who were "directly engaged" in missions in Central Asia and India. Since the study is predominantly historical in its truest sense, so "the context preservation along with its creator's credible reference" forms one of most important segments of this research. In simple terms, it is "the top-down discovery" in which generalisations have been constricted to specifics in order to glean authentic accounts. Another distinct aspect of this research is "the archival material" (physical or analogue or digital) which basically includes books containing personal and professional experiences of authors, geographical maps, field-sketches, handwritten operational orders, instructions and comments, personally written diaries, minutes of meetings, personal correspondences through couriers, photographs of personnel, areas and miscellaneous objects, and the preserved historical records in digital files. In addition, this study has consulted a number of British government documents along with declassified papers by the British, United States and Russian intelligence agencies. In this article, more reliance has been accorded to qualitative research methodology because human personal as well as professional experiences under the highly peculiar scenarios and environments can never gauged numerically, especially in case of military history

and strategy. This methodology is based on case studies, narrative research and historical research leading to a framework of intelligence evaluation which assists in discourse analysis to conclude the geo-political mapping with the objective of exploring "The Russian Wraith" that configured the British perspectives for the future in 19th century and even thereafter.

Theoretical Framework

8. British perspectives on an anticipated Russian invasion of India during the 19th-century were formulated by the predominant elements of anxiety, fear and deep-seated mistrust (from inside indigenous Indians and outside adversaries like Russia) causing "the imbalance of power" in Asia culminating into the existential threat to India, the jewel of the British Crown. Although, a very large number of British and civil service officers contributed substantially their professional thoughts related to the Russian invasions of Central Asia but, the British "oblivion outlook" towards Indians cost them more vulnerability to their empire than Russians.

a. **"Oriental Paranoia".** Sociologically, British as colonialists were conscious of perpetual psychological perturbation, distrust and fearful of their existence from indigenous population whom they ruled ruthlessly through their protégé; political and religious leaders (Beaver, 2012). They were completely distant from the common people. This tendency of "collective cultural systemic bias" supplemented by propagandised narratives among the British community in India and even elsewhere triggered xenophobic attitude leading to an "acute defensive mechanism" dictating them to consider Indians as deceptive adversaries especially the Muslim community who would rise against the British in case of the Russian invasion of India (Morton, 2015).

b. **"Zero-Sum Imperialism"**.

The Czarist armies' eastward invasions, conquering a number of Khanates and other regions in Central Asia provoked a sense of defencelessness among the British ranks because they like other European colonial powers ardently believed in "the Zero-Sum Game". The Russian military campaigns against Persia, Bukhara and Khiva were appreciated as gateways for the Czarist invasion of India by the British military and political strategists (D'Amato, 2023).

c. **"The Buffer State Concept"**. The British military strategists presented a plan that conceptualized a buffer zone consisting of Afghanistan and Persia on the basis of their hostile terrain and violent tribes, both factors posing indispensable resistance to impede adversary's advance to India (Fazal, 2004).

d. **"The British Forward Policy"**. It was a geopolitical strategy specific to the defence of British India against the possible Russian invasion in the 19th century. Amidst suspicions of the Russian attack on India, British created a buffer zone and envisaged a "Scientific Frontier", farther north-west of the Indus River to pre-empt the Russian military adventure (Ghose, 1954).

e. **"Instrumentalised Paranoia"**. There is a school of modern revisionists who believe that the British geopolitical strategists in the 19th century deliberately exaggerated the Russian developments in Central Asia with an objective of creating environments of suspicion and distrust to secure their psychological, social and political ambitions. In the meantime, military staff developed narratives to conduct expeditions in the western regions of India; Balochistan, Afghanistan, Persia and Tibet in the north (Porter, 2016).

British Russophobia, one of Predominant Factors that Shaped the Future of India

9. **The Demographic Aspect.** This matter is, indeed debatable that "British Russophobia in the 19th century" constituted the sole cause of the partition of India in 1947 which created Pakistan. Nevertheless, geopolitical scientists have unanimous consensus that vicious Russo-English confrontation especially in Asia spurred by anxiety and suspicion due to consistent eastward push by the Czarist military dangerously "closing-in" towards India, dictated Britain's foreign policy which succumbed to expeditious defensive strategy to protect India from the Russian advance. Indeed, the partition of India emerged as one of the foremost options (Kryzhko, Pashkovsky, Davydo, & Shipilin, 2019). There exists no ambiguity what-so-ever that it was the Russophobic military mindset that framed British geopolitical dynamics in Asia, their military and non-military operational

and logistical strategies whose salient features are as under:

a. **Militarisation of the North-west Frontier Region of India**. The Czarist military expeditions forced the British to heavily fortify the entire north-west frontier region comprising concrete bunkers, trenches, check posts, observation posts and well-elaborated anti-vehicular obstacle system reinforced by extensive construction of garrisons having permanent deployment of career conscious British officers who commanded large contingent of soldiers (Johnson, 2003). They constituted the most professional body of troops who trained themselves round the year against the possible Russian invasion of India.

