

**AMBIVALENCE OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL NATIONALISM IN THE
POSTCOLONIAL HISTORY OF THE SUBCONTINENT: REPERCUSSIONS OF WAR
AND REVOLUTION IN THE DOMESTIC SPACE OF BENGAL AS NARRATIVIZED
IN TAHMINA ANAM'S *A GOLDEN AGE***

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ABSTRACT

The concept of "Nation" is full of ambiguity and complications in postcolonial Indian subcontinent as one finds the schism prominent between the colonial ideology of religious nationalism, and the postcolonial assertion of cultural and linguistic identity. Pakistan, a country born out of the undivided British India in order to cope with the fundamental callings of Islamic identities, collapsed partially within twenty four years of its creation as it did not sympathize across cultural, spatial and linguistic boundaries. The "Muktijuddho" (War of Independence) of Bangladesh is one of the deciding and epoch-making phenomena in the long history of this struggle between demanding identities. The paper gives a brief of the development of the age-old debate on the identity of the Bengali Muslims with a historical overview, and leads on to analyze the testament of time in Tahmina Anam's *A Golden Age* (2007), as the novel captures the events of Bangladesh's struggle for independence from a domestic and private point of view. The work reflects the political and revolutionary ideas of the age, and at the same time, depicts the struggle of a mother to shield her children from the rage of the State by sacrificing her own love.

KEYWORDS: War of Independence, Islamic Faith, Western Colonial Discourses