

Chapter 1 : Abida Hussain - Wikipedia

This is Syeda Abida Hussain, the owner of a life that is spilling over with fullness, charm and nerve-racking diplomatic encounters as recounted by her in Power Failure, a rather odd name for a.

They may have been in a pensive mood as the conversation was held under the shadow of the massive Azad Kashmir earthquake. And suddenly, Benazir poses a question to Abida. Had her husband ever been unfaithful in their marriage? Abida accepts that she certainly had her moments of suspicion but there was nothing that could ever be seriously pinned on her husband, Syed Fakhar Imam. Let Abida take over from this point: The Political Odyssey of a Pakistani woman. Most of them, though, were featured as stars in the sordid spectacle of our politics. During that eight-hour session in Dubai, Asif Zardari had figured in some detail. He was in New York at the time. She went on to say that he had also promised to stop dabbling in business if they returned to power. Besides, the juicy bits have already been reported in the media. In addition to the speeches made at the launching of the book, Abida has been interviewed on TV and columnists have made their own choices. Two unsavoury references to Nawaz Sharif were readily picked up. In that sense, writing a review also becomes difficult. It has also been noted that this gripping memoir has not been edited with the care that it deserves. A famous couplet of Mustafa Zaidi is attributed to Munir Niazi. The Ojhri Camp disaster occurred in April and not in May That she got married to a person of the stature of Syed Fakhar Imam has provided an additional depth to her story. After Benazir, Abida has been the most accomplished female politician of Pakistan – and both had their dynastic attributes. This is only natural, though Abida does emerge as an upright and credible chronicler of events in which she has participated. In between, she constantly remained in the political limelight, playing a leading role in different capacities. The pity of it is that while all of them have attempted a vindication of their own role, in a personal sense, the cumulative effect is that of betrayal and defeat. Pakistan has not been served well by those who have governed it, with whatever constraints and difficulties. But Abida has been fairly candid in telling her story. There are instances of covert, conspiratorial meetings that led to a regime change or the formation of new alliances. While the story is spread over decades, there are periods that stand out because of a rush of events. There is this episode of how she was flown to Texas with her air attache to meet the officials of General Dynamics after they had heard that Pakistan was thinking of terminating the F deal. I suggested that he should insist that his Ambassador shall remain with him, at which the General commented that it would seem that we were expressing mistrust, since the lady there to assist their top gun had departed. So, dragging my feet a bit, I walked out of the room. It was suggested that if it made it easier for Pakistan to step back from the red lines on the nuclear programme, then a military takeover would be tolerated by the Americans. There is a lot more on the lighter side. My office did send your staff my profile but perhaps you did not have time to look at it. There was a lunch for the diplomatic corps to meet the vice presidential nominee. In the line-up for presentation at the lunch, the chief of protocol of the State Department announced the Ambassador of Pakistan and Minister Imam. He requested me not to tell the media; otherwise they would pound on him. The Congressman greeted them while Abida made some introductory remarks. This is how memoirs need to be drafted. The title of the book is the heading of the first chapter that is more analytical and, so to say, sets the scope of the narrative. The proposal was refused by her father and it was considered wise to send her away for a few years. In addition to attaining high positions and remaining at the centre of action in the corridors of power, Abida has figured prominently in the sectarian strife because she is from Jhang – the base of the rabid Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. The story she tells sheds ample light on the dark crevices of our politics and almost all the leading lights of the power game are spotted in their natural habitat. What is exciting about this account is that it breeds a sense of drama in events that we are otherwise very familiar with. We see how loyalties are changed and how principles are compromised. Abida herself makes a few detours on the road that she has taken. She has been remarkably successful in her public life, though her one regret is that she could not become chief minister of Punjab. I also detect some ambivalence in her relations with Benazir. She writes in detail about a visit to Moscow in the delegation of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto where Benazir also arrived and her portrayal is not very complimentary.

Let me conclude with this paragraph from the book: I thanked her, assuring her that whatever she said would remain with me and it did in her lifetime. She said her in-laws were very difficult, and her husband did not love her. She adored her children, and wanted them always to be with her. Willy, she said, was a lot like his father, while Harry was more like her. She found it unbearable to be in a loveless marriage, asking me for advice as to what she should do. I thought for a moment about what I would do in her situation and responded. He currently works with the daily The News and the Geo television network.

*Power Failure: Political Odyssey of a Pakistani Woman [Syeda Abida Hussain] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The book is a political biography of the author-in which she has intertwined the impacts that key political events of the country have had on her personal life-and on the destiny of the nation.*

