

The Lost Home: Perception of Homeland in Kashmiri Muslims' and Kashmiri Hindu Pandits' Narratives

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Abstract

The binary of Kashmir as a beautiful, alluring place or a turbulent zone has heavily affected the idea of 'home' for everyone. Development of political discord between the two sects of people, over time, has resulted in a fragmented and a very divided idea of home. In over seven centuries of Kashmiri history, violence and bloodshed were largely present entities, which seeped into the cultural, physical, mental, emotional, spatial, religious, communal, temporal as well as geographical dimensions of the people. This paper attempts to discuss this bifurcated idea of 'home' in Kashmiri identity, how it developed and took its present roots in the Indian Subcontinent and whether or not there are any long-term solutions for this 7,000-year-old problem.

Keywords: Community, Exodus, Home, Identity, Kashmiriyat.