

Comprehending 'Train to Pakistan' with Criminal Psychological Approach: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh is an impactful story set during the cataclysmic partition of 1947, which portrays the psychological, social emotional breakdown of the once peaceful Mano Majra village. This book examines the novel through a psychological lens, showing how political authority and power struggles ignited communal hatred, moral dilemmas, and identity conflicts. It critically evaluates the criminal perspective of the story by exploring the themes of guilt, trauma, discrimination and human capacity for both violence and compassion. Moreover, it reflects on how community, authority, social pressure and fear influence behavior and decision-making. Ultimately, this review serves the novel as a psychological exploration of human behavior and nature during conflict.

Keywords: *Partition, Trauma, Conflict, Politics, Communal Tension*

FULL BOOK CITATION-

Khushwant Singh, Train to Pakistan, Grove Press-1956

In a world turning more complicated by the day, Khushwant Singh gave a deep analysis of the socio-political effects of India and Pakistan's Partition on individuals and communities. Along with being a renowned politician, journalist, and diplomat, he was a passionate and creative writer whose vivid storytelling and creative ideas led to the creation of his gripping book **Train to Pakistan**. Famous for his keen wit, sardonic humor, and unwavering interest in love, Singh frequently examined the differences between Indian and Western behavioral and cultural norms. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974 for his distinguished career; he famously returned to protest the operation Blue Star, in which the Indian Army overran the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in 1984. In 2007, he was later awarded India's second-highest civilian honor, the Padma Vibhushan. Singh was also a member of Parliament's upper house, the Rajya Sabha, from 1980 to 1986. He was an outspoken opponent of organized religion who believed that morality and humanity were more significant than theology. He felt that one might be a saint without believing in God.

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Received: August 27, 2025; Revision Received: September 08, 2025; Accepted: September 12, 2025

INTRODUCE THE BOOK

Human empathy, the value of emotions, understanding, love, and caring, as well as morally just decisions and the dearth of violence, are all quite reassuring, aren't they? However, what if one were asked to cope with this circumstance without these important elements?

The Partition of India is powerfully depicted in Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*, which is based on the terrible experiences of common people rather than devoted political traits. Blending journalism, fiction, and an immense human empathy, Singh tackles issues of violence, community, identity, and ethical choice-making during tumultuous times. The book is noteworthy for its realistic yet impossible characters, its restrained yet powerful style, and its fearless examination of the terrible outcomes of unrestrained hatred and separation that exists. The horrific human cost of the tragic events that followed the partition is depicted in the book in tremendous detail. *Train to Pakistan* tells the story of a fictional village, Mano Majra, where Sikhs and Muslims once lived peacefully-until the turmoil of Partition breaks that harmony apart.

PURPOSE OF REVIEW

Comprehending a book that explores various aspects of psychology is both difficult and stimulating. This review aims to objectively examine *Train to Pakistan*, examining how the stark human cost of India's Partition is shown through its compelling story and realistic characters. This essay's main goal is to analyze the psychological factors that influenced experiences before and after the division. It also evaluates how psychology affected human conduct during this chaotic time, either positively or negatively.

EXPLAIN THE RELEVANCE TO YOUR FIELD

Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* is an important publication in the discipline of psychology. Because they offer a greater understanding of human behavior under dangerous and chaotic situations, the domains of social, criminal, and clinical psychology are especially relevant within the larger discipline of psychology. The Partition-era setting of the book captures a time of intense violence, terror, and unrest. The way that common people react to fear, propaganda, mob mentality, and the demands of group identity can be seen through the prism of social psychology. The story effectively demonstrates how the tragedy of Partition affected every facet of society, revealing prejudice, stereotyping, and the startling rapidity at which religious identities turned into points of contention. The book also gives psychologists a chance to examine how moral decisions and unlawful conduct are influenced by uncertain political environments. In the end, *Train to Pakistan* highlights the cognitive processes by which individuals deal with violence and struggle to choose between hatred and compassion, highlighting the profound impact that emotions have on individuals as well as collective action.

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* is a significant work in the field of psychology. Because they offer a greater understanding of human behavior under dangerous and chaotic situations, the domains of social, criminal, and clinical psychology are especially relevant within the larger discipline of psychology. The partition-era setting of the book depicts a time of intense violence, terror, and instability. The way that ordinary individuals react to fear, propaganda, mob mentality, and the demands of group identity can be seen through the prism of social psychology. The narrative effectively shows how the tragedy of Partition affected every facet of society, revealing stereotyping, bigotry, and the startling speed at which religious identities transformed into points of conflict. Moreover, the book provides

