

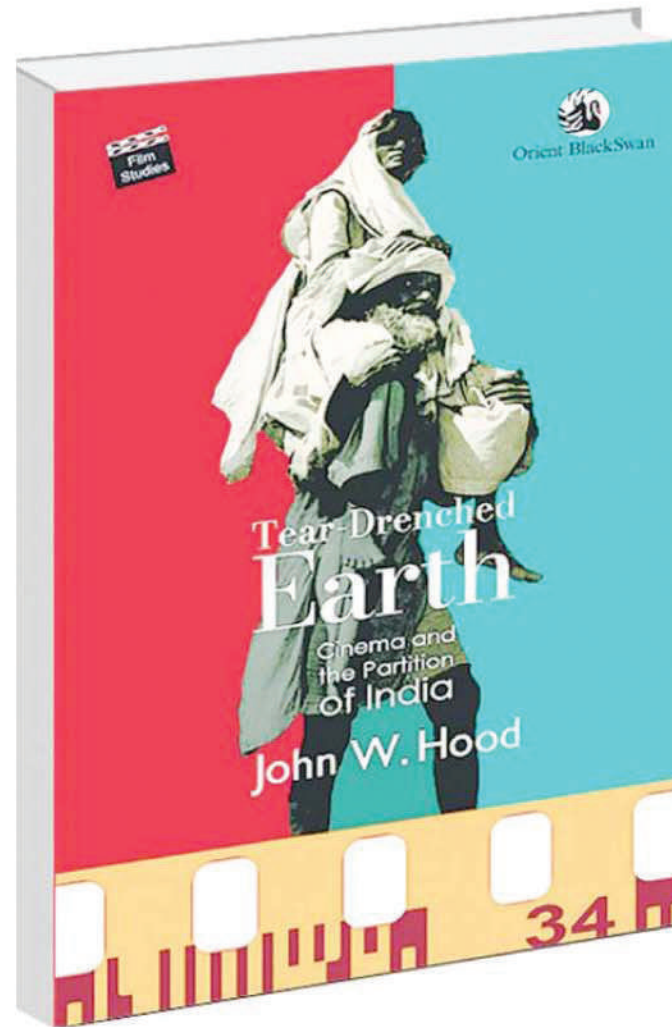
Fascinating Universe of Partition Films

Bhaskar Parichha

by Deepa Mehta. Set in Lahore during the partition, the movie revolves around the life of a young girl named Lenny, who belongs to a wealthy Parsi family. Through Lenny's perspective, the film explores the communal tensions, violence, and the breakdown of relationships that occurred during this period. It also highlights the struggles faced by women and the impact of partition on their lives. "Pinjar" (2003), directed by Chandra Prakash Dwivedi, is another powerful film that depicts the partition. It tells the story of Puro, a Hindu girl who is abducted by a Muslim man during the partition. The film explores themes of love, loss, and the resilience of the human spirit amidst the chaos and violence of the partition. It also sheds light on the plight of women who were abducted and faced immense hardships during this time. "Partition" (2007), directed by Vic Sarin, is a Canadian film that portrays the partition through the eyes of a Sikh family. The

Movies depicting the partition of India have played a significant role in capturing the historical events and the emotional turmoil experienced by millions of people during this tumultuous period. These films have not only shed light on the political and social aspects of the partition but have also explored the human stories, personal sacrifices, and the lasting impact it had on individuals and communities. One of the most notable movies depicting the partition of India is "GaramHawa" (1973), directed by M.S. Sathyu. This critically acclaimed film portrays the struggles of a Muslim family in Agra, who are torn apart by the partition. It delves into the complexities of identity, loyalty, and the challenges faced by those who were forced to leave their homes and migrate to either India or Pakistan.

Another significant film is "1947: Earth" (1998), directed



Tear-Drenched Earth : Cinema and Partition of India

movie follows the journey of Gian Singh, who is separated from his family during the partition and struggles to reunite with them amidst the violence and chaos. It explores themes of identity, religious tensions, and the search for belonging in a divided nation. These movies, among many others, have provided a platform to educate and raise awareness about the partition of India. They have depicted the pain, trauma, and the long-lasting scars left by this historical event. By capturing the personal stories and emotions of individuals affected by the partition, these films have helped to humanize the history and ensure that the memories of this significant period are not forgotten. Tear-Drenched Earth : Cinema and Partition of India by John W. Hood deals extensively with portion films in this seminal work.

Says the blurb : 'The trauma of Partition is an indelible part of the collective memory of the citizens of India and Pakistan and, later, Bangladesh. With over 15 million displaced and several million dead on both sides of the Radcliffe Line, this massive exodus remains forever a black mark in history. Partition and its aftermath have been central to much of subcontinental cinema, and found frequent and varied representation on screen.' This intelligent book examines iconic movies spanning from the 1950s to the 2010s that portray different facets of the Partition, including titles like Gandhi, Chinnamul, Meghe Dhaka Tara, Viceroy's House, Tamas, GarmHawa, Pinjar, and Toba Tek Singh. John W. Hood delves into films that emphasize the tragic absurdity of a monumental historical tragedy and the unimaginable horror of its

aftermath, exploring how it impacted individuals on either side of the partition.

Hood explores the notions of nation, self, faith, identity, family, love, home, and memory post-Partition, demonstrating the intertwined nature of religion and politics in influencing the violence during that period. Additionally, he ponders over the consequences of the newly defined borders of the emerging nations, which exacerbated feelings of 'Otherness' resulting in vengeful acts and irrational violence that endured long after Partition, as seen in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, and the 2002 Godhra massacre.

This book is a must-read for individuals with a passionate interest in the subcontinental divide and the world of cinema.

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