

ABSTRACT

"With Friends Like These: The War on Terror, Pakistan, and the Jihad in South and Central Asia"

Presentation by Zia Mian
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The US 'war on terror' after the attacks on September 11, 2001 has sharpened many of the crises that have long beset South and Central Asia. In this talk, I will discuss the rise of militant Islam and the path to jihad (holy war) in Pakistan and the role played by the repeated use of Islam by Pakistani political leaders as a way to counter their failures. I will then look at the US-sponsored jihad in Afghanistan and Pakistan's creation of Islamist militants to fight in Kashmir against India and how these efforts created growing religious militancy and violence in Pakistan and more broadly. I then look at the fallout of the 'war on terror' on Pakistan and Central Asia, especially Uzbekistan, and argue that the real problem lies with the nature and politics of the state in each of these countries and is worsened by US support for undemocratic regimes.

Curriculum vitae

Zia Mian is a physicist with the Program on Science and Global Security, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, at Princeton University, where he directs the Project on Peace and Security in South Asia. He teaches at the Woodrow Wilson School and previously has taught at Yale University and Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. He has worked at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge (Mass.), and at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad.

He is the editor and co-editor of several books, most recently "Between Past and Future: Selected Essays on South Asia by Eqbal Ahmad" (2004), and "Out of The Nuclear Shadow" (2002). Other books include "Pakistan's Crises of State and Society" (1997) and "Pakistan's Atomic Bomb and The Search for Security" (1995). He has made two documentary films with Pervez Hoodbhoy, "Crossing The Lines: Kashmir, Pakistan, India" (2004) and "Pakistan and India Under The Nuclear Shadow" (2001).

In addition to his research and writing, he is active with a number of civil society groups working for nuclear disarmament, peace and justice, including serving on the Board of the Los Alamos Study Group, the United Nations NGO Committee on Disarmament, the International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation, and Abolition 2000, a network of over 2000 peace groups in 91 countries. He also serves on the Board of the Eqbal Ahmad Foundation.

Some of Zia Mian's recent articles are available on the website of the Program on Science and Global Security, <http://www.princeton.edu/~globsec>.