b. **The "Martial Race" Theory**. The concept of "Martial Races" came into existence after the Rebellion of 1857. This was the prime time of hectic rivalry between Britain and Russia involving unprecedented espionage and reconnaissance missions against each other. Britain's predominant instrument of military expeditions was the Bengal Army comprised of soldiers hailing from high-cast Hindu and Muslim from Bihar and Awadh (Purbiyas) communities. Since 1757, they wrested a vast part of the Indian sub-continent for the British East India Company. But these troops who were always highly disciplined and professional, revolted in 1857 against the British due to their arrogant policies. However, the British survived with exceptionally active support of Sikhs and Punjabi and Pathan Muslims from the north-west frontier region and Gurkhas from the north of India who were declared "martial races" exclusively on the basis of their loyalty to the Empire. It is important to note that after 1857, the British military preferred to recruit troops from poorly educated segment of the remote / rural society substantially devoid of political awareness and financial resources. This highly under-privileged class was chosen as the martial race which was deployed in their own areas to ward off the Russian probable invasion (MacMUNN, 1933). The concept of martial races heightened polarisation among regional communities at the cost of national unity, a dilemma that still prevails in the sub-continent

c. **"The Divide and Rule Strategy"**. After the Indian rebellion (1857), British Indian authorities institutionalised socio-cultural and religious differences among the indigenous population of the sub-continent (Vohra, The Making of a Communal Polity: 1858-1908, 2001). It was one of the most meticulous and brilliantly conceived strategies which solidly destroyed the national unity which could pose a formidable threat to the British existence in the sub-continent. British anticipated that indigenous support to Russians could be prevented by implementing this strategy (Vohra , 2001). Following measures undertaken by the British crystallised the strategy:

(1) **Division of the Indian Population on Religious Ground.** Indian intelligentsia conceptualizing divisive narratives were encouraged rather in certain cases, were sponsored to formulate theories that widened unbridgeable gaps between the adherents of various religions especially Hindus and Muslims (Hardy, 1972). In the specific context, sectarianism emerged as the most favourable option for British (Hasan, 2005).

(2) **Official Sponsorship of Meritless Society**. After driving an irreparable wedge between various religious groups and ethnic communities through the conduct of Decennial Census (1871-72), those segments of Indian society which supported the British during the rebellion were accorded preferential treatment in the form of lucrative appointments, perks and privileges (Gopal, 1965). The British conducted an intensive social-engineering to raise a class which would remain loyal to the British (Walden, 2011). Their social status was aligned with their financial capacity which was, otherwise, enhanced by allotting them agricultural lands. They were granted preferential access to British hierarchy (Ram, 2020).

(3) **Exploiting the Legal System to divide Hindus**. Customary laws were replaced with localised laws which were promulgated as a uniform civil code for every Hindu community without considering the peculiar / diverse customs and traditions especially the lower caste communities. This scenario created disenchantment rather animosity among various castes of Hindu community (Rallabandi, 2022).

(4) **Promulgation of Criminal Tribes Act (1871)**. This colonial law was passed by the British on 12th October 1871 which designated entire hereditary cluster of people, specific castes

and particular nomadic tribal communities as "habitual of committing crimes". This act led to the segregation of millions of low-castes and tribal Hindus from high-caste Hindus driving a deep wedge in the Hindu society. These "labeled segments" were subjected to forced registration, controlled and limited movements, periodical, snap and surprise check-ins and residing under well-monitored and sometimes, guarded accommodations. They were, by design socially stigmatised and, kept poverty-stricken with the objective of keeping them dependent on a class which was subservient to their British masters (Ranjan, 2025).

(5) **Indoctrination of Inhabitants into Bigoted Fanatics.** This is the most critical and sensitive matter which has been deliberately avoided by the mainstream segments of historians, geopolitical scientists and experts of International Relations. The entire population inhabiting the north west frontier region of India consists of Pushtun (Pakhtoon) divided into innumerous tribes and sub-tribes. Their cultural framework, irrespective of lineages and identities, is strictly based on "Pashtunwali", an ancient (probably 5000 years old) tradition (Mehsud, 2015) which is considered at par alongside the Islamic code of conduct by the traditionists. The cardinal aspects of this code are hospitality extended to the guest, revenge from the enemy at any cost with no time-limit and sanctuary to a person who seeks refuge or protection under duress environment. This particular tradition was extraordinarily exploited by the British experts who portraited Russians (predominantly Orthodox Christians) as infidels, their arch adversaries posing threat to their religious faith and socio-cultural system (Andrew, Our Scientific Frontier, 1880). Notably, Sir William Patrick Andrew conceptualized the idea of transforming ardent Muslim Pakhtoon community into "bigoted fanatics" by exploiting the tradition f Pashtunwali.

