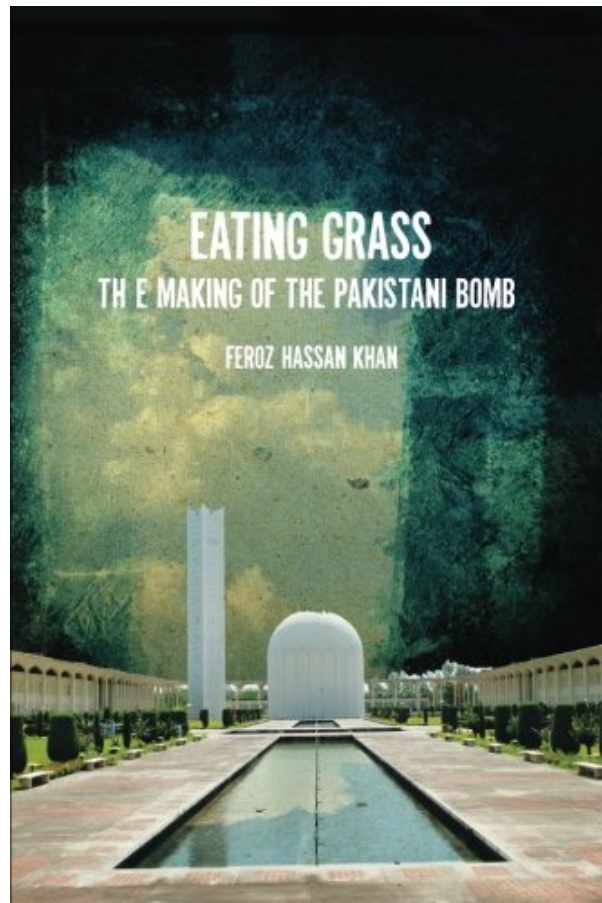
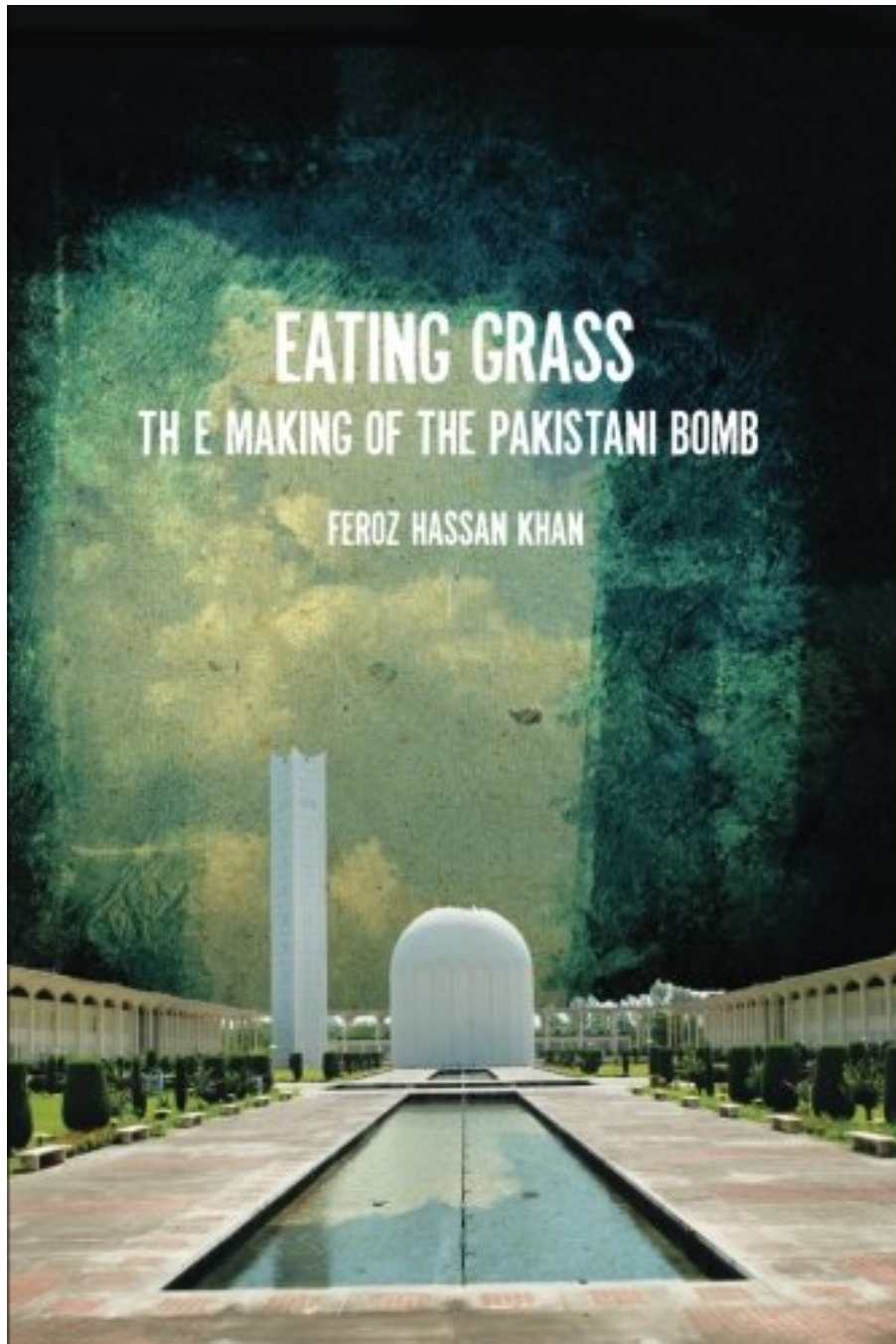