This is Syeda Abida Hussain, the owner of a life that is spilling over with fullness, charm and nerve-racking diplomatic encounters as recounted by her in *Power Failure*, a rather odd name for a memoir. Yet it is not all lucre and glamour. All big names in politics act in cliff-hangers, characterised by court intrigues, expeditious enthronements and humiliating banishments. The author makes the reader privy to plots by cabals at rendezvous where the powerful revive old-boys networks and energise the interlocking family, in-law and cadet-college plexus in a morbid frenzy to seize power. Loyalties were fleeting, Abida being no exception. One can understand her legitimate pride in being a scion of 14 generations of landed aristocracy, but regrettably we find her unable to be a little circumspect about the non-feudal rich. Then the author quotes the late Baloch politician, Akbar Bugti, as saying that Sharif hates anyone who owns land. It deserves to be read, if not for the justness of it then for its fanciful originality. Spendthrift Churchill was often broke, took loans from his publishers, and earned money by writing and not by sharecropping. Away from the razzmatazz of Pakistani politics, the book gives us mortifying facts about geopolitical reality when Pakistani diplomats come face-to-face with the superpower determined to have its way. The key issue for the Americans was nuclear. All those they met "undersecretary Arnold Kanter, national security adviser Brent Scowcroft and defence secretary Dick Cheney" hammered away at one point: Islamabad must roll back its nuclear plans if it wanted American aid. The visit to the State Department saw Gen Janjua being frisked, and when they met Cheney at the Pentagon, the defence secretary wished to be left alone with the general. Abida shows a profound understanding of how America works: Kissinger later denied it to Abida, when she met him along with her daughter and husband; the former secretary of state and scholar said what he had stated was: In any case, Pakistan refused to be made an example of. There is too much about families in the book but a reader has to put up with this in a memoir. Abida was where the action was. In the Wapda case, Sharif fails to help her and she resigns as minister. No wonder she has barbs for Sharif: On the whole Abida acquits herself well as a writer in what indeed is her magnum opus. It, therefore, comes as a surprise when the reader is informed that the author, who as a girl had a Swiss education and studied the history of art at Florence, had to obtain a BA degree as a senior citizen to conform to the Musharraf law on mandatory graduation for lawmakers. An otherwise readable book, it needed better editing: Additionally, the index is a disaster.

Chapter 3 : Power failure: The political odyssey of a Pakistani woman - ANU

Power Failure is truly a great autobiography by Syeda Abida Hussain on many counts. Firstly, it is a riveting and beautifully written page-turner and, secondly, the reason it is an absorbing read.

Karachi, Murree Hills, and in London. She is a politician, horse and cattle breeder, agriculturist, and diplomat. Her book, mostly in self praise, is a political biography of the author in which she has tried to intertwine the impacts that key political events of the country have had on her personal life. As Leo Tolstoy opens his classic novel Anna Karenina with "All happy families are alike", similarly all feudal families of Pakistan are alike. Abid owned more than 53, acres of land in Jhang district that helped the author to keep her hold on the district council and two National Assembly seats of Jhang district. After Partition in , the Nawabs, the rural feudal lords and aristocrats remained in power aided by civil and military remained in power to maintain the imperialist status quo and strengthened their political, social, spiritual, economic and coercive sway over people, forcing them to work on their fields generation after generation. On page , she admits that feudal lords thwarted the land reforms by retaining their lands having made back dated mutations in names of retainers, relatives and even children that were not yet born. Punjab also became the biggest contributor in terms of manpower to the British army in India. The Punjab Feudal class stayed loyal to the British until the very end. Punjab was governed by the Unionist Party, whose official position was that the British should stay in India. This feudal system has made the people of Pakistan pathetic. We whine like sheep. Only certain privileged people benefited from these reforms. Very influential people were behind the failure of the reforms. They transferred their lands to relatives and children through spurious methods. In this way they continued to political and wield personal clout and influence. The national and regional assemblies were under their influence. Her daughter is a PPP Senator, her spouse Fakhar Imam contested general elections on the PML-N ticket, her son is reported to be trying to jump on the PTI bandwagon and about herself she says "My dream is that my country achieves a leadership of unimpeachable integrity and considerable capacity That is my dream: There are a number of glaring factual and historical mistakes in the book. The same bench heard the review petition. On March 17, the hearing in the review petition came to an end and the judgment was reserved. On page the author says" She took oath along with male members who had been elected on general seats. The fact is that number of general seats of election were and not On page she says "In May , the Ojhri ammunition Camp disaster occurred". The author has given credit to Munir Niazi of a famous verse that was written by Mustafa Zaidi The book needs proof-reading as it has been published by a reputed publisher, Oxford University Press, Karachi. The author has used more than a dozen times Advise as a noun instead of Advice.

Chapter 4 : Book Review: Power Failure by Syeda Abida Hussain - Youlin Magazine

Power Failure Political Odyssey of a Pakistani Woman Syeda Abida Hussain. The book is a political biography of the author-in which she has intertwined the impacts that key political events of the country have had on her personal life-and on the destiny of the nation.

Chapter 5 : Book Review: Power Failure | Newslite

Power Failure The Political Odyssey of a Pakistani woman (Oxford University Press, Pakistan) By Syeda Abida Hussain. This highly readable and well-written memoir is a refresher in the history of Pakistan but through Abida Hussain's prism.

Chapter 6 : Power Failure by Syeda Abida Hussain - Daily Times

Abida Hussain is an politician and played active role in era's of martial law and the democracy. In her autobiography she revealed the inner side of government. she unfold many chapters regarding wrong little steps taken by the government.

Chapter 7 : Confessions of a feudal lord's daughter | Business Recorder

Syeda Abida Hussain is the author of Power Failure (avg rating, 14 ratings, 3 reviews, published).

Chapter 8 : (Power failure) Short Essay in Simple English | Honey Notes

"Power Failure" presents the autobiographical account of Syeda Abida Hussain's life. Her story is intertwined with that of Pakistani politics. The book is a narrative of not just the author.

Chapter 9 : Power Failure – Pakistani politics through Abida Hussain's lens | Pakistan Today

The launch ceremony featured a stimulating discussion between Syeda Abida Hussain, Ayaz Amir, journalist and politician and Naeem Bokhari, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court and television personality.