10. There is an unanimously agreed theory by the historians that the British Indian authorities comprehensively fragmented the Indian national unity with the objective of retarding the capability of people to offer challenging resistance to British. This strategy segregated the indigenous population into the authenticated faithful and disloyal segments to the British. Moreover, opponents of the Empire were thoroughly marginalised to a point where their influence over other people immensely deteriorated. Despite the fact that internal dynamics directly assisted in sustaining the British rule in India but authorities remained suspicious of their opponents who could render material and moral support to Russians in exchange for independence for British. But there exists a solid reason to believe that internal fragmentation of Indian nation into uncompromising groups may have conveyed unfavourable signals to Russian planners whose military methodologies advocated an imminent and active support from local inhabitants for which India was not a favourable objective. However, during the second half of 19th century, some British strategists envisioned a very strong connection between the Russian threat of invasion of India and the partition of India. They recommended separation of north-west frontier region from India as an independent state whose leadership must be obedient to Britain. In fact, this was the idea of creating Pakistan conceived in the last decades of the 19th century (Jawad & Shabbir, 2025).

The British Strategic Options to save India from the Russian Invasion

11. **Never The Partition but A Defensive Line to Protect India**. Generally, it is believed that Field Marshal Sir Archibald Percival Wavell [Viceroy and Governor-General of India (October 1943 – February 1947)], Sir Olaf Kirkpatrick Kruuse Caroe [Indian Political Service (North-West Frontier Region of India) (1923 – 1937), Foreign Secretary of the Government of India (1939 – 1946) and Governor of the North West Frontier Province of India (1947)] and the British Chiefs of Staff Committee comprising Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery (Chief of the Imperial General Staff) , Admiral Sir John Cunningham (First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff), Marshal of the Royal Airforce Arthur William Tedder, General Lord Ismay (the Chief of Staff to the Viceroy Lord Mountbatten), and Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck [Commander-in-Chief India (later Supreme Commander)] recommended the strategic plan of partition of India. This claim merits thorough scrutiny by the historians and geopolitical scientists

(Chawla, 2011). It is well documented that the British Chiefs of Staff Committee (1947) strongly resisted the idea of partition of India after evaluating the geo-political, strategic, and defence ramifications of partitioning India. But after the World War II, a civil war like situation erupted between Hindu and Muslim communities in all over India which forced the Committee to change its recommendation that initially advocated the unified India, the most formidable option for the defence of subcontinent against any foreign invasion especially the Russians (Singh, 1982).

12. **Conceptualisation of A Defensive Line that ultimately led to the Partition.** In 1880, Sir William Patrick Andrew authored an exceptionally thought-provoking book, "Our Scientific Frontier" in which he elaborated his geo-political and strategic theory related to the defence of "British India" against the (possibility of) Russian invasion from the north and the northwest or the French invasion from the west (Andrew , 1880). His extensive work elaborating detailed and repeated meetings, informal discussions with military and non-military strategists with expansive degree of knowledge and experience about the area, innumerous reconnaissance missions in the region in question and field surveys led him to conclude that a region along the international borders between British India, Afghanistan and Persia accords an ideal defensive terrain against any attack by Russia through Afghanistan and / or France through Persia. He named this region as the "Borderlands" comprising a section of the state of Kashmir [Gilgit-Skardu-Baltistan (excluding the Valley of Kashmir), the entire tribal belt, the North West Frontier Province, the western part of the province of Indian Punjab and four princely states Makran (excluding the port of Gwadar), Kharan, Kalat and Las Bela (all collected to create the province of Balochistan). The ground / field work to contemplate this particular arrangement had already commenced, probably before the publishing of Sir Andrew's marvelous accomplishment in 1880. In this regard, a number of treaties between British India and Afghanistan and Persia were concluded among which a chain of agreements on the Durand Line is the most glaring episode in the geo-political history of the sub-continent (Amin & Pari, 2023). It is of vital interest to learn that the borderline between the British India and Afghanistan and Persia is exactly aligned on the ground while demarking the interstate boundaries during the process of partition of India in 1947 that created the state of Pakistan. Shockingly, the architects of the re-adjustments of the sub-continent (so-called partition of India) in 1947, did not deviate from Sir Andrew's suggestion even by a pebble. In addition to geographic setting as a formidable defensive line comprising hostile mountainous region reinforced by the River Indus, demographic considerations were taken into the detailed account, too. It was planned that the geographically developed line would be defended by the "bigoted Muslim fanatics" against any invasion by the (Russian / French Christian) infidels (Andrew, 1880).

