The 1947 Partition of British India was a time of great atrocity and violence. Upon India gaining independence from Britain, Muslims believed that life would be no different for them under Hindu rule in comparison to the previous British rule. As a result, lawyer and political leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah pushed for a separate Muslim homeland in areas where Muslims would comprise the majority. As a result, the British agreed to the creation of Pakistan and this resulted in the division of India by sectarian lines and millions were dislocated. As a consequence of religious provincialism fueled by Partition there were “killings of hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women, and children” (Jalal 39). Religion is often the scapegoat used to explain the violence and trauma that occurred during partition and the creation of Pakistan. Historian Ayesha Jalal explains that “rather than religion per se, the fight was over zar (wealth), zameen (land), and zan (women)” (42). Bapsi Sidhwa’s novel, Cracking India, combats the idea that religion was the reason for the violence by bringing to light some of the ulterior motives and in fact supports Jalal's claim, specifically the fight for women. The character of Ayah, a Hindu nanny eventually taken captive and raped, shows us how women were treated. Sidhwa’s novel helps the reader to understand that religion was merely an excuse for the mass killings and rapes of this time.