

Amritsar Massacre: 100th Anniversary QSD on 19 February 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Loomba to ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Amritsar massacre.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Derek Sayer, '[British Reaction to the Amritsar Massacre 1919–1920](#)', *Past and Present*, May 1991, vol 131 no 1, pp 130–64

Academic article providing background information on the Amritsar massacre in India in 1919, also known as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

- BBC News, '[David Cameron Marks British 1919 Amritsar Massacre](#)', 20 February 2013; and Prime Minister's Office, '[Press Briefing Given by Prime Minister David Cameron in Amritsar](#)', 21 February 2013

Article detailing the visit of the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, to Amritsar, where he became the first serving UK prime minister to pay his respects at the scene of the massacre. He described the incident as a "deeply shameful event in British history". Mr Cameron's visit included a press conference, during which he was asked why he had declined to apologise for the incident on behalf of the UK.

- [Oral Question on 'First World War Commemoration: Pakistan'](#), HL Hansard, 12 November 2018, col 1693

Oral question on the contribution of people from—what is now—Pakistan during World War One, which included a question asking whether the Government would apologise for incidents such as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Parliamentary Questions

- House of Commons, '[Written Question: India](#)', 4 November 1997, 175W
- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Amritsar Massacre](#)', 22 June 1992, 76W

Press Articles and Comment

- John Burns, '[In India, Queen Bows Her Head Over a Massacre in 1919](#)', *New York Times*, 15 October 1997
- Nicholas Watt, '[David Cameron Defends Lack of Apology for British Massacre at Amritsar](#)', *Guardian*, 20 February 2013
- Arvind Chhabra, '[Amritsar Massacre Families: Cameron "Should Have Said Sorry"](#)', BBC News, 20 February 2013
- David Hardiman, '[Analysis: Amritsar Massacre Festering Sore Will Not Heal Easily](#)', *Politics.co.uk*, 21 February 2013
- Nick Lloyd, '[Amritsar Massacre: How Britain Lost the Will to Rule](#)', *Telegraph*, 3 January 2014
- Andrew Marszal, '[India Deserves Apology for Atrocities Under Britain's Colonial Rule, Senior Indian MP Says](#)', *Telegraph*, 7 November 2016
- Mayor of London, '[Mayor Calls for Formal Apology for Jallianwala Bagh Massacre](#)', 6 December 2017
- Molly Fleming, '[Amritsar Massacre: Foreign Office Rejects Calls to Apologise for Mass Killing of Sikhs by Colonial Troops](#)', *Independent*, 9 December 2017
- Shashi Tharoor, '[The Amritsar Massacre: A Cold, Callous Display of Colonial Evil](#)', *Irish Times*, 21 January 2019

Further Information

- BBC Sounds, '[The Amritsar Massacre of 1919](#)', accessed 13 February 2019 (audio)
- Kim Wagner, '["Calculated to Strike Terror": The Amritsar Massacre and the Spectacle of Colonial Violence](#)', *Past and Present*, November 2016, vol 233 no 1, pp 185–225
- [Debate on 'Army Council and General Dyer'](#), *HC Hansard*, 8 July 1920, cols 1705–819
- [Debate on 'Punjab Disturbances: The Case of General Dyer'](#), *HL Hansard*, 19 July 1920, cols 222–307; and [Debate on 'Punjab Disturbances: The Case of General Dyer'](#), *HL Hansard*, 20 July 1920, cols 311–77
- William Hunter, [East India \(Disturbances in the Punjab, etc\): Report of the Committee Appointed by the Government of India to Investigate the Disturbances in the Punjab](#), 1920, Cmd 681

The following books on the subject are held in the House of Lords Library's collection:

- Shereen Ilahi, *Imperial Violence and the Path to Independence: India, Ireland and the Crisis of Empire*, 2016
- Nick Lloyd, *The Amritsar Massacre: The Untold Story of One Fateful Day*, 2011

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