

October Coup: A Memoir of the Struggle for Hyderabad

By Mohammed Hyder

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It is 1948. A newly-independent India is trying to persuade Hyderabad to join the Indian Union. Negotiations are difficult for both sides. The State Congress, now operating from Indian territory, has launched a campaign of violent raids, designed to cripple civil administration in the border areas, and provoke an annexation. The leading Islamic party inside Hyderabad, in an equally rash move, has created a para-military body, the Razakars, to counter the threat to Hyderabad's borders.

For Mohammed Hyder of the Hyderabad Civil Service, the newly-appointed Collector of Osmanabad District (situated on the Hyderabad-Bombay border), both, the wayward State Congress and the ramshackle Razakar outfit are a threat to law and order. This first-person account conveys a vivid picture of Hyderabad under pressure, through the eyes of a senior district administrator.

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Editorial Review

About the Author
In 1948, when the princely state of Hyderabad was going through difficult times, Mohammed Hyder was Collector of Osmanabad, one of the most politically sensitive districts of the state.

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