Sagram Murmu and the Formation of a Linguistic Identity

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**Interrogating Politics & Society: Twentieth-Century Indian Subcontinent**

Suranjana Das

*Interrogating Politics & Society: Twentieth-Century Indian Subcontinent* broadly addresses three themes relevant to South Asian history: communalism, nationalism and the social underworld. Focusing on communal riots and patterns of communal mobilizations in twentieth-century subcontinent, the essays in this volume enrich our understanding of an issue that continues to plague our body politic. Bengal’s involvement with India’s freedom struggle highlights an intermingling of mainstream nationalism and various forms of protest politics, a theme which has also been dealt with in the volume. In examining the underworld of Bengal, *Interrogating Politics* intermingles social history and political history. By way of new insights on crime and criminality, the book studies the goondas, a part of Calcutta’s underworld, and the dacoits of nineteenth-century rural Bengal. Hopefully, this volume will renew an interest in political history at a time when in current Indian historiography academic preoccupations lie with economic and social history and interdisciplinary studies. It should be of interest to both practitioners of history and the general reader.

**Contents**

Cultural Communism in Bengal, 1936-1952

Anuradha Roy

This book is about the Communist-inspired cultural activism in Bengal that had strong national and international links, and responded to the critical social and political climate of the late colonial and early-Independence years. One of the main objectives of this activism was to give political direction to the middle-class and help them reach out to the labouring ‘other’. The ultimate aim was to establish a cultural counter-hegemony in society by preparing people for a big revolution.

The objectives of this movement, however, remained largely unfulfilled even though it ignited the creative talents of many writers and artists, and at the same time induced in them a political commitment that generated new themes and bold experiments in a range of art forms. Cultural Communism in Bengal, 1936–1952, seeks to critically understand this cultural activism by examining three art forms, viz., music, theatre and pictorial art. The volume then locates the reasons for its failure in the middle-classness of this activism and lack of a long-term political mission. This void was filled up by excessive stress on arts and aesthetics, and indeed Bengal communism at its best remained cultural communism.

Cultural Communism is a painstaking and pioneering attempt to write the history of an important chapter in Bengal’s cultural history, which has hitherto been sought to be mythified rather than properly documented and analysed.

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Acknowledgements • Introduction • Communist Cultural Organizations in their Historical Context • The Music of Politics and the Politics of Music • The Theatre of Politics and the Politics of Theatre • The Political within Pictorial Art and the Pictorial Art in Politics • Conclusion • Bibliography • Index
Cities in Medieval India

edited by Yogesh Sharma and Pius Malekandathil

*Cities in Medieval India* focuses on the significance of urbanization in medieval India, by highlighting aspects of the rural-urban continuum and divide, power assertion, spatialization, social segmentation, labour process, as well as aspects of culture and human activity. By relating urbanization to issues such as economic transformation, commercial dynamism, agricultural production, ecology and environment, and the exercise of power and authority, the essays in this volume discuss many facets of the medieval cities. Using a wide variety of primary sources and regional literary traditions this volume juxtaposes the ethos of traditional Indian cities, with the new urbanization brought into India, particularly in the coastal regions by the Europeans, from the sixteenth century onwards without neglecting imperial and metropolitan cities, secondary cities, small towns and *qasbas*.

The essays compiled here will be of interest to scholars of medieval Indian history as well as the general reader looking for a nuanced understanding of urbanization during the medieval phase.

Contents

Preface  • Introduction  • Medieval Cities: Theoretical Perceptions and Meanings  • The City in Medieval India  • The Rural-Urban Continuum and the Making of a Proto-Industrial Economy in Early Modern India: A View from the East  • Agra City in the Making  • Spatial Articulations of a Power Centre: A Study on the Medieval City of Delhi, 1206–1506  • Shahjahanabad: A Medieval Indian Experience  • Patna: A Riverine City  • Thanjavur: The Making of a Medieval Metropolis  • Formation and Growth of Mandis and Chowkis in Western Rajasthan, AD 1700–1830  • Pilgrims, Fairs and Banking  • Ahmadabad: Its Markets and Urban Linkages in the Seventeenth Century  • Urban Centres and Consumption Patterns in Eighteenth-Century Bengal  • *Qasbas* in Mewat in the Medieval Period: A Study of the Interface between the Township and the Countryside  • Market Towns in Late Medieval and Early Modern Marwar  • A City of Two Settlements: Srinagar in the Seventeenth Century  • Cultural Production in a pre-Colonial South Indian Town: Thanjavur under Nayakas and Marattas  • Lucknow as Centre of Art and Culture  • The Social and Political Roles of Chishti Sufis in *Dar-ul-Khilafat* Dehli: Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries  • Sacred Space, Pilgrimage and Urbanism: The Growth of Śrīraṅgam in the Tamil Region  • Locality and City in Historical Braj Poems: Exploring the Rajput City of Orchha  • Warangal: A Pre-Colonial Andhra City  • Cambay as a Maritime City of Gujarat, AD 1200–1650  • Mandvi and Mundra: Port Towns of Kachchh, Gujarat c.1550–c.1900  • Old Pondicherry (1673–1824): Revisited  • The City of Pondicherry and its Oscillating Fortune in the Eighteenth Century  • ‘Black Portuguese’ in the ‘White Town’ of Madras, 1640–1750  • European Perceptions of Indian Cities in the Sixteenth Century and Portuguese Urban Settlements in India  • Goa, Daman and Diu: Safe Harbours for the Portuguese Trade  • The Municipal Council of Goa and the *Estado da Índia*: Notes on Military Organization, 1510–1625  • Urban Phenomena of Diu  • Bassein (Mumbai): The City and its Hinterland  • Two Towns and a *Villa* Baçaim, Chaul and Taná: The Defensive Structures of Three Indo-Portuguese Urban Settlements in the Northern Province of the *Estado da Índia*  • Notes on Editors and Contributors  • Index
Irreverent History: Essays for M.G.S. Narayanan

edited by Kesavan Veluthat and Donald R. Davis, Jr.

Irreverent History brings together essays in honour of Professor M.G.S. Narayanan, a historian who brought about a veritable shift in the paradigm of historiography in Kerala. As much of his work has been on the history of Kerala, the bulk of writing here is on the history and culture of that state. He has, however, made lasting contributions to other areas of Indian history and epigraphy and hence, another section of this volume is devoted to epigraphy and connected history.

With contributions from Christophe Vielle, K.N. Ganesh, Manu V. Devadevan, Heike Moser, Rich Freeman, Krishna Mohan Shrimali, Daud Ali, Bhairabi Prasad Sahu, Upinder Singh, Elizabeth Lambourn, Noboru Karashima, Y. Subbarayalu, Venkata Raghotham and Nayanjot Lahiri, this volume is not merely a homage to a truly path-breaking academic; but it is also a monument to the influential nature of Professor Narayanan’s work. The volume contains articles on the history and culture of Kerala, epigraphy, anthropological analysis of temple festivals, caste, money trade, etc.

This volume will be useful for students of Kerala history and those who seek to understand the nuances that have shaped what is today called ‘God’s Own Country’.

Contents
List of Contributors • Preface • M.G.S. Narayanan: The Irreverent Historian • Part I: Kerala History and Culture • How did Paraśurāma Come to Raise Kerala? • From Nadu to Swarupam: Political Authority in Southern Kerala from the Tenth to the Thirteenth Centuries • Changes in Land Relations during the Decline of the Cēra State • Jaṭāyuvadham in Kerala’s Sanskrit Theatre Kūṭiyāṭṭam • Satire as Apology: The Puruṣāṭthakkūṭṭū of Kerala • Implications of the Ritual Programme and Context of Ārāṭṭupuḷa Pūram • Part II: Epigraphy, Connected History, and Conceptual Frameworks • Social Structure and Commercial Pursuits in Early India: Reflections on Some Conceptual Issues • The Image of the Scribe in Early Medieval Sources • Community, Caste and Region in Odisha: The Formative Period • Varṇa and Jāti in Ancient India: Some Questions • Borrowed Words in an Ocean of Objects: Geniza Sources and New Cultural Histories of the Indian Ocean • Political Compacts Made by Local Chiefs during the Later Chola Period • A Copperplate Inscription of Krishnadevaraya’s Time: Its Historical Implication • Historical Memory and Statecraft in Late Medieval South India: A Study of Krishnadeva Raya’s Campaign of AD 1517 • Delhi’s Capital Century (1911–2011): Understanding the Transformation of the City • Research Publications of M.G.S. Narayanan • Index
Port Towns of Gujarat

edited by Sara Keller and Michael Pearson

Gujarat’s port cities, ‘gems in the necklace of the coast’, were vital hubs which enabled connections with other cities and other cultures across the Indian Ocean and beyond, including the Mediterranean and the South China Sea. Through them Gujarat’s exports like cotton cloth, handicrafts, indigo dye, saltpetre and a host of other products flowed out. Imports came in from around the world, and included ivory from Africa, spices from South-East Asia, and bullion—gold and silver. These cities, cosmopolitan in their outlook, also acted as cultural centres attracting traders and scholars from far away.

Port Towns of Gujarat offers new insights on cost-hinterland connections, urban morphology, port cities and littoral societies, the role of Gujarat in the Indian Ocean and data on the history of Gujarat, the Indian Ocean, and the many great port cities on India’s north-west coast. With contributions by subject specialists who have worked extensively on port cities, and who provide new and innovative perspectives, this book will appeal to historians, urban geographers, economists and other social scientists.

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Foreword • Introduction I • Introduction II • Climate Change and Gujarat Ports • Positioning Gujarat as a Medieval Mercantile Centre—Contours and Context • Translocations of Medieval Ports in the Northern Indian Ocean and their Impact on Gujarat’s Maritime Trade in Beads • Surat City, its Decline and the Indian Ocean, 1730–1940 • Reflections on the Port City of Surat as a Case Study • Looking for a Safe Haven: English Merchants and the Port of Ghogha vis-à-vis Surat during the Seventeenth Century • Touched by Winds of Many Seas: The Port Town of Lakhpat • Mundra: A Tale of a Walled Port Town • Mandvi: A Port Looking Both Ways • Genesis and Growth of Khambhat as a Port Town, c. 600 to c. 1600 ce • Parsis and the Trading World of Bharuch (Twelfth-Nineteenth Century) • Port Towns of Gujarat: Travellers’ Accounts of the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries • Piracy and the Northward Coast: Problems of Definition • Coastal Sites: Possible Port Towns of Harappan Time in Gujarat • Bharuch, the City-Fortress • Ports of Gujarat Far and Near: Cultural Continuum: A Study in Urban Morphology, c. 1500–c. 1750 • Diu as an Interface of East and West: Comparative Urban History in ‘Nonwestern’ Stories • Surat in the Seventeenth Century: A Pre-modern Urban Phenomenon • Circulation, Memory, Landscape: Kachchhi Bhatias in Mundra and Bhadreshvar • Ports and Fine Arts: The Painter and the Sea • Notes on Contributors • Index

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Contesting Colonialism and Separatism: Muslims of Muzaffarpur Since 1857

Mohammad Sajjad

Contesting Colonialism and Separatism: Muslims of Muzaffarpur Since 1857 is an account of the Muslim communities of Muzaffarpur in north Bihar, and explores the history of the area, the socio-political behaviour of the Muslim communities, their economic conditions and negotiations for a share in the power-structure. This study is presented in three segments: (a) the political evolution of the area during the colonial era through an exploration of the subregional socio-political setting; (b) the participation of the Muslims of this area in the Congress-led movements till the 1930s, narrating the largely untold story of Muslim resistance to the Muslim League’s politics of territorial separatism, despite their grievances against and alienation from the Congress during 1937–47; and (c) their post-independence experiences and political anxieties, problems and prospects.

This book attempts to look at history from both a national as well as local perspectives, describing the broader events of Indian politics in the context of the local political system as it evolved, and the participation as well as location of the Muslim communities in those events and processes. Intercommunity cooperation and harmony prevailed over divisive politics even during the most vitiated atmosphere of 1946–7. Tracing the trajectory of Muslim communities all the way up to the post-independence era, this book analyses Muslim adjustment in the post-partition era, their engagement with the evolving secular democracy, as they sought educational avenues, and political empowerment through language politics (rather than insisting on the politics of religious identity) taking care not to confine their politics only to sectional issues/groups. It also looks at the growing assertion of subordinated Muslim communities.

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Preface • Introduction • A Brief History of the Region till 1857 • The Upsurge of 1857 • Post-1857 Scenario: Modern Education and Modern Political Consciousness • Linguistic Issues, Middle Class Initiatives and the Vernacular Intelligentsia • From Separate Statehood to the Khilafat Movement (1912–22) • Communal Polarization and Electoral Politics in the 1920s • Civil Disobedience Movement: Bigger Muslim Participation • The Ministry Making 1937, Muslim Alienation, and their Resistance to the Politics of Partition • The Politics of Partition and its Immediate Consequences: An Overview • Subaltern Assertion and Communalization: The 1990s • Recent History of a Village: Politics, Crime and Islamic Identities • Conclusion • Appendix • Bibliography • Index
Thuggee: Banditry and the British in Early Nineteenth-Century India

Kim A. Wagner

Often described merely as a colonial construction, the phenomenon of ‘Thuggee’ remains one of the more contentious and controversial subjects of nineteenth-century South Asian history. Based largely on new material, this book constitutes the first indepth examination of ‘Thuggee’ as a type of banditry, which emerged in a specific socio-economic and geographic context. ‘Thuggee’ did not constitute a caste-like identity, and was a means of obtaining a livelihood reverted to by all strata of Indian society in certain areas. As such it constituted a highly institutionalized social practice related to issues of patronage and retainership, identity and legitimacy, and it was defined by the appropriation of high status rituals and the martial ethos. A history of ‘Thuggee’ cannot be written independently of the history of British rule in India, yet by reading colonial records against the grain, and relying on the broadest range of sources available, it is nevertheless possible to overcome some of the difficulties associated with the study of crime in a colonial context. The history of ‘Thugs’ need no longer be limited to the study of their representations and in this book, Wagner seeks to reconstruct and historicize ‘Thuggee’ as a social phenomenon—as less than the sacrificial cult constructed by the British, yet more than the colonial phantasmagoria counterposited by post-colonial scholars.

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Essays in Ancient Indian Economic History

edited by Brajadulal Chattopadhyaya

*Essays in Ancient Indian Economic History* is part of a three-volume set focusing on the developments in the economic history of India during the last millennium.

