Abstract

The dissertation is about the post-partition history of Karachi, focusing on the impact of the event of partition, on the morphology of the city, from 1947-1958 till Karachi was the capital of Pakistan. Karachi has been through several conflicts since the beginning, but the event of partition was one of the most cataclysmic events in its history. This event brought several changes to the city; including religion, ethnicities, language, culture, politics and economics.

Cities are a complicated phenomenon and therefore in order to understand the present of any city it is important to understand where it is coming from. In the case of Karachi, partition marked a new 'emergence' for the city. There were a lot of changes that were brought by partition, but the most obvious change was the emergence of different languages, ethnicities and cultures, which impacted the city's growth on many levels. These changes contributed to a new kind of form of the city, where the living pattern was based on social and cultural values.

The main idea of this dissertation is to understand how the form of the city evolved due to the changes brought about by partition, focusing particularly on the first 10 years of Karachi, after partition.