



**Seminar  
Notice**

# **Implementing Partition in India and Pakistan: Assets, Infrastructures and Population**

**Speaker:**

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**Date: 11 September 2020 (Friday)**

**Time: 5PM**

**Abstract :** This paper discusses the process of dividing British India. Beginning from June 1947, when the decision to partition British India was taken, the paper follows the process through the middle of 1950s. It studies the role of the various layers of bureaucracy and the political class in shaping the process. The paper argues the following points: a) bi-lateral cooperation and competition shaped the process of implementing partition. B) Implementing partition was integrally linked to various nation and state-building initiatives in India and Pakistan. C) Partition can be seen as a unique moment when India and Pakistan had an opportunity to take stock of their assets, acquire and redistribute private properties and accumulate a cheap labour force. In doing so, often new groups of displaced populations were created. The paper looks at the entire process of implementing partition “from above”. Though I acknowledge that the ordinary people, whose lives were affected by partition, negotiated with the process in diverse ways and shaped its unfolding, they are not my focus in this particular presentation. The findings of this paper are based on the archival works that I have done in India, Bangladesh, England and Netherlands.

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Sd/- Subhanil Chowdhury,  
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