The essays in this volume provide an outline of the change in the status and orientation of early Indian economic history and in the approach to the economic features of ancient Indian history. The essays traverse diverse subjects such as the function of property, family and caste, the origin of the state in early India; agriculture, surplus appropriation and distribution, and labour; the role of crafts and craftsmen in the economy of early India; and trade and trade organizations, and coinage. In doing so, the volume attempts to provide a chronological and spatial view of early Indian economy.

Re-issued in a revised form to synchronize with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian History Congress, the essays are accompanied by a new Preface and an Introduction that highlight the changing contours of emphases, shifting focus and methodologies and projections of research, both encouraged and documented under the aegis of the Indian History Congress.

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Preface • Role of Property, Family and Caste in the Origin of the State in Ancient India • Economic Condition of Western India During 200 BC to AD 500 • Family and Inheritance in Early South India • Agricultural Production During the Early Iron Age in Northern India • Some Aspects of Early Orissan Economy and Society • Aspects of Early Iron Age Economy: Problems of Agrarian Expansion in Tamilakam • Types of Land in North-Eastern India • The Plough Measure in North India • Classification of Land and Assessment of Land Tax in Early Medieval Tamil Nadu from 950 to 1300 AD • Theory of Commendation and Sub-Infeudation in Ancient India • Farm-Labourers of Karnataka (Ancient and Medieval Period) • Hālika-Kara: Crystallization of a Practice into a Tax • Artisans in Manu • Urban Occupations and Crafts in the Kuśāṇa Period • Leather Workers in Ancient and Early Medieval India • Some Crafts of Ancient Bengal (Textile) • Basic Industries in Northern India on the Eve of Turko–Afghan Conquests • Trade and Commerce from Pāṇini’s Aṣṭādhyāyī • Some Aspects of India–China Maritime Trade • The Role of the Arab Traders in Western India During Early Medieval Period • Trade in the Growth of Towns: A Case Study of Karnataka c. AD 600–1200 • Trade Guilds Under the Chāḷukyas of Kalyāṇī • Merchant Guilds in Medieval Andhra • Rate of Interest During Early Medieval India • Minting in Medieval Karnataka • Socio-economic Tensions in Bhojakāṭa Rājya of Vākāṭaka Kingdom in the Time of Pravarasena II • Famines and Relief Measures Under the Imperial Coḷās, AD 850–1279 • Socio-economic Implications of the Concept of Mahāpātaka in the Feudal Society of South India • Index
Essays in Medieval Indian Economic History

edited by Satish Chandra

*Essays in Medieval Indian Economic History* is part of a three-volume set, comprising representative articles of *Indian History Congress Proceedings (1935–85)*. In their analysis of the economic history of India during the thirteenth-eighteenth centuries, the essays in this volume delineate a shift from the studies of policies to the working of the revenue system, and its impact on the lives of the Indian people. Further, they highlight patterns and trends of agricultural production, the role of Madadd-i-ma’ash holders, and institutions involved in agricultural expansion and improvement, and the incidence of rural taxes. The scholarship also marks the growing interest in urban studies, and in the structure and role of the business community in India, in relation to the growth of the economy in India, and its relationship to the State. Several essays deal with subjects as diverse as coinage and mints, and the international debate on the impact of the European trading companies and their system of armed trade and monopoly on the Indian economy and the Indian business community.

Re-issued in a revised form to synchronize with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian History Congress, the essays in this volume are accompanied by a new Preface and an Introduction that highlight the changing contours of emphasis, shifting focus/es and methodologies and projections of research, held under the aegis of the Indian History Congress.

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Preface • Introduction • Sources of Revenue under Firoz Shah Tughluq • Revenue System of Sher Shah • Some Documents on Revenue Administration • Classification of Agrarian Land Under Akbar • Nature of the Sair Jihat Taxes • The Pattern of the Agricultural Production in the Territories of Amber (c. 1650–1750) • Studies in the Land-Grant Copperplates of the Ahom Kings • Position of the Patel in Eastern Rajputana During the Eighteenth Century • Some Aspects of the Changes in the Position of the Madad Ma’ash Holders in Awadh, 1676–1722 • New Evidence on Agrarian and Rural Taxation in Eastern Rajasthan, Seventeenth–Eighteenth Centuries • The Deshmukhi Watan with Special Reference to Indapur • Taxation and Hindu Temples in the Telugu Districts Under the Vijayanagara Empire • The Jagirdari System of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the Light of his Orders • The Economy of Gujarat, c. 1600 : The Ain’s Statistics • Textile Industry and Trade of the Kingdom of Golkonda • Surat in 1663 as described by Fr. Manuel Godinho • Notes on Balasore and the English in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century • Commercial Activities of the Mughal Emperors during the Seventeenth Century • Mints of the Mughal Empire • Cafilas and Cartazes • The System of Bills of Exchange (Hundis) in the Mughal Empire • A specs of Business in Northern India in the Seventeenth Century • Saltpetre Trade and Industry in Bengal Subah, 1650–1720 • India in Asian Trade in the 1730s—An Eighteenth Century French Memoir • Position of the Local Merchants of Orissa, 1550–1757 • The Nagarsheth of Ahmadabad: The History of an Urban Institution in a Gujarat City • Portuguese Trade with India and the Theory of Royal Monopoly in the Sixteenth Century • Vyaparis and Mahajans in Western Rajasthan during the Eighteenth Century • Mint-Technology and Mint-Output in an Age of Growing Commercialization • Index

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Essays in Modern Indian Economic History

edited by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

*Essays in Modern Indian Economic History* is part of a three-volume set, comprising representative articles of *Indian History Congress Proceedings (1935–85)*. The essays in this volume provide an overview of the continuities and changes in the historians’ approach to the economic aspects of ‘modern’ Indian history. In the agenda of economic historians, the problems uppermost have been the policies of the colonial state, the impact of metropolitan capitalism on colonial trade and industry, and in particular the evolution of land revenue systems in various regions. At the same time, many of the continuities from the pre-colonial period to the so-called modern period in terms of social institutions, political structures, and organization of production have engaged historians. This collection indicates how historical research in modern economic history has pushed beyond the study of colonial economic policies per se, into the processes internal to the economy and society under the impact of these policies—resulting in the development of a culturally and socially sensitive economic history.

Re-issued in a revised form to synchronize with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian History Congress, the essays in this volume are accompanied by a new Preface and an Introduction that highlight the changing contours of emphasis, shifting focus/es and methodologies and projections of research, held under the aegis of the Indian History Congress.

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Preface • Introduction • Warren Hastings and Zamindari Rights • Institution of Watan and its Influence on the Eighteenth Century Maratha Society • The Ryotwari System and Agricultural Serfdom in Madras 1792-1827 • Position of Patels and Karnums in the ‘Ceded Districts’ (i.e. the Present Districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantpur and Bellary) During the First Quarter of the Nineteenth Century • Land Settlement and Revenue Administration Under Maharaja Martanda Varma, AD 1729–1758 • Slave Labour of Malabar in the Colonial Context • A Note on Lakhiraj Lands • The Role of the Banaras Bankers in the Economy of Eighteenth Century Upper India • Sir George Downing and the East India Company • Danish Settlement of Balasore • British Salt Monopoly in Orissa • The Deplorable Condition of Saltpetre Manufacturers of Bihar, 1773–1833 • Some Trading Activities of Indians in Russia in the Eighteenth Century • The Britain-China-India Trade Triangle 1771–1840 • Was British Conquest of India Accidental? • Genesis of the Diwani Grant of 1765 • The Revolt of Zamindars in Akkalkot, 1830 • Land Revenue and the Economy of Broach in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century • The Agrarian Structure of the Madras Presidency: Impact of British Administration • The Revolution Behind the Revolt • Some Reflections on the East India Company’s Charter of 1813 • Working of Coalbeds in Upper Assam in the Nineteenth Century • Opportunism of Free Trade: Lancashire Cotton Famine and Indian Cotton Cultivation • Economic Measures of Lord Ripon’s Government, 1880 • The Development of Modern Entrepreneurship in the Chettiar Community of Tamil Nadu, 1900–30 • The Impact of the Great Depression on India in the Nineteen Thirties • Nature of the Kol Insurrection of 1831–32 • Agrarian Tensions and British Policy in Malabar • Emigration of Biharis to Mauritius in 1859–70 • Condition of Labour in the Coalfields of Bengal and Bihar 1890–1920 • A Pioneer of Workingmen’s Uplift and Welfare Work in Bengal: Sasipada Banerjee • The Agrarian Problems in the Punjab and the Unionist Party, 1923–1945 • Parties and Politics in the Indian Trade Union Movement: Early Phase 1917–24 • The Unsettled Adivasi World of Malda in the First Three Decades of the Present Century
History, Ideas and Society: S.C. Mishra Memorial Lectures in History

edited by S Z H Jafri

The essays in this volume help us understand the concerns and problems that have informed scholarly reflection among historians of South Asia, on precolonial and colonial India. In their scope and depth, the essays here seek to serve as correctives to the conventional perspectives in Indian history, particularly on the social consequences of colonialism, and the socio-economic history of the precolonial period. The issues discussed include the effects of learning and education in colonial India, aspects of social reforms and caste-based politics, and the emergence of religious identities, leading to the problem of communalism in the modern period. Other essays dwell on the subject of cultural nationalism, and its limitations in the development of the modern nation state in India. The delineation of ideological patterns in colonial India is taken further by discussions on the emergence of tribal turned-peasant communities in the precolonial period, and their later role in the political processes of the nineteenth century.

In attempting to understand the workings of the economy and the state in precolonial India, the essays seek to explore the methods by which the Mughal State facilitated economic growth; facets of the currency system and agrarian relations; and pre-modern minting methods and numismatic history. To this end, the authors have made vigorous use of extant Persian and Bengali sources of the fourteenth-sixteenth centuries.

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Preface • List of Editor and Contributors • Seductive Orientalism: English Education and Modern Science in Colonial India • Issues in Writing Contemporary History: Perspective, Problems, Prospects • The Making of a Hegemonic Tradition: The Cult of Rāma Dāśarathi • Mahatma Jyotirao Phule: Crusader for Social Justice • The Techniques of Minting Coins in Ancient and Medieval India • Economic Development and the Communal Distortion of History in Medieval India • Medieval Konkan: Its History, Society and Economy • A Preliminary Discussion on the Changing Economy of the Bengal Sultanate, c.1350–c.1575 • Reinterpreting Santal Insurgency, The Hool of 1855 • Index
Redefining Tribal Identity: The Changing Identity of the Santhals in South-West Bengal

Pradip Chattopadhyay

Redefining Tribal Identity: The Changing Identity of the Santhals in South-West Bengal seeks to explore the evolution of Santhal ethnic identity, taking into account the changes that the Santhals have undergone in their mental and material world as a result of the impact of the forces of modernization—both during the colonial as well as the post-colonial periods. The major events of Santhal history, like the Santhal Hool (1855), the Jharkhand movement and Santhal participation in the Indian National Movement have been focused upon in this book to explore the changing notions of Santhal ethnic identity including the twists and turns in the process of their identity assertion. The demand for the Constitutional recognition of the Santhali language, their separate religion as well as for a territory of their own in the post-Independence period, are all part of their changed mode of identity assertion. This study tries to cover almost all the debates, from different perspectives, that have raged about the tribal world in recent times. As such the book will be of use to college and university students studying Sociology, Anthropology, History and other branches of Social Science. Researchers and planners may also find this work useful as it attempts to map the way in which ethnic movements in India can move in future.

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Acknowledgements • Introduction • Some Important Debates and Discourses on Tribals • Changing World of Santhals in the Nineteenth Century • Santhals in the Twentieth Century • Understanding Santhal Identity on the Basis of Field Investigation • Conclusion • Bibliography • Index
Colonial and Contemporary Bihar and Jharkhand

edited by Lata Singh and Biswamoy Pati

Since colonial times Bihar and Jharkhand have been the arena of diverse social and political struggles. The formation of the state of Jharkhand, which was earlier a part of Bihar and known as Chotanagpur, has been the result of such movements, some of which have not only created a democratic space in these regions, but also brought about a paradigm shift in Indian politics.

This book tries to capture the complexities of some of these diverse movements. The ‘articulation’ of backward castes and tribal protests have been problematized by the emergence of internal hierarchies, differentiations and contestations. The predicament of ethnic identity and culture in the face of unrestrained globalizing forces in the tribal belt is also a matter of concern. Bihar and Jharkhand also have a rich popular/subaltern culture, which has been overshadowed and eclipsed in most of the scholarly work on this region. This book highlights how popular culture and oral cultural traditions emerged as a site for multiple articulations – articulation of marginalization, as well as resistance and subversion. This collection of essays will appeal to those interested in social history, political and cultural studies and the world of the poor and the marginalized.

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Introduction • Beyond Geographical Boundaries: Chotanagpur and North-western Orissa, 1850s–1930s • ‘Communal Property’ to Private Property and the Tribal Struggles for Customary Land Rights in Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas (1767–1850) • ‘The Eye of a Diku is Like the Eye of a Dog’: Changing Role of Dikus in an Adivasi Society of Chotanagpur under Colonial Rule • Towards an Environmental History of Chotanagpur: The Land and the Forests of Chotanagpur in the Nineteenth Century • Problem of Indentured Labour and the Advent of ‘Bidesia’ Culture • Witch Hunting in Colonial and Postcolonial Chotanagpur and Jharkhand • Nationalism in Bihar, 1921–1922: Mapping Resistances • ‘Bihari’ Muslims, Communal Riots and the Diaspora’: Gleanings from Contemporary Urdu Writings • Singing in the Veil: Redefinition and Reconciliation in the Songs of Mithila • Imag(in)ing Traditions: The Contested Canvas of Mithila Paintings • Politicization of Castes and Transformation in the Politics of Bihar • The ‘Making’ of a Movement and the Emergence of Jharkhand Electoral Politics since the 1990s • Index
Invoking Ambedkar: Contributions, Receptions, Legacies

edited by Biswamoy Pati

It hardly needs to be emphasized that besides being a person with a remarkable vision, B.R. Ambedkar was intimately involved with many factors that created the basis of what India is today. At the same time, one cannot overlook Ambedkar’s ‘past’ and the fact that he grew up facing discrimination and being made to sit on the floor outside the classroom as a child, as he was a Dalit. Even today, millions of Dalit children face similar discrimination in their everyday life. Such incidents are distinct reminders of the continuing relevance of Ambedkar and the uncivil and barbaric nature of India’s ‘civil’ society.