13. **Tenability of the Scientific Frontier against Russia.** In another masterpiece book; "India and Her Neighbours", Sir Andrew suggested that in this particular region of border lands allowing the ruler being rivalrous (posing challenges), prestigious (reputable and esteemed) and powerful would be dangerous (for the British Empire) while having a ruler possessed superior (qualities of geo-political acumen and administration) must be considered as an impossibility. This quote has been written on the title page of "Our Scientific Frontier" (Andrew , 1878). However, the most "shocking" recommendation was about the ruler-ship of "Border Lands". He unhesitatingly suggested military must not be subordinated to the civilian / political administration which clearly meant that, conversely, the civilian rule will be dominated by the military establishment (Andrew , 1880). He graded the inhabitants of the tribal belt as superstitious, priest-ridden who themselves are ignorant and bigoted, avaricious, thievish, robbers and predatory to the extreme degree and utterly faithless to engagements. They would never consider oath on the Qur'an as a binding if it goes against their self-interests. They are perpetually into the family feuds which stretches into generations. These bloodthirsty people would constitute the demographic line of defence superimposed upon the geographic

defenses (Afridi , 2023). Contrary to the account of the wild tribes coupled with the socio-political strategy to control (tame) these so-called beasts, Sir Andrew extensively spoke about selective tribes which were loyal to the British Empire. Those tribes hailing from the North West Frontier region of British India (especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab) proved their loyalties to the British government beyond an iota of doubt during any crisis of existential nature; especially during the mutiny of 1857. In this particular regard, for instance, a number of tribes have particularly been mentioned as the most faithful, reliable, trustworthy and unconditionally devoted to the British warring against Sikhs, Hindus or even Muslims despite being Muslims. Sir Andrew distinctly mentioned it in his book's Chapter VIII (The Powindahs, or Soldier - Merchants of Afghanistan) about the Niazi tribe, one of the most powerful Powindahs clans settled in Isa Khel region on the River Indus. Without exaggeration, it is with all honesty and sincerity to observe that, according to every word written by the British civil and military strategists especially Sir Andrew, the establishment of "Border Lands" was nothing but a "military garrison" whose creation was exceptionally vital for the defence of British India as highlighted in his book, "Indian railway as connected with British empire in the East" (Andrew, 1884). Sir Walter Miller Thorburn authored a masterpiece conceptualizing the hegemonic designs of the British Empire in which South Asia (the subcontinent) especially the "Border Lands assume the pivotal role in India's defence (Thorburn , Euthanasia for the Sick Man, 1875). He even suggested amendments and interpretations in the religion of Islam; especially in Qur'an through academia in order to re-orientate Muslim community in Punjab and Sindh in favour of the British (Thorburn, 1875). To summarize, the British ambitions were applied on ground to partition India and create Pakistan in 1947 on the predominant basis of Russian threat of invasion of India.

14. **The Emergence of the United States as A Replacement of British in India.** After the decline of British Empire, the United States assumed the role of a defender against Communism especially in India which had to be protected at all costs after the World War II (Hussain, 2022). Although, Americans adopted the policy of neutrality in the British India affairs but there is no doubt about their unflinching support for independence of colonies. Americans, during their informal / unofficial meetings were overtly enthusiastic about the decolonisation of European empires possession abroad, especially the British Empire (Nwaubani, 2003). Therefore, there exists a very strong rationale to believe that Americans' ruthless neutral rather indifferent response also constituted one of the pivotal reasons of partition of India.

Conclusion

15. This study amply proves that primarily it was the British strategic design documented by Sir William Patrick Andrew, aimed at constructing a defensive line (the Scientific Frontier) to protect India from the Russian, French or Russo-French invasion from the north, northwest or west in the mid of 19th century. The concept of this Scientific Frontier leading to an imminent partition of India was fully materialised after the World War II but, ironically at that particular time, the British Empire found itself disastrously incapable of administering its colonies, especially India. This fact must never be ignored that there was widespread opposition to the partition, most notably by the British Chiefs of Staff Committee whose military based point of view suggested that partitioned India would weaken its defensive potentials against any foreign invasion. All civil British policy makers at the helm especially Sir Olaf Caroe were against the partition prior to the conclusion of World War II. But the whole scenario changed when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) emerged as one of the two global powers whose manifesto violently opposed the western colonization. The British, after assessing themselves incapable of defending their colonies, were left with no option but to seek shelter under the American umbrella. This turn in the geopolitics triggered the process of decolonisation that partitioned India. Although, a number of historians, political scientists and experts proffer their own reasons of the division but, this study reflects that, finally, it was the British perspectives impacted by the Czarist

Russian policies, later adopted by the USSR which paved the way for the partition of India.

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