

assert its long cherished desire of an independent and sovereign Muslim state or states in India.

Interestingly, though Pakistan suffered in the division of the Provinces and the accession of the states, the field where it was better placed turned out to be the Armed Forces. Although the population of Pakistan was about 25% of the Indian Subcontinent, its share of the Armed Forces was about 33%. But the Pakistan Army had an initial setback in the sense that its forces were neither organized nor all of them readily available to Pakistan. NO Muslim companies were available in Pakistan for their replacement. This was precisely one of the reasons that Pakistan Army could not be used in Kashmir in October 1947 against the Indian military intervention. Later, when the Pakistan Army was a little better organized, it prevented the Indian forces from occupying the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir and forced India to seek a ceasefire. But since the basic tensions had remained unresolved, it was natural for the two Armed Forces to clash, as they did in 1965 and 1971. And even today in 1993, the significance of the post-World War II historical, political and strategic compulsions cannot be overlooked as they would continue to determine the course of history for a long time to come.

Ghulam Sarwar

Sabahat Durrani. *An Autobiography of a Diplomat's Wife from Cradle to Grave*. Costabrava, Provincia Girore Spain Author, 1992. Price: Rs. 300.00 H.B.

Autobiographies of notables usually provide with an insight into events in which the authors were involved. If properly written, autobiographies not only add to the existing knowledge about the relevant events but also provide source-

material for future researchers. The above mentioned work, though claims to be an autobiography, yet, is an assortment of biography as well as autobiography. We do not read anywhere as to who updated this book after the author's death. Moreover, the material contained in this study is of purely personal nature and that too concerned mostly with the dinner parties, ball-rooms, hunting trips, golf courses and audience with the heads of the states. Even when the actors mentioned in this autobiography, are involved in important events, the author is sadly deficient in projecting the proper perspective in which the events were shaped. At the best one could call it a travelogue with self-projection and dates and places that the family visited during their involvement in the diplomatic life.

Mrs Durrani was the wife of Mr Sultan Aziz Durrani, a member of Pakistan Foreign Service who, during his career in the Army and later on, in the foreign service, was stationed in Iran, Turkey, India, Australia, England, China, USSR and Spain. Her Turkish and Iranian background naturally makes her nostalgic about her accounts of these two countries. Even here, there is a strange estrangement from the political and social events in these two countries when the author was in a position to enlighten the readers about the various dimensions of those events which later on proved much more powerful in shaping the destiny of these countries than the author seems to have realised at that stage or may be a diplomat's wife is not supposed to indulge in those aspects of current affairs which do not concern her. This detachment is not confined to the events only, even the prominent personalities are mentioned in passing.

The reader usually expects the impact of changing circumstances and environment on the ideas of the author which invariably seek expression in such intimate biographies. Mrs Durrani's meeting with the Quaid-i-Azam is treated only in one sentence where the Quaid came, addressed an Army unit and left. There is absolutely no comment on the personality of the man who was one of the most important leaders of his time. Similarly, her family's various meetings with the Shah of Iran do not elicit any observations on the king or his associates

especially when Dr Mossadegh had forced the Shah to leave the country. It is indeed amazing to note that the CIA's involvement in this episode is totally missing in spite of the fact that it is a common knowledge now that it was not Missadegh's unpopularity as claimed by the author, but a CIA-sponsored drama that led to his downfall. However, one does read about the dances Mrs Durrani had the honour of sharing with the Shah. Their visit to Kashmir is also mentioned without any comment on the political and social conditions in the Valley; none the less, the beautiful environment of the 'Paradise on Earth' leaves an everlasting impact on her mind. The book is replete with accounts of pride and elevation when the author and her husband either stay in a place where some British colonial dignitary had stayed or when they meet someone who represents that legacy.

Though one cannot generalize, after reading this book, one feels that probably all Pakistani diplomats serve their country in the same manner as the author's husband did yet there is nothing in this diplomat's life except entertainment, hunting, meetings and roaming around the world on pleasure trips. The book is teeming with typographical errors and it seems that the editor did not care about these niceties before bringing the manuscript to the print. Perhaps an addition to our knowledge about the way our diplomats, at least one of them, perform their duties, the book certainly leaves the reader with more questions about our Foreign Service than the ones with which he begins to go through these pages.

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