

### Significance of Research

My research is centered on the Khudai Khidmatgar movement begun by Abdul Ghaffar Khan in the late 1920's. As one of the largest nonviolent organizations they were also thus allied with the All India National Congress and formed two popularly elected governments in the North-West Frontier Province. Because they were ideologically against the partition of India they were declared traitors to the emergent Pakistani state and all their public records and literature destroyed. Although there are some private collections of their journals that are now coming to the fore in Khyber-Pukhtunkhwa, most of the records of the Frontier Congress are located in archives either in the UK or in India. Therefore, receiving a fellowship from the American Institute of Pakistan Studies to conduct research in both these countries was crucial for my dissertation project.

The Khudai Khidmatgar movement was a unique chapter in the annals of anti-colonial resistance in British India. Situated on the volatile borders of the North-West Frontier they were also thus more harshly policed than other anti-colonial resistance movements of the time. Long categorized as a violent race of peoples, the Pashtuns were also subjected to harsher disciplinary measures, but surprisingly, even more so when the nonviolent Khudai Khidmatgars tacitly opposed such categorizations. As such, the history and literature generated by, and surrounding, this movement are extremely rare and valuable to locate for a number of salient reasons. Having been given the opportunity to do so by this fellowship was gratifying not just for personal academic goals but also more generally: after many years a marginalized movement and a silenced history have been awarded some of the recognition they rightly deserve, enriching both the field of Pakistan Studies and of the Humanities more broadly.