

# Historical Memory and Nationalism in Amitav Ghosh's 'The Shadow Lines'

**Sonakshi Boken**

House No 315 Sector, 12A Gurugram 122001

smsbkn80@gmail.com

**Abstract:** *This paper examines the portrayal of historical memory and nationalism in Amitav Ghosh's novel "The Shadow Lines." Through a close analysis of the text, supplemented by relevant scholarly literature, the paper explores how Ghosh navigates the complexities of memory, identity, and nationhood in the context of India and Bangladesh. By delving into the interplay between personal recollections and collective history, the paper sheds light on how characters in the novel grapple with the legacies of colonialism, partition, and political conflict. Furthermore, the paper investigates how Ghosh employs narrative techniques to evoke a sense of nostalgia, while also critiquing nationalist ideologies and challenging conventional notions of belonging and citizenship. Ultimately, the paper argues that "The Shadow Lines" offers a nuanced exploration of the intersections between memory, nationalism, and identity formation in the South Asian context, making it a significant contribution to postcolonial literature*

**Keywords:** Partition of India, Collective Memory, National Identity, Historical Trauma, Border Conflicts.

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