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psychologists with a chance to examine how unstable political environments influence criminal conduct and ethical decisions. In the end, Train to Pakistan emphasizes how individuals deal with violence and struggle with choosing between hatred and humanity, demonstrating how strongly emotions affect individuals as well as collective actions. In addition, a sudden increase in lawlessness plunged the nation into ever-deepening instability. The story emphasizes the breakdown of social order, the dispute between bias and reality, and the ensuing escalation of disputes within the community. The key incident of a dacoity that results in the murder of a local moneylender is at the heart of this theme. It not exclusively upsets the delicate balance of the community but also stimulates the reader's interest in what might happen next. Kalyug, the next chapter, deals with themes of psychological upheaval, trauma, anxiety, and growing distrust. The arrival of a train from Pakistan is particularly striking. Here, shock, fear, and the solidification of communal borders are brought on by the harsh reality of the 1947 Partition, which hits Mano Majra. The village's decline into widespread discontent is reflected in the following chapter, Mano Majra, which explores mob mentality, propaganda, conflict within the village, and the paralysis of ideology. Ultimately, the infamous badmash Jugga redeems himself in the final portion by giving his life to stop a massacre out of love and humanity. As a result, even though the book finishes tragically, Kalyug gives readers hope by demonstrating that one courageous deed may restore faith in people even during chaotic times. Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan emphasizes that although political authorities planned the Partition, the brunt of the violence and unrest fell on the people. Even while a corrupt administration remained helpless in the face of catastrophe, the story examines how love, bravery, and individual deeds can confirm mankind via individuals like Jugga and Iqbal. The story is a powerful reminder that interpersonal bonds and courageous deeds may light up the shadows cast by ineffective leadership and disjointed government, but it also shows how easily individuals can be coerced into being cruel.

CRITICAL EVALUATION

Readers experience the profound psychological effects of dread, remorse, and violence against others via Singh's book, as well as the ageless themes of morality and salvation. In addition to exposing historical errors, compelling figures like Jugga, Hukum Chand, and Iqbal also represent the inner turmoil of individuals caught in its tangle. Emotionally charged, the story illustrates the complexity of human nature throughout tragic events, group decision-making, and social upheaval. It emphasizes that no one is born a criminal and goes on to show why hardship and rejection from society can drive someone to commit crimes. Instead, individuals are frequently forced into an incorrect road by the weight of necessity, trauma, and exclusion. In the end, The Train to Pakistan opens our eyes and makes us aware of the thin line separating human from inhumanity. However, in spite of its outstanding merits, the book underinvests in several areas, leaving little holes that occasionally lessen its overall impact. The sub-inspector-magistrate relationship seems a little constrained, and a more thorough examination of their moral decline may have provided more insightful information about the corruption of the bureaucratic system. Similar to this, a stronger political viewpoint may have improved the storyline because many of the crimes were the direct result of higher authorities' mistakes. Last but not least, a more thorough portrayal regarding the villagers' reactions to Jugga's selfless sacrifice might have given more emotional depth as well as a more fulfilling feeling of closure.

THEORETICAL OR PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTION-

While capturing the horror events of Partition, Train to Pakistan offers both psychological and theoretical insight and its relevance in today's world. Understanding human psychology during the crisis, how people behave during communal violence. In depth the novel explores

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some interesting psychological themes such as group dynamics, trauma, cognitive dissonance and moral disengagement. In alignment with criminal and social psychology theories this book also delves with how an individual gets influenced by social pressure, fear etc. Further, on a practical level, *Train to Pakistan* provides an insight in emotional intelligence, empathy, clinical psychology, forensic psychology and counselling psychology. Moreover, more focused towards forensic and criminal psychology, it mentions mob behavior and the psychology of revenge. It explains how systematic breakdowns in law and ethics can lead to criminal acts.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Train to Pakistan is a haunting book with some of the most tragic episodes in Indian history. It showcases the historical reality with fictional narration of psychological and emotional outcomes because of Partition. The key of the novel lies in the intricacies of communal tensions and individual moral dilemmas with a commendable degree of fairness and clarity. Also, it offers a portrayal of personal ethics, all conveyed without emotional excess. Through stark realism and unforgettable characters, the novel delivers a powerful examination of human cruelty, social discrimination and ethical indifference. Ultimately, in the end the novel gives critical analysis to the idea that amidst historical tragedy and darkness, it is individual compassion and bravery which ultimately illuminates the human spirit.

This is a novel that moves one's thoughts, mind and heart. It is specially recommended to the readers who are interested in historical fiction. Khushwant Singh's strong storytelling somewhat forms humanity, history and horror into a narrative that delicately stabilizes personal truth and historical magnitude. With characters who are judged for wrong and have a mindblowing personality, the book not only talks about historical events but also somewhere forces reader to confront the worst consequences of love, fear, hatred and partition. It's not just a story of struggles and emotions but also a mirror to our own personalities-the dual nature of humanity, and our potential for both kindness and brutality. Isn't it so easy to change a decision just by being influenced? Yes it is, the power of influence is somewhere shaping our decisions and directions. More focused on how one gets karma back. Hence, this world remembers, even if we forget and responds in a very kind way. I would recommend this book to readers who really want to know how life experiences can change an individual to a totally new individual.

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Acknowledgment

The author(s) appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

How to cite this article: Singh, S. & Chakraborty, D. (2025). Comprehending 'Train to Pakistan' with Criminal Psychological Approach: A Review. *International Journal of Social Impact*, 10(3), 730-734. DIP: 18.02.079/20251003, DOI: 10.25215/2455/1003079