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GWATAR BAY TO SIR CREEK

THE GOLDEN COAST OF PAKISTAN

History and Memoirs

VICE ADMIRAL
IFTIKHAR AHMED RAO (RETD)



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Gwatar Bay to Sir Creek
The Golden Coast of Pakistan
History and Memoirs

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In this book, I have drawn on and referenced international authentic resources and in particular extensive references and material related to Gwadar from official British archives retrieved through Arabian Gulf Digital Archives, Qatar Digital Library and also direct from The National Archives, UK. I am greatly indebted to them. I have also used Google Maps quite often in addition to Encyclopaedia Britannica and many others. I have referenced all these in the book. My acknowledgment and thanks to all these organizations.

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Reviews

This book takes the reader on a journey of Pakistan's fascinating coast starting from ancient times to the present age and on the way provides an insight into the myriad changes that have taken place in this important region of the world. A country's coasts, ports and related industries are not only the gateway for socio-economic development but also strategic from the defence point of view. The Admiral's personal experiences from both these aspects provide exceptionally interesting reading.

– **Zubaida Jalal**, Federal Minister for Defence Production

This book is a testimony to Admiral Rao's reputation as a visionary and result-oriented leader, with remarkable contributions during his exemplary naval career and after retirement. It is a combination of high-quality research work and rich experience of maritime matters which makes it authentic and interesting. After covering blue economy in his first book, he has presented a detailed account of Pakistan's coast both in historic and contemporary context. Reading the book is like travelling along the coast in the past as well as the present. It is indeed a great contribution in the national maritime context and a marvellous gift for all those having an interest in our maritime affairs.

– **Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah NI(M) (retd)**,
former Chief of Naval Staff, Pakistan Navy

The two locations named in this exceptional book's title mark the distance of about 1,000 km between the two ends of Pakistan's coastline. Yet the book's rich content traverses much longer lengths and far larger terrains – of history, geography, geopolitics, evolving contemporary conditions, security imperatives, the sociology and economy of coastal communities, the personal passage of a dedicated, accomplished naval officer. Vice Admiral (retd) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao has conducted enormous research

which he blends with his own direct experience and perceptions to write a valuable, insightful contribution to discourse on a neglected subject: where the beautiful land of Pakistan meets the glory of the Arabian Sea. This book is essential reading for long-distance swimmers committed to long-term goals!

– **Javed Jabbar**, media guru, statesman, former senator

Pakistan's rich coastline, which is its lifeline, has been meticulously analysed from a strategic and historical perspective by the author. This book is a must read for all policymakers for informed decision-making, and especially for future generations, for an understanding of the coastal complexities so as to reap future sustainable dividends. It is a first in its field filling the current void on the subject, and is intrinsically critical for understanding the coastline's geostrategic importance.

– **Nisar A. Memon**, statesman and
Chairman, Water Environment Forum

It is beyond one's comprehension that Pakistan with a long coastline and vast Special Economic Zone and continental shelf and abutting one of the busiest lines of sea communications should not have been cognizant of the importance of maritime economy and its linkage to national security. Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao's book serves to fill this gap. With his illustrious career in Pakistan Navy and hands-on experience in this area, his observations carry the stamp of conviction and credibility. Mercifully, maritime affairs are now gaining increasing attention in the context of CPEC with Gwadar port as its centrepiece.

– **Ambassador (retd) Khalid Mahmood**,
Chairman, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

What a better person to write about Pakistan's coastal regions and marine environment, as well as history of coastal defences, than a retired Vice Admiral of the Pakistan Navy. Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao has done a great service to the country by

encapsulating his experiences in Gwatar Bay to Sir Creek. I am sure this book will go a long way in informing any and all readers who are interested in these subjects.

– **Syed Abu Ahmad Akif**, former federal secretary, author

This book is a revealing and fascinating account of the history of Gwadar and the coastal areas generally, which shall now, due to the author's efforts enter the mainstream history of Pakistan. It deserves to be compulsory reading for both Pakistani scholars and diplomats. The strategic component of the manuscript is also impressive.

– **Dr Muhammad Reza Kazimi**,
Editor, Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society



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