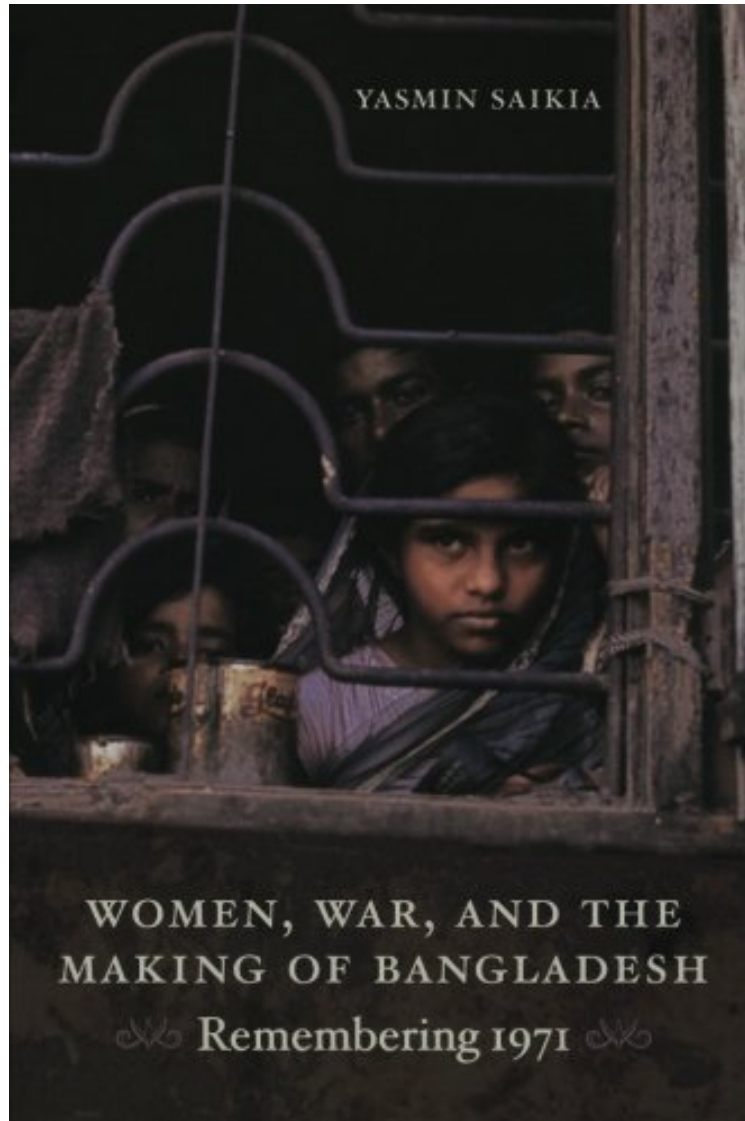


Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh: Remembering 1971

Yasmin Saikia

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important documentation By Anders Hjorth A vital presentation of atrocities and terrible crimes during the Bangladesh war of liberation in 1971. It's estimated that 200 000 women were raped and/or tortured not just by the Pakistani army but also by the freedom fighters of Mukti Bahini and the Indian military. Facts that are still denied and suppressed in the official history of the three parties involved. In the

book Saikia interviews the victims themselves. An absolutely necessary book for everyone concerned with the development of human rights or Bangladesh. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended. By Fida A vivid depiction of the atrocities created by the occupying army during 1971 and the price paid by the women. Well written based on thorough research. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great insight! By Carlos M. Saavedra I have been trying to find a good book that tells me a non biased story about 1971, thank you!

Fought between India and what was then East and West Pakistan, the war of 1971 led to the creation of Bangladesh, where it is remembered as the War of Liberation. For India, the war represents a triumphant settling of scores with Pakistan. If the war is acknowledged in Pakistan, it is cast as an act of betrayal by the Bengalis. None of these nationalist histories convey the human cost of the war. Pakistani and Indian soldiers and Bengali militiamen raped and tortured women on a mass scale. In *Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh*, survivors tell their stories, revealing the power of speaking that deemed unspeakable. They talk of victimization of rape, loss of status and citizenship, and the war babies born after 1971. The women also speak as agents of change, as social workers, caregivers, and wartime fighters. In the conclusion, men who terrorized women during the war recollect their wartime brutality and their postwar efforts to achieve a sense of humanity. *Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh* sheds new light on the relationship among nation, history, and gender in postcolonial South Asia.

Yasmin Saikia's book is an important intervention in the discourse around 1971. It examines and demonstrates clearly the brutality of war as experienced by various marginalised groups, especially women, and the ongoing routine violence of the silencing of their voices. Saikia documents women's voices and highlights their agency and the multiplicities of their role in the conflict. - Chapati Mystery