Bangladesh: A Political History since Independence

a talk by

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About the Book
Bangladesh is a country of paradoxes. The eighth most populous country of the world, it has attracted considerable attention from the international media and western policy-makers in recent years, often for the wrong reasons: corruption, natural disasters caused by its precarious geographical location, and volatile political situations with several military coups, following its independence from Pakistan in 1971. Institutional corruption, growing religious intolerance and Islamist militancy have reflected the weakness of the state and undermined its capacity. Yet the country has demonstrated significant economic potential and has achieved successes in areas such as female education, population control and reductions in child mortality. In Bangladesh: A Political History since Independence, Ali Riaz examines the political processes which engendered these paradoxical tendencies, taking into account the problems of democratization and the effects this has had, and will continue to have, in the wider South Asian region. This comprehensive and unique overview of political and historical developments in Bangladesh since 1971 will provide essential reading for observers of Bangladesh and South Asia.

About the Author
Ali Riaz is a University Professor at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, USA where he teaches political science and is chair of the Department. He earned his PhD from University of Hawaii, Hawaii, USA. He previously taught at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Lincoln University, England, and Claflin University, South Carolina, USA. He also worked as a Broadcast Journalist at the British Broadcasting Service (BBC) in London. In 2013, he served as Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at Washington D.C. Dr Riaz served as a consultant to various international organizations, and appeared before the US Congress in 2013 and 2015 as an expert witness. His primary area of interests are political Islam, madrasahs, South Asian politics, and Bangladeshi politics. Dr. Riaz's publications includes How Did We Arrive Here (2014), Islam and Identity Politics among British-Bangladeshis: A Leap of Faith (2013); Inconvenient Truths about Bangladeshi Politics (2012), Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh: A Complex Web (2008), He is currently coediting the Routledge Handbook on Contemporary Bangladesh.