

Partition and Imperial Histories for Key Stage 3

Directory of Resources

Migrant Memory and the Postcolonial Imagination (2017 – 2024)

Loughborough University



Introduction to the directory

- This directory of resources has been compiled as part of the series of workshops provided to teachers and others working in education to teach Partition and imperial histories to Key Stage 3 students.
- This project aimed to bridge the gap of understanding between the role of the British empire in the history of Partition, and of South Asia more generally, and how the legacy of this violent event is still felt in the UK. This programme of workshops aimed to support teachers to develop the confidence and knowledge to discuss these topics in the classroom and was based on the underpinning research of the MMPI project and the contributions of key educational and cultural organisations which are currently working to increase awareness of the history and legacy of British imperial history in society: A Little History of the Sikhs; Inspirate; Project Dastaan; The Partition Education Group; The Samosa Media.

Selected books (non-fiction)

- Richard Kennett, Sally Thorne, Salma Barma, Tom Allen, Ed Durbin, David Hibbert, Zaiba Patel, Mary Elizabeth Quinn (Emmy), Maia Stevenson, Funmilola Stewart, Shahnaz Yasmin. 2023. *A New Focus on... The British Empire, c.1500 - present for Key Stage 3 History*
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/history/products/11-14/a-new-focus-on-the-british-empire,-c-1500-presen>
- Mushirul Hasan (ed.). 1993. *India's Partition: Process, Strategy and Mobilization*, Delhi: Oxford University Press
- Yasmin Khan. 2007. *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*, New Haven: Yale University Press
- Kavita Puri. 2020. *Partition Voices: Untold British Stories*, London: Bloomsbury Publishing
- Aanchal Malhotra. 2017. *Remnants of a Separation: 21 Objects from a Continent Divided*, London: Hurst & Company **and** 2022. *In the Language of Remembering: The Inheritance of Partition*, HarperCollins India
- Alex von Tunzelmann. 2012. *Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire*, London: Pocket Books

For more fiction and non-fiction books on Partition, see Partition Education Group's online reading list: <https://partitioneducationgroup.wordpress.com/reading-list/>

Online resources – oral histories and short films

Project Dastaan <https://projectdastaan.org/stories/>

1947 Partition

Archive <https://www.1947partitionarchive.org/>

National Archives video [Partition of British India](#)

Where is Home? And 400 Years Britain and India by An Indian Summer

<https://www.youtube.com/@400Yearsseries>

Pakistan's Best Kept Secret: Lahore

Museum <https://www.salzburgglobal.org/news/latest-news/article/pakistans-best-kept-secret-lahore-museum>

Teaching Resources on Partition



- Partition Education Group (releasing teaching resources for KS2 and KS3 early 2023): <https://partitioneducationgroup.wordpress.com/resources/>
- Child of the Divide: https://partitioneducationgroup.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/bc932-childofthedivideeducationpack_uktour2017.pdf
- Partition of British India classroom resources (including teachers' notes, tasks and connections to curriculum <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/partition-of-british-india/>)
- “Never set eyes on the land” Learning Toolkit for Partition history: https://www.nutkhut.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/AC01_NH_NSEOTL_learningToolkit_WEB.pdf
- A Little History of the Sikhs educational resources in Sikh history, including Partition and WW1 <https://alittlehistoryofthesikhs.org/educational-resources/>



Teaching Resources on imperial histories, independence and migration

- The Independence of Bangladesh classroom resources
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-independence-of-bangladesh-in-1971/>
- Himmah education resources from the Muslim Memory Project on the way the role of the British Empire is remembered in the second world war <https://www.himmah.co.uk/lesson-3>
- Empire, Faith and War: Putting Sikh Soldiers on the map (Key stage 2 resource): <http://www.empirefaithwar.com/learning-resources/education-zone/education-pack-key-stage-2/intro>
- Bangla Stories – Theme 5 ‘Migration’: https://www.banglastories.org/uploads/Theme_5.pdf
- Beyond Banglatown <https://beyondbanglatown.org.uk/>
- Our Migration Story – teaching resources, lesson plans and guidance on how to teach migration history:
<https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/information-for-teachers.html>
- Resource bank for teaching migration <https://www.migrationmuseum.org/resource-bank/>
- Ugandan Asians at 50 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-K9fM295Q1zT1iBTH6xZLA>