This book brings together a wide variety of scholarly ideas: the way ‘Aryans’ are perceived in Dalit historical thinking; seeing the problem of Dalit liberation through the lenses of Adam Smith; the election of the Constituent Assembly (1946) with which Ambedkar was intimately involved, and which scripted India’s Constitution; the approach of Gandhi and Ambedkar to the process of planning and India’s economic development; and Ambedkar’s attitude to Marx and Buddha, as well as Dalit Christianity. This book also includes a comparative study of Ambedkar and some of his contemporaries like Charan Singh and Ram Manohar Lohia in Uttar Pradesh.

Contents
Forward • In Lieu of an Introduction • The ‘Aryans’ in Dalit Historical Thinking • The Problem of Dalit Liberation Seen through the Lenses of Adam Smith • Orchestrating a Signal Victory: Ambedkar, Mandal and the 1946 Constituent Assembly Election • Planning and Economic Development: Ambedkar versus Gandhi • Ambedkar and his Understanding of Karl Marx and Buddha • Legacies of Dr B.R. Ambedkar and his Contemporaries in Uttar Pradesh: A Comparison of Ambedkar, Charan Singh and Lohia • Ambedkar and Dalit Christianity: Emergent Trends • Dr Ambedkar, Neoliberal Market-Economy and Social Democracy in India • What Made Ambedkar Great • Index
**Being Tribal**

Shereen Ratnagar

The book discusses the definition of tribal society, tribal migrations in history, agricultural production and is the result of ethno-archaeological research amongst tribal people in eastern Gujarat.

**Contents**
Preface • The Framework • Geography and the Historical Background • History of Tribal Agriculture • Rathwa Institutions and Subsistence Strategies • The World Outside • The Choices We can Make • References • Index

‘The book argues convincingly that “modest land allocations” should be made to tribal households so that they could eke out their livelihood by adopting their time-tested traditional methods of cultivation.’

— *The Hindu*

‘The book . . . is about the sustainable subsistence system of the Rathwa and Dhanak communities in Tejgarh-Chhota Udepur area in eastern Gujarat, which forms the huge tribal belt of central India.’

— *Indra Munshi, Economic & Political Weekly*

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**Narratives from the Margins: Aspects of Adivasi History in India**

edited by Sanjukta Das Gupta and Raj Sekhar Basu

The essays in this book discuss a range of issues affecting the socio-economic and cultural life of the adivasis. They also reflect some of the concerns about the methodology and resources, the impact of missionaries, gender issues, the agrarian situation, famines and migration.

**Contents**
List of Illustrations • Abbreviations • Preface • Introduction • Tulsidas and the Conversion of the Tribals Notes for a New Reading of the Ramcharitmanas • Towards an Understanding of the Tribal World of Colonial Eastern India • Evangelical or Imperial? Re-examining the Missionary Agenda among the Santhals, 1855–1885 • The Bhil and the Rajput Kingdoms of Southern Rajasthan • Colonial Rule and Agrarian Transition in Singhbhum • ‘Kidnapping in Chotanagpur’: Recruitment for Assam Tea Plantations in a ‘Tribal’ Area • Adivasi Movements and Beyond: Patriarchy, Hegemony, and Women’s Agency in Chotanagpur • Adivasi Politics and State Responses: Historical Processes and Contemporary Concerns • Beyond Resistance: Idioms and Memories of Insurgency in the Adivasi Movement in Jharkhand • Select Bibliography • Notes on Editors and Contributors • Index

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The Politics of Ethnicity in India, Nepal and China

edited by Marine Carrin, Pralay Kanungo and Gérard Toffin

The various ethno-linguistic minorities of India, Nepal and China with their rich culture and heritage represent an important component of these three countries. *The Politics of Ethnicity in India, Nepal and China* critically reflects on the social, cultural and political processes that have shaped these societies since the 1950s. By and large, ethnic minorities have emerged as powerful groups in the internal politics in most parts of South Asia and the Far East. In an attempt to partly accommodate the political and economic aspirations of some of these ethnic groups, in India, the authorities have created smaller states on the basis of language, culture, and in some cases economic backwardness.

The Indian Union has formed autonomous district councils, paving the way (in Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland and Mizoram) for an asymmetrical form of federalism where special powers are devolved to local units. In Nepal, ethnic minorities include economically and culturally diverse groups scattered over the country. Inspired by the Indian experiment, the political elite in Nepal is now seeking to institutionalize procedures to fully integrate the adivasis/janajatis as citizens. While India and Nepal largely recognize the emergence of these ethnic minorities as political actors, the Chinese state, ignoring the political demands of its minorities, is focussing on their economic development and their modernization.

Contents

Ethnicity in the Margins: Experiments and Experiences • Historical Anthropology and the Primitive': Rethinking the 1931 Census of India • Autochthony and Indigeneity in Nepal and the Himalayas The Santal as an Intellectual • In Defence of their Endangered Life Worlds: The Adivasi Uprisings in Contemporary Odhisa • ‘Tribal Artisans’ and Artists, in Odhisa: Between Craft Promotion, ‘Ethnic Tourism’ and Indian Primitivism • Surging Between Telangana and Seemandhra: Adivasi Identity and Political Assertion through Manneseema Rashtram (State of Forest Dwellers) • Resisting Nation State: Ethnic Uprisuge in Post Colonial North East India • Promissory Note: Nepal’s Left Movement and the Janajatis • Identity Construction among Adivasis of Gujarat after Independence • Cross-Currents: Travelling Shadows of a Conversion in Naguri Munda Region of Jharkhand • From Blood to Scripture, Matharvanam Movement and the Making of Identity among the Sora • Sagram and the Formation of a Linguistic Identity • Expansion of the Public Sphere Amidst Market Challenges: Janajati Magazines in Nepal in the 1990s • The Politics of Ethnicity in China and the Process of Homogenization of the Yi Nationality • The Role of the Indigenous Peoples Movement in International Organizations • Index
Vande Mataram: The Biography of a Song
(Revd edn)

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

There are some writings which remain in the pages of books, and then there are some exceptional writings which come out of the pages and enter our life. The song *Vande Mataram* is of that exceptional kind. When we look back to that song published 130 years ago in 1882 and written even earlier, many questions crowd our mind. What accounts for the fact that it holds its place in national psyche so many years later? How did that song become a battle cry in the freedom struggle and part of national life in the pre-Independence period? What inspired poets to translate it into all major languages and music makers from Rabindranath Tagore to A.R. Rahman in our times to set it to music? How was it recognized as a ‘national song’ after Independence? Why has it been a subject of communal controversy in the decades preceding Independence as well as today? Sabyasachi Bhattacharya revisits the fascinating story he told in a widely acclaimed book he wrote in 2003.

Contents
List of Abbreviations • Preface • Introduction • One: The Communal War Cry • Two: National Anthem? Three: Slogan • Four: The Poem • Vande Mataram • Vande Mataram (in translation) • Notes and References • Notes on Personalities • Afterthoughts • Index

‘Under the delightfully readable and simple narrative, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya analyses the attitudes of the Muslim League, a section of the Congress Party, and of the British administration, and the twists and turns of communal politics in India through the prism of a song.’ — *Outlook*

‘Not many in India—and it is not just the Generation Next—know that *Vande Mataram* has been dogged by controversy right through its over-a-century-old history. For this alone, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya’s biography of the national song ought to be read . . . it is an issue that is as relevant today as it was when it first became a bone of contention.’ — *The Hindu*

‘This is perhaps how good analytical history should be written and brought closer to the comprehension of the intelligent reader.’ — *The Telegraph*
Democracy and the Crisis of Inequality

Zoya Hasan

Democracy and the Crisis of Inequality analyses how from the early 1990s politics in India began to undergo a fundamental transformation. Ethnic politics occupied centre stage, often prompting violent conflict and major political changes. Some of the essays focus on changes relating to representation, redistribution, social justice, secularism and the changing nature of the State in the wake of economic liberalization and globalisation. Key issues that have been discussed are: the policies of group differentiated rights; caste-class politics; regional assertions; women’s rights and minority politics and their impact on the pursuit of equality. Political change and the debates surrounding these categories and concerns, thus, provide a context for understanding the conflicts and tensions—between party politics and democracy, state and society, and democracy and development—that have shaped the transformation of the economy, polity and society in India in the last few decades.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • Part I: Democracy and Social Inequalities • Democracy and the Persistence of Inequalities • The Indian Polity Today and the Road Ahead • More Equal but still Not Equal?: State and Inter-Group Equality in India • Constitutional Equality and the Politics of Representation in India • Region and Nation in India’s Political Transition • The Prime Minister and the Left • Part II: Caste, Communalism and the State • Die is Cast(e): The Debate on Backward Caste/Class Quotas • Politics of the Middle Classes in India • Changing Orientation of the State and the Emergence of Majoritarianism in the 1980s • Not Quite Secular Political Practice • Mass Violence and the Wheels of Indian (In)Justice • Muslim Deprivation and the Debate on Equality • Reservations for Muslims • Part III: Gender and the Political Process • Gender, Religion and Democratic Politics in India • The ‘Politics of Presence’ and Legislative Reservations for Women • Uniform Civil Code and Gender Justice in India • Minority Identity, Muslim Women Bill Campaign and the Political Process • Part IV: Bridging the Social and Political Divide • The Congress in a District, 1930-46: Problems of Political Mobilization • Bridging a Growing Divide? The Indian National Congress and Indian Democracy • Breaking New Ground: Congress and Welfarism in India • Part V: Politics of Mobilization and Change in Uttar Pradesh • Power and Mobilization: Patterns and Change in Uttar Pradesh Politics • Communal Mobilization and Changing Majority in Uttar Pradesh • Representation and Redistribution: The New Lower Caste Politics in North India • Transfer of Power? Politics of Mass Mobilization in Uttar Pradesh • Shifting Ground: Hindutva Politics and the Farmers’ Movement in Uttar Pradesh • Index
Federalizing India in the Age of Globalization

M.P. Singh and Rekha Saxena

The major new direction of change in the Indian political system today is the gradual political decentring of a predominantly parliamentary system of the first four decades after Independence into a new federalizing and globalizing India since the early 1990s.

The early stirrings of federalization were indeed evident in the territorial reorganization of the states along linguistic lines in response to popular movements in the 1950s and 1960s. Further territorial reorganization was subsequently agitated for and conceded on tribal lines in the north-east and on regional economic backwardness in Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh. Another strand of federalization was evident in the grant of asymmetrical federalism in Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, and Mizoram. However, the most comprehensive wave of federalization that has gripped politics and governance in India has surfaced since the early 1990s. The indicators and impact of political federalization are evident in the new grammar of politics pervading the working of governmental institutions—the legislative, exclusive, and judicial branches of governments as well as the union, state, and local governments. The political factors that have led to the process of federalization in an accelerated momentum are the party system transformation with regional parties coming to play a decisive balancing role in Indian politics and globalization.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • Contextualizing Federal Theory in India • Nationalism, Multiculturalism and Federalism • Greater Federalization since the 1990s • Territorial Reorganization of the Federation • Asymmetrical Federalism • The Federal Second Chamber • The Integrated Federal Judiciary • Intergovernmental Relations: Executive Federalism • Federalizing the Treaty Making Power • The Federal Election Commission • Party System, Coalition Governments and Federalism • The third tier of the Political System: Devolutionary, not yet Federal • Conclusion • Index
Religion, Caste and Politics in India*

Christophe Jaffrelot

This book makes a detailed study on the functioning of India’s democracy on the one hand, and the way India relates to the world on the other. For the former, it examines the Indian political culture where caste and religion, including Hindu nationalism and lower caste politics play a major role. Discussing the way India relates to the world, it takes a close look at India’s ties with the US, Russia and Europe, to analyse its status as an emerging world power.

Contents
Preface • Acknowledgements • Introduction • Composite culture is not multiculturalism: a study of the Indian Constituent Assembly debates • From Indian territory to Hindu bhoomi: the ethnicization of nation-state mapping in India • The invention of an ethnic nationalism • Hindu nationalism, strategic syncretism in ideology-building • The genesis and development of Hindu nationalism in the Punjab: from the Arya Samaj to the Hindu Sabha (1875–1910) • The idea of the Hindu race in the writings of Hindu nationalist ideologues in the 1920s and 1930s: a concept between two cultures • Militant Hindus and the conversion issue (1885–1990): from shuddhi to dharm parivartan: politicization and diffusion of an ‘invention of tradition’ • The rise of Hindu nationalism and the marginalization of Muslims in India today • The Sangh Parivar: how cohesive is this family? • Hindu nationalism and democracy • The Vishva Hindu Parishad: a nationalist but mimetic attempt at federating the Hindu sects • The BJP in Madhya Pradesh: networks, strategies and power • The Hindu nationalist movement in Delhi: from ‘locals’ to refugees—and towards peripheral groups? • Hindu nationalism and the (not so easy) art of being outraged: the Ram Setu controversy • The Hindu nationalist reinterpretation of pilgrimage in India: the limits of yatra politics • The politics of processions and Hindu-Muslim riots • The 2002 pogrom in Gujarat: the post-9/11 face of Hindu nationalist anti-Muslim violence • Gujarat: the meaning of Modi’s victory in 2007 • The plebeianization of the Indian political class • The changing identity of the Jats in north India: kshatriyas, kisans or backwards? • Sanskritization vs. ethnicization in India: changing identities and caste politics before Mandal • The rise of the Other Backward Classes in the Hindi belt • The subordinate castes’ revolution • The impact of affirmative action in India: more political than socio-economic • The Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh: whose party is it? • Voting in India: electoral symbols, the party system and the collective citizen • ‘Why should we vote?’: the Indian middle class and the functioning of the world’s largest democracy • Indian democracy: the rule of law on trial • India and Pakistan: interpreting the divergence of two political trajectories • The cardinal points of Indian foreign policy • The Sangh Parivar and the Hindu diaspora in the west: what kind of ‘long-distance nationalism’? • India’s Look East policy: an Asianist strategy in perspective • Does Europe matter to India? • The India-US rapprochement: state-driven or middle class-driven? • Select Bibliography • Index

‘This book presents a collection of his published essays. . . . The author, who (in the first section) traces the origin of ethnic nationalism to the 19th century reform movements, considered these movements as a reaction to the threat of Western domination and especially to a two-fold cultural challenge—utilitarian reformism and Christian proselytism.’

—The Hindu

‘[This volume] brings together a collection in English of more than 30 of Jaffrelot’s many articles and contributions to edited volumes on different aspects of Indian politics. My judgement is that this kind of volume would be a welcome addition to the literature on modern Indian politics.’

