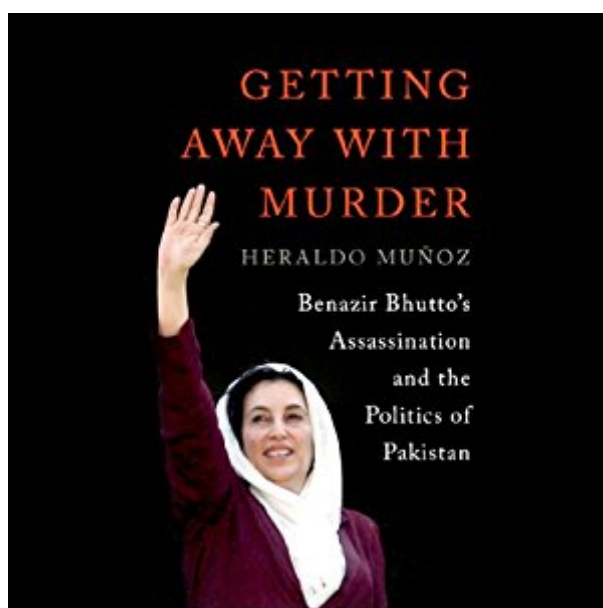


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Getting Away With Murder: Benazir Bhutto's Assassination And The Politics Of Pakistan



Synopsis

By the lead commissioner of the UN investigation, an authoritative account of Benazir Bhutto's assassination. On December 27, 2007, a suicide bomber killed Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan. Brilliant and charismatic, the head of a political family as important to Pakistani history as the Gandhis in India or the Kennedys in the United States, Bhutto had recently returned from exile to challenge military dictator Pervez Musharraf in a democratic election. In the aftermath of the assassination, some blamed Musharraf; others blamed terrorists linked to the Pakistani security service, the ISI; still others pointed the finger at Bhutto's own spouse and entourage; and some speculated that it was a lone wolf attack. Though the individuals behind the conspiracy have never been found, in *Getting Away with Murder* Heraldo Munoz goes further than anyone else to unravel the mystery of Bhutto's death. Moreover, he explains the unexpected role America played in the tragic events, the byzantine relationship between Pakistan and the United States, and how Bhutto's assassination impacted world politics. In a country ruled more often by military dictators than by elected governments, Bhutto offered a secular, democratic hope. Arguably one of Pakistan's most iconic political figures, she became one of the world's few female heads of government. Her assassination tore the country apart, destabilizing the entire region. Leading the United Nations' inquiry, Munoz delved into murky world of Pakistani politics and the infamous Bhutto family, awash in charisma and power, controversy and violence. His year-long investigation frames a story of betrayals, corruption, foreign influence, and unsolved political assassinations. Munoz provides new insight into Bhutto's unprecedented rise and an unflinching, minute-by-minute narrative of the assassination itself. With impeccable research, Munoz also situates Bhutto in the decades-long history of U.S.-Pakistan relations and the emergence of global terrorism, pinpointing her death as the moment when those relations changed forever. The result is a gripping narrative of Pakistan's turbulent political realities and the death of its leading politician.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mr. (Ambassador?) Muñoz is a distinguished diplomat and I have absolutely no doubt that he is intelligent and sincere. However, this book is all over the place and sheds virtually no light on the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. He starts out by giving a quick summary of the assassination itself and its immediate aftermath; then he goes backwards in time and gives a brief history of the Pakistani political scene; he then goes back and gives a more robust history of Pakistan, including the assassinations of Bhutto's father and several others; then he dissects his UN-sponsored investigation of the assassination - noting several times that his mission was not to find the culprit. The last section of the book is an essay on the strange (and strained) relationship between the US and Pakistan. While these sections are more or less interesting, the early ones are repetitive and the last one has nothing to do with what I thought the book would be about. Moreover, in most cases, the sections are too detailed to serve as the general overview he seems to seek to achieve, but not nearly detailed enough to give the full story. And the weakest section of the book is the one that discusses the investigation of the assassination, because it told me nothing that I didn't know before (aside from details that I'm not sure I needed to know). As a result, the book is choppy and inconclusive, and it's really not clear why he wrote it - or why he wrote it in this manner. So, despite his intelligence and sincerity, the book is not what it's supposed to be about and not very good at what it is about, and not worth reading.

This book taught me a lot about Pakistan's recent history and its political system. The author seems unbiased, without any brief from one faction or the other. The book presents a portrait of a very unstable and dangerous political environment, one where assassination is an all too common solution for political conflict.

Excellent

Munoz is a very talented author. His investigation on the part of the United Nations was as thorough

as a corrupt government would allow.

Nothing terribly interesting. Lots of pompous name dropping.

The book implies that the authorities provided no co-operation and the signs were all there that the murder scene was hosed down and there was a cover-up. However, the book does not delve deep into who could have been responsible for the criminal act.

More than actually answering who killed Benazir Bhutto, the book tells who was most likely to kill her. It is a better and more balanced assessment of Pakistan than Anatol Lieven's "Pakistan a Hard Country"

The book doesn't mention something that the Pakistanis didn't already know. It's still a fantastic quick read for people interested in Pakistan's past and contemporary history. The author is very honest and fair in his analysis. Once again, the bulk of blame has been put on the Pakistani army for so many domestic failures that has made Pakistan a very dysfunctional state.

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