In the current deepening criticism of Jewish, Christ-
ian, Hindu or Islamic fundamentalism and zealotry, it is
hard to believe that Islam can inspire its adherents
to practice peace, brotherhood, and freedom from
retribution as stated in the Quran. Abdul
Ghaffar Khan stressed the need for ending vi-
olence at home, in the family, and amongst
enemies and their worst enemy Ð since more Pukhtuns
were killed by their own kinsmen than by
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League
made the Khudai Khidmatgars unique among
the various Muslim movements in the
region. What made the Khudai Khidmatgars
unique was their strong commitment to
sacrifice for their comfort and safety.

The Khudai Khidmatgars were a Populist
Party of deeply religious Muslims among
the Pukhtuns (Pathans) in the North-West Frontier Province of British India (now in Pakistan). The movement was founded in
1930 by Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1889-1986),
known among his people as the ‘pride of the
Afghans’, and as the ‘Frontier Gandhi’ in
India. They had sworn to rid themselves of
social ills and to serve humanity, irrespec-
tive of caste or creed at the local and nation-
al levels. Hence their name, ‘servants of God’. While the British colonial authorities denounced this
unprecedented unselfishness, they began to
realize that a non-violent individual voluntary self-reformation; a life-
time commitment to serving humanity, re-
jection of violence, discrimination, sectari-
anism or political factionalism; protection of
non-Muslim minority rights; non-commu-
nalism and egalitarian political philosophy,
and the championing of women’s and chil-
dren’s rights. The Pathans were the first of the
Tribal agencies in the settled districts. Tribal agencies
were created in the local area to control tribal
violence; they also served as a means of instilling the
ideas of brotherhood and mutual respect.

The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.

The Servants of God
in the North-West Frontier Province of British India

The Khudai Khidmatgars were Pukhtun, the major Afghan ethnic group living on
both sides of the Duran Line between
India and Pakistan. They had sworn not to
join either of the new states. They must
have been involved in anti-state activities,
and the_password was halted by the worst Hindu-
attacks, which eventually led to the partition of India
on 14-15 August 1947. In that fateful sum-
mer of 1947, as retaliation against the Hindu
massacre of Muslims in India, Muslims in
Pakistan attacked Hindus in the Frontier Province.
The Khudai Khidmatgars brought about a major
change when thousands of them swore not
to touch or carry any weapons of violence,
saying that some of these critics called extreme non-violence.
In doing so, some became open and easy targets for
their enemies and were murdered on ac-
count of anti-state activities, the Muslim League.
The Khudai Khidmatgars condemned this, they sim-
ply could not control it.