—JOHN ZAVOS, University of Manchester
India, Central Asia and the World Powers

edited by Nasir Raza Khan

India, Central Asia and the World Powers offers a fresh insight to India-Central Asia relations and a deeper understanding of the developing political and economic scenario of the region. Extending research of these subjects, the book examines the role of major powers in the region against the backdrop of globalization, disintegration of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the US as a pre-eminent power. A new constellation of political dynamics has radically altered the balance of power in the region of Central and West Asia. The vast energy reserves which feed the energy-based economies of the world, have informed the strategies of geopolitics played out between major powers in this region. It is within the arena of an emerging ‘New Great Game’ that India must translate it’s historical, cultural and civilizational ties with Central Asia into a vibrant and mutually beneficial economic partnership extending not only to trade in goods and services but also bilateral and multilateral investments, scientific collaboration and commercialization of new technologies.

Exploring these issues, this book foregrounds India’s aspirations and it’s potential to be a player in the unfolding ‘Great Game’ on an equal footing with other major players like the US, Russia, and China, if it has to successfully protect its vital national interests in the region.

Contents
Introduction: India, Central Asia and the Major Powers: A New Perspective • Regional Cooperation in Central Asia and Perspective of Relations with India • ‘Greater Central Asia’ Or An Expanded South and Central Asia? • Historical Links and Current Relationships Between India and the Middle East in the Context of the Greater Middle East Project • Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a Counterbalance and India • China’s Strategic Engagement with Central Asia • Russia-Central Asia Relations and Scope for Promoting ties with India • Russia’s Return to Central Asia • Interactions Between India and USA in Central and West Asia: A Narrative of the Post American World, Where does India Stand? • India: Integrating Energy and Trade Relations with Central Asia • India-Central Asia Relation: A Case Study of Buddhism in Khorezm • Dynamics of India-Tajikistan Relations: Future Perspectives • Index
Traces of Empire–India, America and Postcolonial Cultures: Essays and Criticism

Satadru Sen

The culture of the modern world is, in many ways, constituted by interwoven strands of empire and resistance.

The essays in this volume examine some of those strands, primarily in the contexts of India and the United States, but also in other parts of the world, such as Germany and Israel-Palestine. They highlight not only the particular histories of cultures of power and desire, but also the convergences of forms of power and desire originating in different historical settings.

What, for instance, links the culture of schoolchildren in the Indian hinterland with the isolation of small-town America? What does the fact that Indian crowds stare openly at strangers have to do with police violence and race relations on the other side of the world? What might happen if Günter Grass and Rabindranath Tagore encountered Nirad Chaudhuri and Gandhi in the ‘global’ space of an airport transit lounge? Can the ‘PJ’ — the Indian concept of the ‘poor joke’ — be considered a response to the decidedly unfunny violence of empire?

These questions have no easy answers, but the complexities and contradictions of the answers are what make the problems worth exploring, shedding light on the novelty as well as the familiarity of the post-September-Eleven world.

Contents

Nietzsche in the Tropics • PJ, Bandhu: Sukumar Ray and ‘Third World Humor’ • Remembering Robi • Notes on Juvenilia • Sympathy for a Minor Devil • Moheen’er Mimicry • Poets and Philistines: Uri Avnery and the Road to Jerusalem • Writing Beyond the Rubble • Public Enema: Gandhi, Orwell and Fanon Walk into a Bar • G.K. Funda and Modernity • No Place Like Home • The State of Nakedness • Celebrating Inequality • Border of Insanity • The Culture of the Inappropriate • Federalism, Nationhood and Democracy • On Kashmir • Pal of the People • You Say You are Wanting Revolution • Occupied with Nowhere to Go • Rotten in the State of Norway • Staring, Public Culture and Foucault • Two Irish Orphans and a Mutt • Pictures, Memory and the Mavi Marmara Incident • A Letter to Amitav Ghosh Regarding the Dan David Prize • The Bike, the Coast and the In-Between • Heartlands • Select Bibliography • Index
Disciplined Natives: Race, Freedom and Confinement in Colonial India

Satadru Sen

This volume examines three interrelated aspects of the history of British India: race, the disciplining institution, and attempts by the colonized to imagine states of freedom. They deal with sites as diverse as the prison, the family, the classroom, the playing field and children’s literature.

Contents
Introduction • Anarchies of Youth: The Oaten Affair and Colonial Bengal • A Juvenile Periphery: Childhood and Literature in Colonial Bengal • Chameleon Games: Ranjitsinhji’s Politics of Race and Gender • The Politics of Deracination: Empire, Education and Elite Children • The Orphaned Colony: The Orphanage, Child and Authority in British India • A Separate Punishment: Juvenile Offenders in Colonial India • The Savage Family: Colonialism and Female Infanticide in Nineteenth-Century India • The Female Jails of Colonial India • Rationing Sex: Female Convicts in the Andaman Islands • On the Beach in the Andaman Islands: Post-Mortem of a Failed Colony • Lost Between Africa and Tasmania: Racializing the Andamanese • Savagery, Aboriginality and the Modern State

India Through American Eyes: 100 Years Ago

edited by Pran Nevile

‘So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his round. Perhaps it will be simplest to throw away the tags and generalize her with one all-comprehensive name, as the “Land of Wonders”—India is the only foreign land I ever daydream about or deeply long to see again.’

—Mark Twain

‘The world needs India intact! Tear down Roman ruins if you will, level Cyclopean walls, build bridges with stones of gothic abbeys and feudal fortresses but lay no hand on the glory and grandeur of India.’

—John W. Wohlfarth

Contents
Monuments of Historic India • Introduction • The British Raj in India • Eastern Craftsmen and Western Markets • Democracy and India • The Economic Basis in India • Dropping The White Man’s Burden • Gandhi Religious Politician • Intransigent India • “Non-Violent Non-Cooperation” In India • Overcrowded India • Self-Government for India • This is India • Indian Miniature Painting • A Way Out for Rural India • Medieval and Modern Hinduism • “Jadu,” White and Black • A “Pariah” in the Heavens • The Singing Voice of India • Indian Snake-Charmers • Tata, Indian Industrial Genius • Gandhi’s Spinning-Wheel and the Steel Plow • Nautch-Girls and Old Rhythms of India • India’s “Soul-Power” • Are Gandhi and Ford on the Same Road? • Machines and Gods in a Bombay Mill • What GI’s Learned in India • Index
Approaches to History: Essays in Indian Historiography

edited by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

Historiography in itself as a subject of study has rarely found its place in the syllabi of Indian universities, while knowledge of Historiography is often taken for granted when a scholar plunges into research.

Contents
Foreword • Societies and History Writing in India • Writings on the Maritime History of Ancient India • Approaches to the Study of Ancient Technology • Indian Labour History: A Historiographic Survey • Historiographical Survey of the Writings on Indian Military History • Christian History as Indian Social History: A Review of the Literature • Gender and the Writing of South Indian History • Contesting Exclusion, Resisting Inclusion: Contradictory Trends in Historical Research in north-east India from the Nineteenth to the Twentieth Century • Study of Sikhism, Sikh History and Sikh Literature of the Colonial and Post Independence Period • Dalits and History Writing in India: Some Historiographical Trends and Questions • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index

‘Approaches to History is a superb anthology for the choice of themes as well as for the scholarly ways of addressing [them]. All essays in the book are informative and analytical, none polemical, and some truly brilliant.’ — B. Surendra Rao, The Hindu

The Varied Facets of History: Essays in Honour of Aniruddha Ray

edited by Ishrat Alam and Syed Ejaz Hussain

With contributions from eminent historians of the subcontinent, this book throws new light on numerous aspects of Indian history: its sources and their interpretations; the evolution of cultural aspects like languages; archaeology; painting; technology; trade and commerce and labour.

Contents
Preface • The Historian of Change: Professor Aniruddha Ray • Darwin and Interpretations of History • Historians Among Archaeologists: Exploring Urban Sites of Medieval Bengal • Medieval Archaeology in South Asia • Extracting Social History from Documents of Medieval India • The Evidence of Words: In Search of the Popular in Medieval Bengali Literature • Hindi/Hindī in Medieval Times: Aspects of Evolution and Recognition of a Language • Translating Texts and Straddling Worlds: Intercultural Communication in Mughal India • Spiritual Dimensions of Islam: Sufism, Sheikhs and Khanqahs of Bengal • Representation of Middle Class Professionals in Mughal Visual Art • Tazkira-i-Majmā’ul-Shu’rā-Jahangir Shahi: A Source of Historical Information • Commercial Ledgers and Books of Accounts of a Tamil Merchant in Pondicherry (1736–69) • The Poet and his Patron: Bharat Chandra Ray (1712–60) and Raja Krishna Chandra Ray of Nadia (1728–82) • The Revolt of 1857 in Bengali Literature • An Encounter with Occidental Technology: An Indo-Persian Prince in England and Europe • Kutch’s Rich Composite Culture: Many Colours, Many Influences • Assam Tea Plantation Labourers and the Role of the Brahmo Samaj as Influenced by Dwarakanath Ganguli • Bibliography • Notes on Editors and Contributors • Index
Networks of Trade, Polity, and Societal Integration in Chola-Era South India

Kenneth R. Hall

This book studies transitional south Indian society during the critical Chola age, c.875-1279, when there was notable evolution of pre-existing as well as new societal institutions. Networks of Trade, Polity, and Societal Integration in Chola-Era South India, c.875-1279 considers issues of emic ('local') and etic ('external') agency; the origin of urban communities relative to movements of material and ideational 'commodities'; confrontations between alien cultures, formation of plural societies, dual loyalties, and multiple affiliations. Specifically, this book highlights the south Indian epigraphic sources that document the purposeful creation of clearly defined market and temple districts adjacent to settled agricultural societies, which were to be populated by multi-ethnic merchants, artisans, warriors, rulers, agriculturalists, and priests from the various regions of the south Indian downstream river basins and their hinterlands, as well as the Indian Ocean.

Local inscriptive records are notable for their variety of detailed societal contracts, marketplace charters, and the coincidental approval of religious institution relationships that served the religious, political, cultural, and productive economic needs of the various societal communities. These civil records are consistent with contemporary charters of Hindu temples that were foundational to invasive urbanism into previously rural societies. In sum, this book incorporates new social network literature as a means to re-examining local historical records, to better understand the variety of regional primary and secondary urban networking that was basic to early south Indian societal change.

Contents

List of Illustrations • Preface • Structural Change and Societal Integration in Early South India: South Indian History and Historiography • Structural Change and Societal Integration South India to 700 CE • Price-Making and Market Hierarchy in Early Medieval South India • Coinage, Trade, and Economy in Early South India and its Bay of Bengal Neighbours • International Trade and Foreign Diplomacy in Early Medieval South India • Secondary Cities and Urban Networking in Chola-era South India • Kancipuram in the Age of the Cholas • Peasant State and Society in Chola Times: A View from the Tiruvvidaimarudur Urban Complex • Merchants, Rulers, and Priests in an Early South Indian Sacred Center: Cidambaram in the Age of the Cholas • Ports-of-Trade, Maritime Diasporas, Networks of Trade, and Cultural Integration in the Bay of Bengal Region of the Indian Ocean: c. 1000–1500 • Contemporary Study of Chola-era South India: A Concluding Review • Index
Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers

Volume V, Part I (Tamil Inscriptions)

edited by Y. Subbarayalu and S. Rajavelu

The Vijayanagara Empire (c.1336–1650), the first south Indian state spread over most of the peninsula, except Kerala, has, to its credit a rich corpus of inscriptions in three Dravidian languages—Kannada, Tamil and Telugu—besides those in Sanskrit. This volume, the fifth in the ICHR series of Vijayanagara inscriptions, is the first part of a two-volume publication and contains 576 Tamil inscriptions of the pre-Krishnadavaraya period. The inscriptions throw much light on the significance of the Tamil area for the Vijayanagara state. Its political organization there shows some peculiar features, being dominated, as it were, by the princely viceroys. The Tamil inscriptions also provide somewhat richer details than the Kannada and Telugu inscriptions do regarding the socio-economic conditions of the times. The inscriptions, compiled from several standard publications, have been arranged in a chronological order, and the text of each inscription is given in Roman transliteration followed by an abstract in English. The Index provides explanations to most technical terms found in the inscriptions, and, hence, it can also be used as a glossary. Together the five volumes in this series place a large and systematically organized body of Vijayanagara inscriptions in the hands of scholars and researchers in medieval south Indian history.

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Foreword by Chairman • Preface by Convener • Note by the Editors • Note on Transliteration • Introduction • Table I: Kings, Dates and Inscriptions • Table II: Alphabetical list of kings • Table III: Standard names of kings • Table IV: Alphabetical list of places • Table V: Places by Districts and Taluks • References • Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers • Index
Buddhism at Sārnāth

Anand Singh

This volume attempts a reconstruction of the different Buddhist traditions that evolved at Sārnāth between the preaching of the Four Noble Truths (sixth century BCE) and the construction of Dharmachakrājina Vihāra (twelfth century CE) in the early medieval age. Sārnāth is one of the eight centres of Buddhism. This volume attempts an objective assessment of the history, rise and decline of Sārnāth by studying archaeological, epigraphic and literary sources. It explores the religious traditions, origin and geomorphological construction of the Sārnāth region, dhammacakkapabattana, its religious and architectural symbolism and patronage. The probable causes of the decline of Buddhism at Sārnāth have also been discussed in the context of Chinese, Indian and Persian sources, and archaeological reports.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • Settlement Pattern in Early Age • Patronage and Identity based on Inscriptions and Seals • Samghārāmas, Caityas and Stūpas in Sārnāth • Aśoka’s Pillar at Sārnāth • Sārnāth: Space and Time • Aftermath in Sārnāth • Bibliography • Index

The City and the Country in Early India: A Study of Malwa

P K Basant

This book is about the emergence of urban centres in the sixth century BCE, and analyses the processes and spatiality of urbanization, taking Malwa as its case study. Earlier research on urbanism has focussed on either literary or archaeological sources. While literary sources tend to locate the agency for change exclusively in preachers and rulers, in archaeology, the forces of change become nameless and faceless. The study of inscriptions from Malwa helps in restoring agency to common people.

