

**How We Know What We Know about Pakistan:
New York Times News Production, 1954-1971**

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This paper examines how *The New York Times* (NYT) produced Pakistan news during the formative period of US-Pakistan relations. The focus is on the theoretically underexplored aspect of news production: foreign news gathering. Foreign news gathering refers to the fieldwork conducted by foreign correspondents to collect and disseminate the news from abroad. This paper argues that foreign news gathering is more than a technical process; it involves the straddling of overlapping political, logistical, and strategic constraints. By exploring the constraints on news gathering faced by America's leading newspaper's foreign correspondents in Pakistan in the 1950s and 1960s, this paper identifies an important historical source of the ambiguity characterizing US-Pakistan relations. The evidence presented in this paper comes from the letters, cables, and confidential memoranda exchanged between NYT foreign correspondents in Pakistan and news editors in New York between the years 1963 and 1971. The NYT archival evidence is supplemented with interviews and declassified government documents.