Television

India 1947 Partition in Colour

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/india-1947-partition-in-colour>

My Family, Partition and Me

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0916qmx>
available on YouTube

India's Partition: The Forgotten Story –

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0595jtw>
available on YouTube

Podcasts

EMPIRE podcast by Anita Anand and William Dalrymple

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/india-1947-partition-in-colour>

Three pounds in my pocket, by Kavita Puri

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b065z2x3>

India: A People Partitioned, by Andrew Whitehead

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p034m6mx>

Creative Commemorations of Partition

- Manisha Gera Baswani 'Postcards from Home: 1947 and the partition of India' <https://www.ashmolean.org/event/postcards-from-home>
- The Remote Remembering Collection, including oral histories, poems and intergenerational memories of Partition: <https://www.memoriesofpartition.co.uk/the-remote-remembering-collection-inherited-memories-of-partition-independence-and-migration/>
- Grewal Twins – songs and stories [Grewal Twins | Ajnabi - The Stranger | Stories of India's Partition](#)
- Amrit Kaur sung performance of the poem [Five River Flow | Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu - Amrita Pritam | Partition of India 1947](#)

On migration

- Mr Shay – 'Cosmopolitan Voices – Indian Perspective' <https://youtu.be/Eze2bqN2LHA>
- Mixtape Memories - 'Unexpected Mountains' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPPfAULC5R8>
- Bengali Britain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S480oMLNZW0>

Resources on Empire

- Sathnam Sangera. 2021. *Empireland: How Imperialism Has Shaped Modern Britain*. Penguin.
- Sathanm Sangera. 2023. *Stolen History: The Truth About The British Empire and How It Shaped Us*. Puffin – A book for school aged children about Empire.
- Aaron Wilkes. 2023. *KS3 History Depth Study: The British Empire Student Book Second Edition*. Oxford University Press.

Resources on inclusivity and diversity in education

- Film and theatre producer Anwar Akhtar, Director of Samosa Media visits schools and talks to students, teachers and policy experts, exploring diversity and the curriculum and asking questions about difficult topics such as segregation and the importance of an inclusive education.
 - www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/SchoolsApart
 - www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/many-young-minority-ethnic-people-dont-feel-a-sense-of-inclusion-or-belonging-at-school
- Shalina Patel's "Diversity within the Curriculum" talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hNSzXhsyms>
- Partition History Group Runnymede report:
 - <https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Partition%20History%20Project%20Evaluation.pdf>
- Teaching Migration, Belonging, and Empire in Secondary Schools report:
 - http://www.tideproject.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/TIDE-Runnymede-Teaching-Migration_Report_July-2019.pdf

Poems on Partition

Mr Shay 'ButterFly Free'

ButterFly O' butterfly

How you flutter by

A sight to see

I'd like to be

A butterfly a butterfly

Complete with perfect symmetry

One side just like the other side

Your nature flows

Your colour glows

And makes my spirit come alive

But butterfly O' butterfly

Watch out for the hunter's eye

He may desire

To play with fire

And burn you my dear butterfly

And as I feared the hunters hand

Grips you like a crocodile

Snaps your wings

Down the line

Until you lay there paralysed

And now I see O' butterfly

Your wings were not that so alike

Split apart

the difference shows

and hate begins to cut inside

and spread just like a butterknife

O' butterfly

I see you when I shut my eyes

Still flapping wings

And fluttering

I open them and wonder why

Why butterfly why butterfly

you suffer so

your mother cries

But not in vain

I'll tell your tale

For butterfly you mustn't die

Poems on Partition (excerpts)

- **Ahmad Faraz** - 'Ab kis kaa jashn manaate ho' -

Now what is this celebration for, for the country that has been divided,

Now what are these songs you sing, of the body that was cut into two

- **Ali Sardar Jafri** - 'Kaun Azaad Hua' -

Who has got the freedom, whose forehead has lost the stain of slavery?

