

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 54097

**Date:** 29/09/2025

**Title:** Tracing the Roots of Jammu Massacre and Its Impacts on the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir,

### Recommendation:

Accept

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techno. Quality			√	
Clarity			√	
Significance			√	

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

**Date:** 29/09/2025

### Reviewer's Comment

The article "Tracing the Roots of Jammu Massacre and Its Impacts on the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir" makes a significant contribution to the historiography of Partition and the Kashmir conflict by directing attention to the largely underexplored and frequently neglected tragedy of the Jammu massacre of 1947. In contrast to the bulk of existing scholarship and political debate, which has predominantly centered on the Kashmir Valley and the broader Indo-Pakistani rivalry, this study effectively reorients the focus toward Jammu province, a region that witnessed one of the most catastrophic episodes of communal violence in the history of the subcontinent

### Detailed Review Report

The article "*Tracing the Roots of Jammu Massacre and Its Impacts on the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir*" makes an important contribution to the historiography of Partition and the Kashmir conflict by focusing on the relatively under-researched and often overlooked tragedy of the Jammu massacre of 1947. While much scholarship and political discourse has focused on the Kashmir Valley and the broader Indo-Pak rivalry, this article successfully shifts attention to Jammu province, which experienced one of the most devastating episodes of communal violence in the subcontinent's history.

A key strength of the article lies in its detailed historical reconstruction. The author situates the massacre within the wider context of Partition violence, especially the March 1947 Rawalpindi massacres and the refugee flows between Punjab and Jammu. By connecting the events in Jammu to the violence across

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Punjab, the article underscores the interconnectedness of Partition tragedies and avoids treating Jammu as an isolated case. The detailed account of political rivalries—between Sheikh Abdullah, Ghulam Abbas, the National Conference, and the Muslim Conference—provides a nuanced picture of how local politics intersected with the wider Indian National Congress and Muslim League agendas.

The use of archival evidence such as British fortnightly reports, memoirs, contemporary newspapers, and later scholarly works by Alastair Lamb, Victoria Schofield, Christopher Snedden, and others enhances the credibility of the research. The inclusion of survivor testimonies and oral histories further adds a human dimension, ensuring that the voices of victims and witnesses are not lost in purely political or military narratives.

The article also highlights the demographic engineering that resulted from the massacre, drawing on census data to demonstrate how Muslims, once a significant population in Jammu, were reduced to a minority after the violence and forced migrations. This section is particularly valuable, as it connects the 1947 violence to long-term demographic and political transformations in the region, even linking it to contemporary debates over demographic change in Jammu and Kashmir.

At the same time, the article could benefit from some improvements. First, while the narrative is rich, it is also very dense and lengthy, at times overwhelming the reader with excessive detail and repetition. A tighter structure, with clearer sub-sections and analytical framing, would make the arguments more accessible and persuasive. Second, while the reliance on British archival sources is commendable, there is room for greater engagement with recent South Asian scholarship on Partition studies, memory studies, and genocide/ethnic cleansing frameworks, which could give the analysis more theoretical depth. Third, the paper often shifts between descriptive narration and analytical commentary without clear distinction. A more explicit analytical framework—for example, whether the massacre should be categorized as genocide, ethnic cleansing, or retributive violence—would sharpen the argument.

Stylistically, the paper is written in an academic tone, but some sections are overly descriptive. More critical engagement with the divergent historiographical positions (for example, the contested death toll figures, or differing views on Maharaja Hari Singh's role) would strengthen the balance of the article.

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### Final Recommendation

Overall, this article is a substantive and valuable contribution to Partition studies and the history of Jammu and Kashmir. It brings to light silenced histories, documents survivor voices, and situates the Jammu massacre within broader regional and political transformations. With minor revisions—particularly improving the structure, tightening the narrative, and incorporating more recent theoretical debates—the article deserves to be accepted for publication.

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