Contents
List of Illustrations • Acknowledgements • Introduction • Contextualizing the Problem • Problems of Theory • Face of the Land • The Prehistory of Urbanization in Malwa • The Beginning of Political Society • Through the Gateways of Sanchi: The Inscriptional Evidence • Sanchi: The Visual Evidence • The Emergence of Malwa and its Urban Centres: A View from Literature • Images of the City and the Country in Early Indian Literature • Conclusion • Appendices • Bibliography • Index

‘The effort is stupendous, the sweep is vast, the study is exhaustive, and the impact enlightening.’
— HARBANS SINGH, The Tribune

Prices are subject to revision without prior notice
Oceanscapes: Tamil Textiles in the Early Modern World

S. Jeyaseela Stephen

This book explores how Tamil textiles became a globally traded commodity, and circulated across the seas and oceans during the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, eventually being consumed by a wide variety of societies in Asia, Europe, Africa, and America. The author traces how the global diffusion of woven, painted, printed, and dyed cotton textiles occurred not only because of the skills of Tamil weavers and dyers, but also because of the political and the economic compulsions in the various regions it travelled. The officers of the East India Companies and the missionaries investigated the techniques of the printing and dyeing of Tamil textiles and found them to be considerably more sophisticated than those used in Europe. This resulted in an exchange of technical and technological knowledge of textile production between the Tamil coast and Europe.

This volume examines the long-term economic history of the Tamil region through the lens of textiles and provides not only an extensive and quantitative analysis of the types of textiles traded, but also examines the movement of precious metals, the process of monetization, and the struggle between the Portuguese, Dutch, English, French, Armenian, Tamil, and Telugu traders.

Adopting Braudel’s approach, this study breaks new ground by looking at changes and continuities in the Tamil textile economy, society, and technology as an integral phenomenon, thus rescuing history from becoming region or nation-centric and elevating its status to the global.

Contents
Preface • Setting the Scene • Portuguese Trade in Textiles from the Tamil Coast to Malay Peninsula and Indonesian Archipelago, 1502–1641 • The Commercial Topography and the Textile Trade of the Chettiyars, Mudaliars, Pillais and Marakkayars in Asia, Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries • The Economic Environment of the Komati Chettis and Beri Chettis in the Tamil Coast and Textile Trade, Sixteenth–Eighteenth Centuries • Textile Trade of the Dutch from the Tamil Coast to Asia and Africa, Seventeenth–Eighteenth Centuries • Textile Trade of the French from the Tamil Coast to Asia and Africa, Seventeenth–Eighteenth Centuries • Private Fortunes and Profits in the Textile Trade of the Armenians and the Europeans • Textile Trade of the Dutch East India Company from Pulicat, Nagapattinam and Tuticorin to the Netherlands, 1610–1795 • Madras to London: Textile Trade under the English East India Company, 1640–1809 • Pondicherry to France: Textile Trade under the French East India Company, 1682–1793 • The Flow of Precious Metals and the Textile Trade in the Tamil Coast, Sixteenth–Eighteenth Centuries • Continuities, Discontinuities and Changes in the Textile Economy and Society of the Tamil Coast, Sixteenth–Eighteenth Centuries • Scientific Experiments of the French Catholic Missionaries and Professionals: Knowledge Transfer of Textile Painting and Cloth Dyeing from Pondicherry to France • Information Networking on Textile Painting, Dyeing and Bleaching by the Officials of the East India Companies and the Circulation of Scientific Knowledge from the Tamil Coast to Europe • Final Thoughts • Glossary 1: Textile Varieties in the Tamil Coast • Glossary 2: Cloth Dye Stuffs and Textile Industry • Glossary 3: General Terms • Index
The Song of the Loom

Vijaya Ramaswamy

*The Song of the Loom* tells the story of the hoary tradition of textile weaving in southern India from the perspective of the weavers. It is, hence a narrative from below, mediated through the author’s interaction with weaving communities for over two decades. The author stayed with weavers, participated in their cultural and religious festivals and listened to their many songs, which related to all facets of their lives—their struggles on the loom, their despair with the younger generation which is forsaking a traditional way of life and their desperate clinging to their traditions and their memories.

This book, however, goes beyond a retelling of folk narratives and the recording of loom songs. It is also about the nitty-gritty of the survival of a leisurely craft which is struggling to stay afloat at a time when speed driven technology is the prime mover in the major commercial domain of textiles and saleability and competitive pricing become the decisive factors. The book therefore has chapters on culturally embedded traditional designs, traditional technology versus advancing technology mediated by the notion of ‘appropriate’ technology. The author has endeavoured to connect the concerns of the weavers with the role of NGOs and government established weaver service centres. This book should therefore provide a valuable feedback to the votaries of the handloom industry.

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- The Traditional Weaving Castes of South India and the New Entrants
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*Prices are subject to revision without prior notice*
The Spinning World: A Global History of Cotton Textiles, 1200–1850*

edited by Giorgio Riello and Prasannan Parthasarathi

Eric Hobsbawm famously wrote, ‘Whoever says Industrial Revolution says cotton.’ The modern history of cotton textile is well known, and cotton’s contribution to industrialization processes around the world much appreciated. However, the medieval and early modern antecedents of this produce are far less clear, and so the purpose of this collection of essays is to explore the pre-modern history of cotton. To explore the nature of this history, and the importance of the Indian subcontinent, whose cotton goods traversed the world and which lay at the centre of a vast worldwide trading system, requires a global perspective, which the essays in this volume provide. Ranging from China and Japan, to Europe, the Ottoman Empire, South-East Asia, and East and West Africa, the essays explore the global exchange and use of cotton textiles in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic worlds, as well as the impact of Indian cotton on local consumption and production systems. Taken together, they provide a wide-ranging picture of cotton cloth in the centuries between 1200 and 1850, as well as a framework which decenters Europe in the pre-modern global order.

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‘A rich resource on the multiplicity of global experience in preindustrial cotton textile production and trade. As such it will surely open the way to fresh enquiry.’

— DAVID JEREMY, Business History Review

‘A collection of essays of high factual value and close scrutiny of process, its revisionism lying in its world-ranging approach to a subject which has largely been viewed from a Western perspective.’

—JANE JAKEMAN, Times Literary Supplement
Insights and Interventions: Essays in Honour of Uma Chakravarti

edited by Kumkum Roy

The volume address themes like issues of caste, nationalism, gendered identities, communalization, socio-political relationships in all their complexities and the modes of transmission of ancient texts.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • The Vedic Dasi and Other Missing Women: Thinking about Nationalism with Uma Chakravarti • Women’s Studies Since the 1990s: Mapping New Conjunctures, Challenges and Strategies • Conversations on Caste • Crime and Atonement • Nobody Must Know • The Goddess of Pālai • On the Premier Performances of the Ramayana of Valmiki • Cosmology and Critique: Charting a History of the Purusha Sukta • Bonds Beyond Bondage: Representations of Friendship in the Jatakas • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index

‘Uma Chakravarti, feminist historian, teacher, and democratic rights’ activist, has inspired generations of teachers and students. Contributors to this volume, in the process of acknowledging their indebtedness to the never-say-done spirit of Uma.’  —PADMINI SWAMINATHAN, The Hindu

Recording the Progress of Indian History:
Symposia Papers of the Indian History Congress, 1992–2010

edited by S Z H Jafri

The volume introduces groundbreaking research from a number of top Indian scholars and therefore makes a notable advancement in the fields of History and Archaeology in India.

Contents
Preface • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Man and Environment in Prehistory • Man and Nature in Mughal Era • Peopling of India • Indo-European Languages and Historical Problems • Linguistic Materials from Eighth-Century Sind: An Exploration of the Chachnāma • Some Considerations on Evidence, Language and History • Knowledge Transmission: Processes, Contents and Apparatus • Education and Transmission of Knowledge in Medieval India • Education and Transmission of Knowledge in Modern India • Caste, Untouchability and Social Justice: Early North Indian Perspective • Elements of Social Justice in Medieval Islamic Thought • Rahul Sankrityayana and Social Change • Caste, Class and Culture in Colonial India • Turbulent Waves: Constructions of Gender Relations in the Rajatarangini of Kalhana • Exploring Medieval Gender History • Woman is a Political Animal: Historical Possibilities and Problems • A Bronze Age Frontier: Problems of Interpretation • Absences in History: Towards Recovering History of the Marginal in Early India • History and Archaeology • A Future for the Past? • An Approach to Dissident Sects in Medieval India • The Present and the Cultural Heritage of India: A View from Delhi • Money and Social Changes in India (up to c. AD 1200) • Money and Social Change in India During Medieval Times • The State in Pre-Modern South India: A Historiographical Reassessment • State in Mughal India: Re-Examining the Myths of a Counter-Vision • Towards Freedom: Inside Story • Maharashtra’s Contribution to Freedom Struggle • Index

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Composite Culture under the Sultanate of Delhi

Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui

This work explores the cultural orientation of the sultanate of Delhi, a subject on which little work has been done so far. The architects of the sultanate introduced a new system of governance with novel social and cultural institutions, and Persian as an official language. These were significant moves as they served as catalysts for social change. Alongside, the emergence of new urban centres as well as the setting up of colonies of foreign immigrants from lands of more advanced culture in the old towns led to the transfiguration of culture in the sultanate. Thus, this book examines those aspects of culture that have hitherto not been paid adequate attention. Composite Culture under the Sultanate of Delhi is divided into three parts. The first explores the role played by the metropolis of Delhi as an integrating nucleus, and examines the cultural and social relationship between the Hindus and Muslims. The second part focuses on the nature of the relationship between the sultans of Delhi and the Mongol rulers of Central Asia. The third part examines the life and position of women and the attitude of different classes of society towards their women folk during the sultanate period.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • The Role of Hazrat-i-Delhi in the Process of Acculturation • The Position of Hindus in the Sultanate of Delhi • The Science of Medicine and the Emergence of Hospitals • The Role of Time and Space in History and Culture • Life and Culture under the Lodi Sultans (AD 1451–1526) • Interstate Relationship: The Sultanates of Delhi and Gujarat • Sultan Jalal u’ddin Khwarazm Shah and the Mongol Advance • Mongols in North-West India • Socio-Political Role of Women in Delhi Sultanate • Sufi Perspectives on Women and Marriage • Bibliography • Index
Indo-Persian Historiography to the Fourteenth Century (Enlarged Edition)

Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui

This book discusses the origin and growth of Indo-Persian historiography with particular emphasis on India’s contribution to the literary heritage of the Persian world.

It also evaluates the important changes that the writing of history underwent as it developed within the Indian environment. Besides a discussion of the methods employed by the Indo-Persian historians, the book focuses, for the first time, on an important contemporary work, Awfi’s Jawami’ul-Hikayat-wa-Livam’ul-Rivaayat as a source for the study of the history of the social and political developments in the Islamic world.

This enlarged edition also examines the poet ‘Isami’s Futuhus-Salatin that chronicles the reign of the Sultans from the eleventh to fourteenth centuries, and is remarkable for the details of the political and social developments that took place in south India after its annexation to the Sultanate of Delhi. Besides introducing some of the previously unknown works of Zia uddin Barani, the author also focuses on the two versions of Barani’s famous Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi and the treatise, Fatawa-i-Jahandari.

Indo-Persian Historiography to the Fourteenth Century is a pioneering work insofar as it attempts to study the social background and the religious and political ideals of each of the writers included in this book as well as analyse each work in the context of contemporary works and narratives produced in the neighbouring countries. It aims to fill an important gap in medieval Indo-Persian historiography as it assesses the history of history writing by immigrants and Indian scholars.

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Preface • Arabic Historiography and its Impact on Persian Writers • Fakhr-i-Mudabbir: The Trendsetter in India • Chachnama and its Significance • Hasan Nizami’s Approach to the Writing of History • ‘Awfi’s Jawami’ul-Hikayat wa-Livam’ul-Rivaayat, its Importance • History Writing in Tabaqat Form • Historical Writings of Amir Khusrau • Appendix: Khusrau’s Interest in Urban Geography • Conclusion • Bibliography • Index
Chingiz Khan: The Life and Legacy of an Empire-Builder

S A H Haqqi

This volume provides an evocative account of Temuchin Chingiz Khan, who knitted the warring Mongol tribes into well-trained warriors, and who went on to establish an empire from the Great Wall of China to the Caspian Sea and the Indus River.

Contents
List of Maps • Preface • Introduction • The Making of the Man • Struggle for Supremacy • Consolidation • The Great Campaign • The Mongol Avalanche • The Last Phase • Building an Empire • Retrospect: The Mongol Phenomenon • Appendices • Bibliography • Index

‘The book . . . is quite relevant to the students of medieval Indian history because the emergence of the Delhi Sultanate cannot be understood without taking into account the Mongol presence in north-western India. . . . The book contains seven historical maps, which complement the text in several meaningful ways. . . . the publisher has done a tremendous job in producing a beautiful volume. . . .’

—Surinder Singh, Summerhill

Religion and Ideology of the Rebels of 1857

Iqbal Husain

Departing from the dominant historiography, Religion and Ideology of the Rebels of 1857 seeks to understand the ideological elements to the background of the rebellion and in doing so brings to light largely unexplored sources such as the proclamations of the rebels and their sympathizers and the correspondence they carried out amongst themselves. Reinterpreting the revolt this volume asserts that 1857 was not a mutiny but involved the masses, making it a national war against an alien ruler which paved the way for the emergence of the national struggle for freedom and of a secular India after independence.

Contents
Acknowledgement • Introduction • Elements of the Ideological Background to the Rebellion of 1857 • Lucknow between the Annexation and the Mutiny • Bareilly In 1857 • The Gentry and the People in Muradabad and Badaun, 1857 • The Rebellion in Bijnor, 1857–8 • The Rebel Administration of Delhi • Delhi Before and After 1857 • The Rebels Views of the Rebellion of 1857 • Awadh Rebel Proclamations during 1857–8 • The Rebels’ Cause in 1857: From their Own Spokesmen • Three Awadh Proclamations of 1857 • Farmans, Orders, and Proclamations of the Rebels of 1857–8 • Revisiting a Document of 1857: Risala Fath-I Islam • Bakht Khan: A Leading Sepoy General of 1857 • Maulvi Liyaqat Ali • Fazl-e Haq of Khairabad—A Scholarly Rebel of 1857 • Kunwar Singh—A Great Warrior of 1857 • Bibliography • Index
The Making of the Awadh Culture

Madhu Trivedi

This book’s strength lies in its profound deployment of evidence scattered in a variety of primary and secondary sources, especially in the Persian and Urdu languages, in its study of visuals and artefacts, as well as of the performance traditions and craft techniques which are derived from the period. It also discusses how under the fostering care of the nawâbs, Awadh came to epitomize all that was magnificent, refined, and cosmopolitan, and Lucknow emerged as a cultural node during the nineteenth century.

