War comes at last to a divided nation

From RALPH BLUMENTHAL
of the New York Times

NEW YORK, March 28. — Civil war between East and West has been a constant spectre in Pakistan.

Separated by 150 miles of Indian territory, the two parts are bound chiefly by their common religion; their 110 million constitute the world’s largest Moslem State.

But in other ways they are as different as the Roman Catholic countries of Spain and Poland.

The Bengalis of East Pakistan are a small, dark-skinned people, proud of their poets and scholars. Their life is simple, their religion devout. Buddhism and Hinduism, remnants of their past, revolve around the rice-crop; their culture is as alien to that of the Bengalis of neighboring India.

The Punjabi-dominated West Pakistan, however, is lighter-skinned, more industrious, more commercially-minded. Their culture is nearer to that of the Middle Eastern and Arabian desert dwellers. The Peronized Arab, written right-to-left, is incomparably different from the Bengali.

The West Pakistanis say that they are more educated and industrious, and have a higher degree of industrialization than the Bengalis.

Despite the east’s larger population — about 120 million as against 35 million in the west — it has always been the small, industrious Bengalis who have taken the lead in commerce, industry, and education. This has caused the Bengalis to demand a share in the national wealth and resources, leading the East towards autonomy.

Shukri Mubin, a Moslem lawyer, was elected President of the East Pakistan Assembly in the first general elections, which had been scheduled for December 20. The East Pakistan government had announced the election date, and the result was an overwhelming victory for the East Pakistani candidate, who became the first President-elect of East Pakistan.

The Bengali-dominated East Pakistan government, which had already received a pledge of financial support from Britain and Egypt, was expected to announce its own government.

On the night of the announcement, the two governments of East and West Pakistan, which had been divided by a dispute over the control of the area, were reported to be discussing the terms of a joint government. The talks were described as promising, and a reconciliation of differences was expected.

Still missing, 26 years later

MUNICH, March 28. — More than one million Germans are still officially listed as missing, 26 years after the end of World War II. The annual premium income written by National & General has climbed from $0 to $1 million since N. & G. first began in 1954 — proof of the confidence Australians have in a Company that is investing in the development of...