Saadat Hasan Manto (1912–1955) was an established Urdu short story writer and a rising screenwriter in Bombay at the time of India’s partition in 1947, and he is perhaps best known for the short stories he wrote following his migration to Lahore in newly formed Pakistan. Today Manto is an acknowledged master of twentieth-century Urdu literature, and his fiction serves as a lens through which the tragedy of partition is brought sharply into focus. In *The Pity of Partition*, Manto’s life and work serve as a prism to capture the human dimension of sectarian conflict in the final decades and immediate aftermath of the British raj.

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Ayesha Jalal is the Mary Richardson Professor of History at Tufts University. Her books include *Partisans of Allah: Jihad in South Asia*, *Self and Sovereignty: Individual and Community in South Asian Islam since 1850*, and *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League, and the Demand for Pakistan*. 
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