It also traces how the rulers of Awadh presided over the creation of the Shi’â heritage in northern India which had strong associations with Indian cultural traditions. Highlighting the literary milieu of the period, and the developments in the realm of music, painting, architecture, and the industrial arts, this volume also explores how some of the arts and crafts assumed considerable European colour due to the interaction between Europeans and the Awadh elite, and demonstrates how the ethos of the syncretic Indo-Persian culture, the renowned ganga-jamunî tahzîb that represented Persian aesthetics and Indian cultural values, remained intact.

Contents
List of Illustrations • Preface • Introduction • Capital as Cultural Centre • Awadh: Crucible of Shi’a Culture in Northern India • The Literary Culture • Musical Arts • Awadh Painting • Nawabi Architecture • Industrial Arts • Bibliography • Index

‘[The book] is packed with scholarly matter that would be difficult to find in one place anywhere else. . . . [It] is a work of erudition that anyone with an interest in the history and culture of Lucknow and the kingdom of Awadh will want to consult.’  — RICHARD BARZ, Australia National University

‘This well researched work is indeed a significant and valuable contribution to the real of knowledge and could be apt spring board for further researches in socio–economic and cultural history. The presentation of the book is praiseworthy. The lucid and convincing language makes the book all the more an interesting reading.’  — PRODEEP KUMAR GHOSH, Summerhill

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Literature as History: From Early to Contemporary Times

edited by Chhanda Chatterjee

*Literature as History*, between its two seemingly opposite spectrums, puts forth an idea of unusual convergence between the fields of literature and history. It begins by showing how literary material—since the Sangam period of Tamil literary Renaissance in the first millennium up to the very recent globally acclaimed Indo-Anglian literature—has reflected the twists and turns of history. Sometimes it highlights simply the life lived by the people in their everyday contentment and misery; sometimes it is the *Sufiana tariqa* (the Sufi way) of syncretic spiritualism (*tassawuf*), and sometimes it is the literary symbolism of nature trying to represent the nation. In this eclectic collection of essays, the one on Rabindranath Tagore’s seminal play *The Red Oleanders* documents the world’s great enthusiasm for the promised liberation of the weak and the oppressed from the shackles of industrial capitalism, while another on Tagore’s *Letters from Russia* explains the subsequent disillusionment and retreat from the first flush of hope and expectation. The three concluding essays in the volume, on Indo-Anglian literature and women’s writing, signal a new phase of history where the Indian diaspora has completed ‘the conquest of English’ and caused history to come full circle.

**Contents**
Preface • Introduction: Literature as History: From Early to Contemporary Times • ‘Historicality in Literature’: A Case Study of the Classical Tamil Text, the *Patiṟṟuppattu* • Mystical and Eclectic Traditions as Reflected in Persian Sources of Medieval India • Naturalization of the Nation and Nationalization of Nature: A Study of the Nationalist Literature of Bengal • The Radical Rabindranath: ‘The Red Oleanders (*Rakta Karabi*)’ and Dreams of a New World • Reading Tagore’s Letters from Russia in the Twenty-first Century • The Evolution of Indian English Language and Literature: A Socio-Historical Survey • ‘Tagore Syndrome’: A Case Study of the West’s Intercultural (Mis)readings • The Politics and Poetics of Translating Indian Women’s Fiction in English • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index
Literature, Culture and History in Mughal North India, 1550–1800

Sandhya Sharma

This book is a pioneering attempt to study Mughal Indian polity and the dynamics of family, kinship and caste through *Riti Kal* literature. The literature, in the form of drama and Braja bhasha poetry, provides evidence of regional diversities and varied patterns of historical developments in medieval north India as well as a dynamism in the political and socio-cultural spheres in pre-modern India. A detailed analysis of *Riti Kal* poetry reveals that the regions, in spite of conflicts and contestations for power, did acknowledge the Mughals as the undisputed rulers of Hind, the future India.

*Riti Kal* poetry provides enough evidence to highlight the transformation that had begun to take place in the traditional forms of relations during this period. While the poets continued to advocate the conventional role of women in family and society they also depicted, with sympathy and understanding, the individuality, liberty and sexuality of the fairer sex. The legends of Krishna and Radha, expressed through the tradition of the nayak and nayika in Braja poetry, give voice to not only the age-old myths attached to these characters but also newer representations in line with contemporary religious traditions.

*Literature, Culture and History in Mughal North India, 1550–1800* is a pathbreaking work in that it departs from the popular norm of viewing history mainly through Persian historiography. It is the first detailed study of the so-called vernaculars—in this case the Braja poetry, as source material, so far neglected by both, the literati and the historians, in the context of Mughal north India.

Contents

List of Illustrations • Preface • Introduction • Kinship, Caste and Gender • Krishna and Radha • Narratives from the Past: *Shakuntala, Prabodh Chandrodaya Natak* and *Sujan Vilas* • Rulers, Regions and Wars: Histories in Verse • Conclusion • Bibliography • Index

‘The book can also be placed alongside, and in counterpoint to, scholarship on the changing tenor of Indo-Persian aesthetic cultures in the Mughal period (as in the work of Sunil Sharma and Muzaffar Alam). Sharma’s study is an indispensable contribution, pointing to new and revelatory considerations of a highly formalized literature vitally engaged in history.’

— SUtopa Dasgupta, Harvard University

*The Journal of Asian Studies*

‘Sandhya Sharma’s work captures an intense cultural moment and documents the social and cultural history of that moment using poetry as evidence. In this effort, she steers away from the mainstream ideas . . . [and] unambiguously provides sufficient ground for her innovative research methodology . . . a fine balance between materials and analysis constitutes the real strength of this work.’

— Afsar Mohammed, University of Texas

*Itinerario* (Cambridge Journals)
Studies in Polity, Economy and Society of the Trans-Gangetic Valley: Fifteenth-Nineteenth Centuries

Iqbal Husain

This collection of essays explores the varied political structures and socio-cultural formations in the Trans-Gangetic Valley from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Empirically rich and extensively documented, the essays in the collection delve into rare sources and documents, and provide fresh insights into our understanding of the period.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • Iranian Ideological Influences at Akbar’s Court • Perception of Hinduism in Persian Literature • Hindu Shrines and Practices as Described by a Central Asian Traveller in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century • Evolution of Madrasa Education in India and the Contribution of the Ulama of Firangi Mahal • From Traditional Roots to Nationalism: A History of the Firangi Mahal Family • Sir Syed’s Perception of Islam • Sources of Early Revolutionary Inspiration in Azad • Ideological Influences on Maulana Azad • Aligarh: The Founder and his Work • Akbar Allahabadi and the Aligarh Movement • Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries Documents from the Firangi Mahal Collection (With a Calendar of Select Documents) • A Calendar of Khairabad Documents: Sixteenth-Nineteenth Centuries • New Light on Some Events of Early Years of Aurangzeb’s Reign • A Calendar of Sambhal Documents Relating to Revenue Grants and Appointment of Qazis (1697–1761) • Agrarian Change in Farrukhabad District, late Eighteenth and First Half of the Nineteenth Century: A Study of a Local Collection of Documents • Primitive Newspapers: The Eighteenth Century Akhbarat • The Madad-i Ma’ash Regulations in Mughal Empire • Karl Marx on India in the New York Daily Tribune: The Overlooked Material • The ‘Early’ and ‘Garbled’ Versions of Jahangir’s Memoirs: An Enquiry into Fabrication, its Nature and Motive • The Sikhs and Their History, ad 1696 from Sujan Rai Bhandari’s, Khulasat’s-ul Tawarikh • Banda Bahadur’s Rebellion, AD 1710–16 from Mirza Muhammad’s ‘Ibratnama • Sharaif-e ‘Usmani: A Rare Manuscript of the Eighteenth Century • Siyar-ul Mutakhirin: A Study • A Unique Account Concerning the Study of Ruhela Afghans in the Eighteenth Century (Zikr-i Mir) • The Economic Position of the Higher Classes of the People of Awadh as Depicted in Mirat-ul Auza’ • Akbar’s Farmans: A Study in Diplomatic • The Correspondence between the Ruhela Sardars and the Jat Chiefs • The Role of Ghulam Husain in the Formation of Anglo-Ruhela Relations during 1766 –71 • The Diplomatic Vision of Tipu Sultan: Briefs for Embassies to Turkey and France, 1785–86 • Medieval Sirhind • The Sociological History of an Immigrant Community: The Afghans in Medieval India • Pattern of Afghan Settlements in India in the Seventeenth Century • Afghan Immigration into India: A Case Study of Some Afghan Families, Sixteenth–Nineteenth Centuries • The Family of Darya Khan Ruhela • Socio-Economic background of the Rise of Ruhela Afghans in the First Half of the Eighteenth Century in the Gangetic-Doab • Jagirdari in the Eighteenth Century: A Case Study of Two Afghan Families of Western Awadh • Role of a Brahman Family in Awadh Politics during the Nineteenth Century • Raja Bakhtawar Singh: A Brahman Taluqadar of Awadh • Barkatullah: A Half- Forgotten Revolutionary • Index
Religious Tradition and Culture in Eighteenth Century North India

Tabir Kalam

This book highlights the religious and cultural efflorescence in India during the eighteenth century. By shifting the focus away from the political and economic transition of that period, the author examines the wide array of primary sources in Persian and especially in Urdu to study the intellectual and cultural trends and to provide it an important place in historiography. In his analysis, he brings into prominence the vibrant religious-intellectual outpouring, the poetics and politics of Shia-Sunni polemics, the educational innovations, the growth of Urdu and its entanglement with religious and regional sensibilities along with regional networks of patronage and, finally, the diffusion of Mughal court culture in different regional centres up to the qasba level which became the template to re-contextualize, re-define and adapt various elements of the Mughal culture.

The book also contends that the seepage and assimilation of the Mughal culture at various regional centres when confronted by European modernity in the eighteenth century in many ways acted as the foundation of Muslim politics in the nineteenth century. By evoking a cultural debate, the author has tried to unravel intricacies of Indian Islam’s first and momentous encounter with modernity bringing to the fore, the twin processes of Muslim community formation and identity consciousness which provides a backdrop to comprehend the consistencies and contradictions of Muslim reform movements of nineteenth century as well.

Contents

Introduction • The Muslim Community: Attempts at Consolidation • Muslim Community: Divisions and Conflict • The Centres of Muslim Learning • The Reform or Islah-i-Zaban: Persianization of Hindvi • The Mughal Court Culture Beyond the Portals of Court • Conclusion • Bibliography • Index

Meena Bhargava

This revised edition of State, Society and Ecology: Gorakhpur in Transition, 1750–1830, retains the data and structure of the original work but builds upon major parts of the book to update it to current research. The new, revised Introduction, rewritten chapters, extended Bibliography, and newly introduced Appendix aim to provide a greater focus to the issues discussed in this volume. This book examines the specificities and peculiarities of Gorakhpur in the period of transition, viz., c.1750–1830. In keeping with the trend of regional studies, the book reinforces notions of growth and development, continuity and change and thereby widens the transition debate, juxtaposing it with colonial discourse and orientalism. In doing so, its major contribution is its attempt to redefine economic history and focus on new ways of studying the subject. The issues discussed in State, Society and Ecology—ecology and forests; people, their caste compositions and affiliations, their history and culture; economic growth, social change and the changing political traditions—gives it a definite tilt towards social history.

Contents
List of Maps • Preface • List of Abbreviations • Introduction • Patterns of Growth: Ecology and Production • Land Boom or Land Doom: A Study of the Forests • Revenue: Assessment, Appropriation, Resistance • Landed Property Rights in Transition: Zamindars, Ta’alluqdar and Birtias • Landed Property Rights in Transition: Peasants, Village Officials and Revenue Grantees • Turbulence and Turmoil • Markets, Merchants and Artisans • Conclusion • Glossary • Bibliography • Index
Mughal Architecture: An Outline of its History and Development (1526-1858) (Revised Edition)

Ebba Koch

The architecture created in southern Asia under the patronage of the great Mughals (1526–1858) is one of the richest and most inventive of the Islamic area, including such world famous buildings as the Taj Mahall in Agra or the tomb of Humayun in Delhi, the palaces and mosques in Agra, Delhi, Fatehpur Sikri and Lahore.

The author provides a concise and richly-illustrated survey of the history of Mughal architecture and the various influences exerted on the Mughal style by Central Asian-Timurid, earlier Indian and Persian architecture as well as European engravings. All building types are considered, not only the well known masterpieces but also country houses, hunting palaces, gardens, mausoleums, mosques, bath houses, bazaars, and other public buildings. Many of these are still unknown to specialists.

This unique book, covering the whole range of Mughal architecture and including the numerous new photographs and detailed plans, presents the results of the author’s extensive field work in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as Iran and the central Asian region of the Soviet Union. The author’s in-depth knowledge of the original sources provides the reader with invaluable background information.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • Map of India • Babur • Humayun • Akbar • Jahangir • Shah Jahan • Aurangzib and Later Mughal Architecture • The Later Mughal Style • Conclusion • Glossary • Select Bibliography • Index

‘Ebba Koch’s survey of the whole range of Mughal architecture is . . . marked by impressive scholarship . . . in a short space, a remarkable full selection of Mughal architecture is illustrated and discussed with precision and expertise.’
—GILES TILLOTSON, South Asian Studies

‘Ebba Koch’s volume is by far the best available survey of Mughal architecture. It incorporates the latest theories on identifications and chronology, as well as information on hitherto little known buildings.’
—GEORGE MICHELL, The India Magazine
Zafar and the Raj: Anglo-Mughal Delhi c. 1800-1850

Amar Farooqui

Zafar and the Raj is a study of the formative phase of the history of colonial Delhi, a phase that from its duality, social and political, may be referred to as Anglo–Mughal. From 1803 onwards there were actually two centres of authority in the imperial city: the Residency and the Palace. The competing influence of the Palace determined the manner in which colonial authority was established in Delhi—and marked the limits of this authority. Simultaneously, the association of the Mughal emperor’s name with Delhi, combined with the participation in fin-de-siècle Mughal court ritual by the East India Company’s officials, was to shape the colonial perception of Delhi as the premier imperial city of the subcontinent. Information available in the colonial archive about emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar (1775–1862; r. 1837–57), and his two immediate predecessors, is used to reconstruct the history of the city in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, focussing on the period c. 1803–1857. This book is also a political biography of Zafar. It aims to present the story of his life not, as is typical, from the perspective of the revolt of 1857, but in terms of Zafar as a prominent local aristocratic figure who was part of the Urdu-speaking urban elite of the first half of the nineteenth century.

