

The Newspaper as Political Actor – The Dawn, New Delhi, 1947

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Drawing on a larger, co-authored, interdisciplinary project examining six English language newspapers from five Indian cities in the year 1947, my paper confines its analysis to the *Dawn*, New Delhi and its role in representing the case for the creation of Pakistan and itself as the official and only authentic voice of the Muslims in India. The *Dawn*, founded by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, published from New Delhi was an important partner in the League campaign for Pakistan.

This successful campaign used many techniques to get across its message of rejecting any idea of India being a composite whole. It critiqued everything and everyone from Nehru and his interim Government, to Gandhi, the Congress and all leading 'nationalist' Muslims. It crafted its message with clarity and purpose never losing sight of its purpose. All of its space including advertisements where possible and even columns like the letters to the editor and the Children's section were harnessed to the task.

This presentation will set out the composite presentation of the case for Pakistan in the *Dawn* – its achievement and finally newspaper's shift to publication from Karachi in September 1947. It thus cuts across many of the themes of the conference.