I experience the same pain of subjugation in my chest,

That sadness is still there on Mother India's face ...

With hidden tears in eyes, and loyal words on the lips

I am part of this celebration, with beggar's bowl full of lamentation and tears

- **Sardar Jafri's** - 'Subh-e Farda (The Morning of Tomorrow)' –

The sun never sets on the British Empire...

On this border yesterday, the sun set after splitting into two. On this very border yesterday, freedom's morning had got wounded...

...I am waiting for a new dawn at this border since long

Full translation <http://mulosige.soas.ac.uk/tomorrow-s-dawn-ali-sardar-jafri/>

Poems on Partition

- **Zia Ather** – 'Kashmir Only Bleeds'

*The gash across the verdant body now even deeper, the glass map of our country,
broken still*

Full poem, among others commemorating the 75th anniversary of Partition
<https://aaww.org/this-is-not-the-dawn-poetry-of-partition/#ZiaAther>

Agha Shahid Ali – 'Farewell'

In the lake the arms of temples and mosques are locked in each other's reflections.

Full poem <https://allyourprettywords.tumblr.com/post/28990463502/farewell-gha-shahid-ali>

Poems on Partition

- **Faiz Ahmad Faiz** - 'The Dawn of Freedom' -

These tarnished rays, this night-smudged light —

This is not that Dawn for which, ravished with freedom,

we had set out in sheer longing.

See our leaders polish their manner clean of our suffering:

Indeed, we must confess only to bliss;

we must surrender any utterance for the Beloved — all yearning is outlawed.

Friends, come away from this false light. Come, we must search for that promised Dawn.

Full translation <https://mronline.org/2010/07/17/the-dawn-of-freedom-august-1947/>

<https://minds.wisconsin.edu/bitstream/handle/1793/11923/06dawn.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

Poems on Partition

- **Faisal Mohyuddin** – 'Obedience'

*Every good sinner learns to become a cartographer,
to remake his own geography, partition off lush regions of
shame and heartache, render every remaining inch of land pure,
triumphant, as sacred and frail as the peace our elders forged
from the wreckages of empire.*

Full poem <https://aaww.org/this-is-not-the-dawn-poetry-of-partition/#FaisalMohyuddin>

- **Kuli Kohli** – 'Partition of a homeland' – **Full poem**
<https://disabilityarts.online/magazine/opinion/partition-of-a-homeland/>

Poems on Partition

- **Kavita A. Jindal** 'CIVIL LINES One Man's Chronicle of Partition' -

Were we naïve to believe, even ten days past Partition that our town wouldn't turn on us?

That the flames licking at all hearts and doors that month would spare us?

I didn't think everything would be consumed in the name of Freedom.

In 1947 was everyone else insane or were we?

Full poem <https://www.memoriesofpartition.co.uk/the-remote-remembering-collection-inherited-memories-of-partition-independence-and-migration/>



Poems on Partition

- **Amrita Pritam** – 'Aaj Aakhan Waris Shah Nuu – Ode to Waris Shah'

Someone has mixed poison in the five rivers' flow

Their deadly water is, now, irrigating our lands galore

Full poem <https://scroll.in/article/847004/when-amrita-pritam-called-out-to-waris-shah-in-a-heartrending-ode-while-fleeing-the-partition-riots>

- **Taslima Nasreen** – 'Denial'

I want to erase the word 47

I want to wash away the inkstain of 47

With water and soap.

Full poem <https://www.india-seminar.com/2002/510/510%20poems%20on%20partition.htm>





Contact details

If you require any further information on this directory, and/or on the project “Teaching Partition and Imperial Histories at KS3”, please contact:

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If you want to learn more about the MMPI project, please visit <https://www.memoriesofpartition.co.uk/>