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The history of Pakistan's nuclear program is the history of Pakistan. Fascinated with the new nuclear science, the young nation's leaders launched a nuclear energy program in 1956 and consciously interwove nuclear developments into the broader narrative of Pakistani nationalism. Then, impelled first by the 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan Wars, and more urgently by India's first nuclear weapon test in 1974, Pakistani senior officials tapped into the country's pool of young nuclear scientists and engineers and molded them into a motivated cadre committed to building the 'ultimate weapon.' The tenacity of this group and the central place of its mission in Pakistan's national identity allowed the program to outlast the perennial political crises of the next 20 years, culminating in the test of a nuclear device in 1998.

Written by a 30-year professional in the Pakistani Army who played a senior role formulating and advocating Pakistan's security policy on nuclear and conventional arms control, this book tells the compelling story of how and why Pakistan's government, scientists, and military, persevered in the face of a wide array of obstacles to acquire nuclear weapons. It lays out the conditions that sparked the shift from a peaceful quest to acquire nuclear energy into a full-fledged weapons program, details how the nuclear program was organized, reveals the role played by outside powers in nuclear decisions, and explains how Pakistani scientists overcome the many technical hurdles they encountered. Thanks to General Khan's unique insider perspective, it unveils and unravels the fascinating and turbulent interplay of personalities and organizations that took place and reveals how international opposition to the program only made it an even more significant issue of national resolve.

Listen to a podcast of a related presentation by Feroz Khan at the Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation.

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A much needed account of Pakistan's quest to acquire a nuclear deterrent

By GSTownBiz

Khan writes an objective analysis for Pakistan's reasons to acquire nuclear capability. He argues that suffering from national humiliation is often a trigger for a state's quest to acquire nuclear capability. For Israel, it was the holocaust. For China, it was suffering humiliation at the hands of Japan during World War II and the US in Korea after. For India, it was suffering defeat at the hands of the Chinese in 1962. In Pakistan's case, the dismemberment of the country in 1971 strengthened the resolve of the nation to "never again" suffer such humiliation. The book is laden with technical details that will prove useful for research. Largely, however, Khan's book is narrated in a manner that interweaves the history of Pakistan with the story of the bomb, and makes for an engaging read. Students and enthusiasts in the field of political science, international affairs and national security will truly enjoy this book, as will the layman. The book has the potential to change international outlook of Pakistan's nuclear program, which has been cast in a negative light by the international media. Khan gives due credit to Pakistan's scientific community, who were able to accomplish the development of a nuclear program in the face of sanctions and intense international scrutiny. Khan provides new material that was heretofore unavailable, a truly remarkable account put together especially in light of the fact there Pakistan does not have a "culture of declassification" (as the author puts it).

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An excellent history of Pakistan's nuclear bomb project from a real insider

By Otho Bean

Much has been written about Pakistan's program to develop a nuclear bomb; most of it centered around AQ Khan and designed to either show he was a hero and the best scientist Pakistan has ever produced or that he was a villain and incompetent to boot. Feroz Khan (no relation that I am aware of) has framed that question in its proper proportion to the rest of the history of Pakistan's bomb work in this fascinating and well researched book. There is much new and very important in this work and I highly recommend it.

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Eating Grass: Spare Nothing for the Bomb

By John Wm Schiffeler

Feroz Hassan Khan, a retired brigadier general in the Pakistani Army and currently on the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, has written an excellent and much needed account--under the imprimatur of the Stanford University Press--of the development of atomic power in Pakistan as a countermeasure to India's earlier pursuits in the atomic arena. His scholarship reflects a brilliant mind and balanced approach to appreciating and understanding this subject matter. It also serves to remind some of us of the futility of such one-upsmanship in the quest of atomic superiority. His findings are based on extensive interviews with many of the leading figures responsible for establishing and furthering this development, as is reflected by his many citations in the Notes. For those interested in international relations and its related fields, especially with respect to South Asia, this work should be regarded as required reading. It is uncommon to find someone with such an extensive background and first-hand knowledge of this subject matter as the author possesses.

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