Contents
Preface • List of Abbreviations • The Making of a New Dispensation • Quiet Assertion, 1803–1806 • The Seton Years • Akbar Shah • The Delhi Agency • The Palace and the City • Under the Sipahi Regime • September 14 and After • Oblivion, Remembrance • Postscript • Appendices • Bibliography • Index

Sindias and the Raj: Princely Gwalior c. 1800–1850

Amar Farooqui

Sindias and the Raj is a study of the Sindia state of Gwalior during the colonial period. It traces the history of one of the leading princely states of the British Indian empire, from its first major military encounter with the British at the beginning of the century, to the eve of the Revolt of 1857. In doing so the book explores the fascinating factional conflicts at the Gwalior durbar and the connections these had with the politics of the powerful Sindia army.

Sindias and the Raj also examines the political economy of princely Gwalior, while paying close attention to the responses of various classes in the state to colonial intervention-responses ranging from outright collaboration to armed conflict. It also attempts a reappraisal of several facets of the history of Malwa in the colonial period including the history of the Pindaris, and the trade in Malwa opium.

Contents
Acknowledgements • Abbreviations • Introduction • The Pindari Interlude • The Regency of Baiza Bai • Popular Resistance and the 1843 Uprising • The Aftermath of Maharajpur • Opium and the Colonial Economy of Malwa • Towards 1857 • Bibliography • Index
Bal Gangadhar Tilak: Popular Readings

edited by Biswamoy Pati

This book explores Bal Gangadhar Tilak’s engagements, not just with the Indian national movement, but also with the nuanced diversities associated with a context that preceded the mass movements. The contributors attempt to historicize a nationalist icon, presenting a holistic picture of a leading nationalist personality, including his contradictions and ambiguities, making both Tilak and his context accessible.

Contents
Preface • Lokmanya Tilak on Karl Marx and Class Conflict • Religious Identity and Conflict in the Nationalist Agenda of Bal Gangadhar Tilak • Tilak: Communalist or Political Pragmatist? • Gathering the Past in Rituals of Celebration: Tilak’s Dissemi(N)ation of the Idea of Nationhood • Nationalist Politics and the ‘Making’ of Bal Gangadhar Tilak • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index

118 pp. • HB • ₹ 595
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Popular Translations of Nationalism: Bihar, 1920–1922

Lata Singh

The book revisits the historiography on nationalism by moving beyond the binary of elite and subaltern nationalism and focuses on the complex nature of popular nationalism. It also underscores the protests of the subordinate police, an area which has so far remained unexplored.

Contents
Preface • Acknowledgements • Bihar Politics: Locale of Non-Cooperation Movements • Contouring the Non-Cooperation Movement in Bihar: 1920–1922 • Contests, Hegemony and the Making of a New ‘National’ Identity: Mapping the ‘Boycotts’ • Popular Protests: Peasant and Tribal Struggles • Exploring the Margins of Resistance: The Bihar Constabulary, 1920–1922 • Epilogue • Appendices • Bibliography • Glossary • Index

294 pp. • HB • ₹ 995
$ 69.95

Prices are subject to revision without prior notice
India’s Princely States: People, Princes and Colonialism*

edited by Waltraud Ernst and Biswamoy Pati

This book reassesses the place of the Indian princely states within the history of South Asia and weaves together hitherto uncharted areas. It employs a multidisciplinary approach and critiques some of the received paradigms of conventional historiography about Princely India, leading the reader into new realms of discussion such as literary constructions, aspects of political economy and legitimacy, military collaborations, gender issues, present movements, health policies and the mechanisms for controlling and integrating the states. The contributors focus on a range of states in different regions and base their analyses on hitherto unused or under used archival sources. The collection will appeal to scholars of South Asia and students of transnational histories, cultural and racial studies, international politics, economic history and social history of health and medicine.

Contents

Notes on Editors and Contributors • Acknowledgements • People, princes and colonialism • Colonial and postcolonial historiography and the princely states: relations of power and rituals of legitimation • ‘Cruel, Oriental depots’: representations in nineteenth-century British colonial fiction, 1858–1900 • Narcotrafficking, princely ingenuity and the Raj: the subjugation of the Sindia state, c.1843–44 • The agrarian system of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir: a study of colonial settlement policies, 1860–1905 • The Order of Legitimacy: princely Orissa, 1850–1947 • Loyal feudatories or depraved despots? The deposition of princes in the Central India Agency, c. 1880–1947 • ‘Hostages in our camp’: military collaboration between princely India and the British Raj, c.1880–1920 • Historicizing debates over women’s status in Islam: the case of Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum of Bhopal • The Maharana and the Bhils: the ‘Eki’ movement in Mewar, 1921–22 • Women’s Hospitals and midwives in Mysore, 1870–1920: princely or colonial medicine • Public health administration in princely Mysore: tackling the influenza pandemic of 1918 • Border incidents, internal disorder and the nizam’s claim for an independent Hyderabad • Index

‘The twelve essays in this volume deal with a range of understudied topics related to the Indian princely states. . . . [T]he contributors generally share a habit of utilizing rare archival sources materials to critique the colonial mode of historiography and the tradition that studies the Indian states in reductionist ways. . . . Taken together, the articles in this anthology raise important questions for future research.’

—NAWARAJ CHAULAGAIN, Harvard University

The Journal of Asian Studies
The Mughals, the Portuguese and the Indian Ocean: Changing Imageries of Maritime India

Pius Malekandathil

This book explores the changing meanings that ‘maritime India’ acquired during the early modern period as a result of the frequent efforts of the Mughals and the Portuguese, from two different fronts, to control its vast, resourceful enclaves and profit-yielding neighbourhoods. By analysing the highly nuanced socio-economic processes of these regions and addressing themes that have as yet remained unexplored, this volume creates a new framework to understand the varying nature of maritime India.

Some of the issues explored here focus on the political implications of the religious dialogues between Akbar and Jesuits; the attempts of the Portuguese to create a supportive social group out of the Paravas in the Pearl Fishery Coast; the creation of parallel circuits to Ottoman markets in the eastern Mediterranean as an alternative to the Cape Route trade of the Portuguese; the multiple strands of trade between coastal western India and the markets of East Africa; the economic and political processes that prompted the shifting of the Mughal capital from the hinterland to the vicinity of the major maritime trading centres of northern Konkan; voices of dissent in Christianity and discourses on early nationalism; the changing perceptions of Portuguese enclaves in Bengal and aspects of the ethnic mutation of the Luso-Indians as well as the social manoeuvrings of the English.

The Mughals, the Portuguese and the Indian Ocean: Changing Imageries of Maritime India will be of interest to students and scholars of early modern history of India in general and those studying transitions in maritime India in particular.

Contents

Acknowledgements • Introduction • Akbar, the Portuguese and the Politics of Religious Dialogue • Fishing the Pearl and the Soul: A Study on the Politics of the Portuguese and the Identity Formation of the Paravas in Pearl Fishery Coast, 1500–1600 • City in Space and Metaphor: A Study on the Port-City of Goa, 1510–1700 • Trading Networks and Region Formation: The Making of South India, 1500–1750 • Indian Trade with Eastern Mediterranean during the Age of Portuguese Commercial Expansion: 1500–1650 • Changing Meanings of Oceanic Circulations between Coastal Western India and the African Markets, 1500–1800 • Shifting from Inland to the Frontiers of Coastal Societies: A Study on the Integration of Coastal Northern Konkan with the Mughal World • Voices of Dissent, Early Nationalism and Indian Alternatives to European Perceptions of Church: A Study on the Travel Narratives of Varthamanapusthakam • Trade, Religion and Politics: A Study on the Meanings of Portuguese Activities in the Northern Zones of Bay of Bengal, 1632–1840 • Economic Processes, Ruralization and Ethnic Mutation: A Study on the Changing Meanings of Lusitanian Space in India, 1780–1840 • Index

‘In effect this book is a welcome relief from the often told stories of maritime history as it looks at the scenario afresh and the integrated approach of sea, land and religion and the logical arrangement of the chapters make the reader sit up and read with attention.’

— K A NARSIAH, The Hindu

Prices are subject to revision without prior notice
Maritime India: Trade, Religion and Polity in the Indian Ocean (Revised edition)

Pius Malekandathil

This volume discusses the various socio-economic and political processes that evolved over centuries in the vast coastal fringes of India and out of the circuits of the Indian Ocean, ultimately giving the littoral zones the distinctive consciousness and identity of Maritime India.

This book dwells upon a wide range of issues, including the nature of maritime trade of the Sassanids with India; the impact of maritime trade on the political processes of Goa; the social processes linked with the settlements of foreign merchant groups in India; the nature of the Portuguese expansion in coastal India; and the nuances of political assertions over maritime centres of exchange and their hinterlands.

The work also discusses in some detail the repercussions of the Ottoman expansion into the Indian Ocean, the impact of Portuguese commercial expansion on the traditional Muslim merchants of Kerala, the changing methods of information-networking between coastal India and the Mediterranean, the burgeoning of Portuguese power units in Bengal, and the role of private traders in the structure and the functioning of Estado da India.

Contents

Foreword • Acknowledgements • Introduction • The Sassanids and the Maritime Trade of India during the Early Medieval Period • Maritime Trade and the Political Economy of Goa, 800–1500 • Dynamics of Economy, Social Processes and the pre-Portuguese Christians of India, 800–1500 • From the trails of the Chinese to the Domination of the Portuguese: An Overview of the Patterns of their Naval Voyages and the Maritime Policies of India • Maritime Polity and a Mercantile State: An Analysis of the Political Dynamics of Kerala, 1500–1663 • The Ottoman Expansion and the Portuguese Response in the Indian Ocean, 1500–1560 • From Merchant Capitalists to Corsairs: The Muslim Merchants of Malabar and their Responses to Portuguese Maritime Trade Expansion, 1498–1600 • Information Networking between India and the Mediterranean in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries • Bengal and the Commercial Expansion of the Portuguese Casados, 1511–1632 • Mercantile Wealth and the Estado da India: The Changing Pattern of Portuguese Trade with India, 1570–1663 • Index

‘Malekandathil’s detailed historical analysis of Maritime India reinforces the importance of trade, religion, and polity in the Indian Ocean for a better comprehension of Maritime India.’

—Journal of Asian Studies

‘Dr Malekandathil has done justice to this region (the history of Portuguese-Ottoman rivalry in the Indian Ocean) in this pioneering book.’

—DIETMAR ROTHERMUND, Hiedelberg
Coastal Histories: Society and Ecology in pre-Modern India

edited by Yogesh Sharma

The subject of maritime and oceanic history comprises a large corpus and includes related thematic engagements such as the history of overseas exploration and expansion, naval military history, shipping, port cities, the role of migrations and cross-cultural processes.

This extensive field of enquiry also focuses upon the study of littoral societies or the coastal regions, in understanding the influence of the ocean upon these lands. The general pattern of existence and the rhythm of life in all these dissociated regions, however, had considerable commonality, due to the overwhelming impact of the two dominant elements—water and land—in shaping the destinies of its inhabitants. Coastal societies have their own particular notion of identity and ambience, which differentiates them from the extensive continental zones. It is in this context, that coastal territories and their histories constitute an interesting theme of enquiry.

The present volume examines a number of themes pertaining to different coastal regions of India: coastal ecology, commercial crops, transmission of diseases, fortifications, port hierarchy, new port towns, vessels and boats, fishing communities, social life of women, etc. It should be of interest to students and scholars of maritime history of India.

Contents
Foreword • Acknowledgements • Introduction • Implantation of Commercial Crops: Cochineal Culture and the Regional Ecology in the Eighteenth-Century Coromandel • Of Rivers and Roads: Transport Networks and Economy in Eighteenth-Century Bengal • The Politics and Culture of Early Modern Warfare on the Konkan Coast of India during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries • Coastal Polity and the Changing Port-Hierarchy of Kerala • Women in Portuguese India: Their Representation in Sixteenth Century Sources • Disease, Morbidity and Mortality in the Indian Ocean World, 1500–1800 • Life and Death: Life of Early English Settlers at Bombay, 1661–1760 • From Fishermen to Boatmen: The Macquas of Madras, 1650–1750 • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index

‘Coastal Histories . . ., is a compilation of essays on the ecology and society in pre-modern India. In his elaborate introduction, its editor, Yogesh Sharma details the various aspects of the coastal society including religion and modes of worship and goes on to discuss the problems and calamities the coastal people met with. . . . Well-researched and documented, quite a few of the articles throw valuable new light on the early modern maritime history of India.’

— The Hindu
Networks in the First Global Age: 1400–1800

edited by Rila Mukherjee

The dynamics of the maritime world has held the fascination of researchers and scholars of history for long. Viewing the waterscapes as conduits of much economic and cultural sharing between peoples and lands, the focus of Networks in the First Global Age: 1400–1800 is on the oceans and seas—the Indian, the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea—and economic, military and cultural transmissions within and across them. The book shows how conventional arguments in history writing about the rise of the West, the hegemon of the State and the might of overseas colonial empires can be overturned by emphasizing on dynamic, collaborative, nonlinear networks as opposed to formal networks based on hierarchy. Such networks signal a completely different picture about global interactions in the period 1400–1800, emphasizing the centrality of peoples and commodities at different times in different parts of the world. More importantly, the book challenges chronological readings and urges us to think spatially instead. With contributions from Indian, American, French and Iberian scholars, Networks in the First Global Age: 1400–1800 tells us what happens when the sea of history meets the sea of network analysis.

Contents

‘The story of Kasimbazar’s networks is one of many networks described in a remarkable book, Networks in the First Global Age: 1400–1800. It contains contributions from Indian, French, Iberian and American scholars. . . . Its central assumption is that to understand the flow of historical events you need to study the networks in operation and the nature of connectivity among these networks. This is a dramatic departure from earlier historical methods which would have viewed, . . . events in the ‘small world’ Kasimbazar as deriving from its role as a small town in a larger empire, the Mughal, or to view it as a participant in the events in a particular period, that is, the 17th and 18th centuries.’

—AJIT BALAKRISHNAN
Business Standard
Pelagic Passageways: The Northern Bay of Bengal Before Colonialism
edited by Rila Mukherjee

This book visualizes the cultural space of the northern Bay of Bengal as embracing upland landlocked areas—Ava, Yunnan, the Tripuri, Dimasa and Ahom states—not usually seen as part of maritime history, therefore suggesting that they too be studied as a part of the social and commercial networks of the Indian Ocean.

Contents
List of Illustrations • Preface • Acknowledgements • Bengal and the Northern Bay of Bengal • Trade in South-East Bengal in the First Millennium • The Numismatic Evidence • Monetary and Financial Webs: The Regional and International Influence of pre-Modern Bengali Coinage • The Bay of Bengal Connections to Yunnan • Traders and Poets at the Mrauk-U Court: Commerce and Cultural Links in Seventeenth-Century • 1456—The Making of a Buddhist: Ecumene in the Bay of Bengal • Some Reflections on Indian Perceptions of Burma • The World of the Satriya School of Painting in Assam, India • Conclusion • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index

‘This book defines the place of the Bay of Bengal in the larger Indian Ocean world, relative to the historical significance of its polycentric ports, trade, commercial/financial, and cultural networks. . . .’
—KENNETH R HALL, Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient

Trade and Politics on the Coromandel Coast: Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Centuries

Radhika Seshan

This regional history challenges accepted notions about the place of merchants and the state, and through a detailed economic history, sheds new light on the political and transitional nature of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

Contents
Acknowledgements • Introduction • ‘To Talk of Many Things’: The Trading World of pre-Seventeenth Century Coromandel • ‘Of Cabbages and Kings’: Merchants, Trade and Politics • ‘Shoes, Ships and Sealing Wax’: Chief Merchants and Others • ‘Our Fort and City’ • Conclusion • Appendices • Bibliography • Index

‘Dr Radhika Seshan raises a series of questions, especially on the contested relationship between politics and trade, showing some very intricate and important connections. Though much of the information here is familiar, this is still a lively and well researched account.’
—MICHAEL N PEARSON
University of New South Wales

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Issues in History is a new series that begins with the premise that history is both about writing the past and about the re-examination of sources. It will, therefore, focus on rethinking older issues in history, by revisiting known sources, as well as incorporating new sources from archives and providing fresh interpretations. While the initial emphasis will be on aspects of maritime history, this series will not be confined to it. It also aims to move beyond India, and will emphasize as wide a range as possible, both thematic and spatial.

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Convergence: Rethinking India’s Past explores the multiplicity of sources that can be used for studying Indian history. Texts, literature, inscriptions, and other sources have long been but the fountainheads of history. The contributors to this volume, however, begin with the premise that such sources, in the true spirit of historical research, need to be re-interrogated. Without ignoring questions of the validity of a source, they also emphasize the hybridity and range of material that can be used as a historical source. Starting, therefore, with the idea of ‘re-search’, Convergence examines sources that have so far been used, before proceeding to study newer ones that have yet to be utilized. Keeping this in mind, it re-examines the better known sources, such as Portuguese, French and English factory records, travel accounts, Chinese texts, and also maps, travel accounts, Tibetan and Japanese sources.

Contents
Preface • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Introduction: Texts, Contexts, Sources: Foreign Sources and India’s History • Maps on India and the Indian Ocean as Source Material for Historical Research • Select Tibetan Sources for the Study of Indian History • South-East Asia and the Eastern Sea Board of India through the Lens of Zhao Rugua • Travellers’ Tales: From Mandeville to Mundy • The Portuguese Sources for the Indian History • English East India Company Records and Historical Reconstruction of the West Coast of India • In Search of White Gold: Chandernagore in the Records of the Compagnie des Indes Orientales and the Compagnie des Indes, 1701–49 • Japanese Approach Towards Gandhi During the Sino-Japanese War • Index

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146 pp. • HB • ₹695
ISSUES IN HISTORY SERIES

Vanguards of Globalization: Port-Cities from the Classical to the Modern

edited by Rila Mukherjee

Vanguards of Globalization: Port-Cities from the Classical to the Modern looks at the historical evolution of port-cities from emporion to gateway and interrogates their nature over time. This volume studies specific port-cities such as Barbarikon, Chaul, Porto Novo, Madras, Nagasaki, and Sitangkai, and more generally the ports around the Erythraean Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic, Portuguese, Andhra, Bengal and Vietnamese coasts. In doing so, the contributors celebrate the hybridity and cosmopolitanism that port-cities offer and discuss the wider implications of cross-cultural competition, port-hinterland dynamics as well as themes, problems and textual evidence about port-cities and how they link to ports today.

Contents
List of Illustrations • Acknowledgements • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Introduction: Ports as Bridgehead, Hub, Emporia, or Gateway • Thinking about Ports • Indian Ocean Port-Cities: Themes and Problems • Barbarikon in the Maritime Trade Network of Early India • Delta Ports in the First Global Age: Bengal’s Port-based Kingdom of Chandecan • Secondary Ports and the Hinterland: Chaul and Porto Novo in the Seventeenth Century • Longing for Long Cloth: The Evolution of Madras as a Modern Urban Space in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries • Port-Hinterland Dynamics on the Eighteenth-Century Andhra Coast • Cruising Ports in the Erythraean Sea in pre-Periplus Times • Revisiting the Periplus Maris Erythraei: Some Notes on Recent Studies • Revisionist Study of Cross-Cultural Commercial Competition on the Eastern Indian Ocean Coastlines c. 1000–1500 and the Wider Implications • Ports and Networks: The Case of the Philippines • Labuan in the Strands of Sitangkai, Philippines: How a Moorage Became a Gateway • Nagasaki as Emporium: History and Social Composition in its Initial Years • Gunpowder, Pirates, Monks, and Books: Maritime Trade on the Vietnam Coastline, c. 1400–1800 • Portuguese Seaports as Gateways, 1500–1800 • Ports and Commercial Networks: The Atlantic and Indian Ocean Trading Networks in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries • Conclusion: Ports Revisited • Select Additional Readings • Additional Bibliography • Index

FORTHCOMING
2. Rethinking Connectivity: Region, Place and Space in Asia edited by Rila Mukherjee and Lipi Ghosh
3. Writing Water Based History edited by Rila Mukherjee
Desi Dreams: Indian Immigrant Women Build Lives Across Two Worlds

Ashidhara Das

*Desi Dreams* focuses on the construction of self and identity by Indian immigrant professional and semi-professional women who live and work in the US. Some of the major issues that this ethnographic study discusses are: What are the selves and identities of professional Indian women? How is the continuity of selves and identities accomplished when these women find themselves constantly shuttling between the starkly different expectations of American society and workplace on one hand, and the Indian immigrant home and community on the other?

The focus in this anthropological fieldwork is on Indian immigrants in the San Francisco Bay Area. Indian immigrant women who have achieved entry into the current technology based economy in the Silicon Valley, value the capital accumulation, status-transformation, socio-economic autonomy, and renegotiation of familial gender relations that are made possible by their employment. However, this quintessential American success story conceals the psychic costs of uneasy Americanization, long drawn out gender battles, and incessant cross-cultural journeys of selves and identities.

Contents

List of Tables • Preface • Acknowledgements • At Home and at Work in the Diaspora: Theoretical Approach and a Statistical Overview • In Search of Success in the American Workplace • Professional Women at Home and in the Community • The Construction of the Self • Conclusion • Glossary • Bibliography • Index

‘Ashidhara’s work tries to lend content and meaning to one such flow of human experience, namely those of the migrant Indian professional women in America. Recapturing the lives of these women, the author also pleads for their cause by unfolding the dilemmas of their life-experience and locating it within the debates on diasporic identities’.

— SUPARNA GOOPTU, The Sunday Statesman
Indian Diaspora in the Caribbean: History, Culture and Identity

edited by Rattan Lal Hangloo

This collection of essays seeks to explore some aspects of the history of Indian emigration to the Caribbean like the retention of the Indian ethos by the immigrants, their notions of religio-cultural transformation, identity reconstruction, political participation and transformations, as well as resistance to enslavement and other oppressions. It also examines the mobility and contribution of women and attempts to provide significant insights into the lives of Indian Muslims in the Caribbean.

Contents
Preface • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Introduction • ‘Indian’ Culture in Trinidad: Transportation, Reconstruction and Integration, 1845–1970 • The Ramayana in Trinidad: A Socio-Historical Perspective • Muslims in the Caribbean • Trinidad Hinduism, 1917–1945: Religious Transformation and Identity Construction • The Caribbean Consequences of the Indian Revolt of 1857 • Resistance to Enslavement and Oppression in Trinidad, 1802–1849 • General Elections of 2007 in Trinidad and Tobago: The Indian Factor in the People’s National Movement • Nationalism and Education: Dr Eric Williams’ Vision for Trinidad and Tobago • Breaking the Glass Ceiling: East Indian Women and Educational Mobility in Trinidad and Tobago • Market and Field: The Workplace of the Indian Women in Trinidad, 1900–1940 • Index

‘... Indian Diaspora in the Caribbean ... touches upon the diverse aspects of the history of Indians who migrated to the Caribbean between the 1840s until the 1920s, mostly as indentured labourers. The understanding of the migrant Indian populations in the Caribbean is complicated by the heterogeneity of the group in terms of cultural practices and the complex nature of the encounter between “indigenous” cultures and colonial domination.’

— SAGNIK DATTA, Frontline
Essays on Hinduism (Third Edition)

Karan Singh

In this collection of essays the author discusses the basics of Hinduism. Outlining the message of the Bhagavad-Gita and the Upanisads, he argues that Hinduism is not a cult, nor a bunch of dogmas, but a religion of the highest order that speaks of an immanent and transcendental god. It also offers a philosophy of life that cuts across ethnic and geographic barriers between men. According to him, the essentials of Hindu religio-philosophic teaching are pervaded by the ideal of universalism and love for humanity.

The author drives home the relevance of Hindu universalism to an age in which nations are armed for mutual annihilation. He maintains that successful application of the religio-philosophic teachings of Hindu seers will help humankind to overcome the worst crisis facing it in this nuclear age, and will lead to restructuring the world on the all-embracing principle of freedom and equity. The text is followed by the author’s lucid translation and commentary on Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad. The book is the revised edition of his earlier Hinduism.

Contents
To Lord Siva • Preface • Hinduism: An Overview • Vedānta in the Nuclear Age • Keep the Light Shining • The Message of the Upaniṣads • The Message of the Bhagavad-Gītā • The Insight of the Mystics • Hinduism and Humanity • Yoga: An Integrated Philosophy of Life • Moral and Spiritual Values in New India • Religion Today • American Gurus • Secularism: A New Approach • Restructuring Education • Declaration on Nature: The Hindu Viewpoint • The Ethics of Conservation • Transition to Global Consciousness • The Need for Human Unity • The Way to Peace • Appendix: Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad • Index
The Junaydī Sufis of the Deccan: Discovery of a Seventeenth Century Scroll

Mohammed Suleman Siddiqi

This book recasts the history of Sufism in the Deccan and in India in general. Establishing the presence and active involvement of the Junaydī Sufis in the Deccan during the Bahmani period (1347–1538), contrary to established assumption that it was the Chishtīs who spread Sufi teachings there, the study brings to light some rare thirteenth century documents, including the oldest Persian document in the history of the Deccan. Two sacred scrolls of the seventeenth century from the private collection of a prominent Junaydī Sufi family of Bijapur, tracing its spiritual and family descent to Abul Qasim al-Junayd of Baghdad have also been produced. The scrolls contain extracts from an extinct fourteenth century text, Atwar al-abrar, by ‘Ayn al-Dīn Ganj al-‘Ilm, revealing rich details on prominent Junaydīs, including women Sufis.

Contents

List of Photos • List of Maps • List of Charts • A note on transliteration • Acknowledgements • Foreword by Carl W. Ernst • Introduction • The significance of the two scrolls in context: A review of the sources • Junaydī Sufis of North India • ‘Alī al-Ḥusaynī Jewerī and his Representatives • ‘Ayn al-Dīn Muḥammad Junaydī alias Ganj al-‘Ilm and his Representatives • The Authorized Representatives of ‘Ayn al-Dīn Ganj al-‘Ilm • The Spiritual brothers (Pīr bhā’īs) of ‘Ayn al-Dīn Ganj al-‘Ilm and their Descendants • The Early Sufis • The Chishtīs • The Qādirīs • The Shattārīs • Appendices based on the Scroll • Appendices: Additional Information on the Sufis of the Deccan • Glossary • Bibliography • Index

‘This volume provides a meticulously edited and translated cache of Persian documents, opening a window onto a fascinating chapter of Indo-Muslim history that would otherwise remain hidden . . .’

—CARL W. ERNST
Music and the Spiritual: Composers and Politics in the 20th Century

Antony Copley

Antony Copley’s last book, A Spiritual Bloomsbury, explored the engagement of the English writers Edward Carpenter, E M Foster, and Christopher Isherwood with Indian spirituality. Now he explores the relationship between music and the spiritual in twentieth century Europe, a profoundly tragic epoch in world politics.

Music, above all other art forms, sought a way of expressing the spiritual within the dehumanizing confines of Soviet and Nazi totalitarianism. In Antony Copley’s invigorating work, the individual response of each composer is seen in terms of his or her personal circumstances—family, sexuality, politics, religion, and spirituality.

Contents
Exploring the Spiritual • Interpreting the Music • Alexander Scriabin • Under Soviet Rule • Sergei Prokofiev • Dmitri Shostakovich • The Polish Renaissance Arvo Part • Oliver Messiaen • Francis Poulenc • Karlheinz Stockhausen • Hans Werner Henze • Epilogue • Photo Credits • Resources • Index

‘This is an accessible and thoughtful study, the aim of which is to examine music as an expression of the spiritual within an ‘Age of Fear’. . . [T]his is, in several respects, an enjoyable and insightful book, . . .’

—CHRISTOPHER PARTRIDGE, Religious Studies Review

‘Copley asks thought-provoking questions that merit in-depth consideration. . . [the book] contributes to current discussions of music’s relationships to religion, spirituality, war, and politics. Insightful readers could use Copley’s presentation of . . . composers and their works to spark further enquiry.’

—ERIN K. MAHER, Modern and Contemporary France

‘Those seeking to understand the tragedies of the last century will be informed and inspired by this work by a leading British cultural historian.’

—The Jewish Chronicle
Gināns: Texts and Contexts, Essays on Ismaili Hymns from South Asia in Honour of Zawahir Moir

edited by Tazim R Kassam and Françoise Mallison

This volume on the Gināns illustrates how Satpanth Ismaili Muslims of South Asia were influenced by the surrounding cultures and philosophies, and evolved new ways of expressing their beliefs and values. This collection of essays on the Gināns by academic scholars and community enthusiasts is written in honour of Zawahir Moir, one of the earliest scholars of the Gināns. She has dedicated her life to their study and spent many years preparing a catalogue of Ginān manuscripts housed at the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.

Contents
List of Illustrations • Foreword • A Bio-bibliography of Zawahir Moir • Preface • Reframing Ginānic Studies: Thoughts on Multiple Positions and Heuristic Tropes • A Brief Note on the Būjh Nirañjan • Gināns and the Management of the Religious Heritage of the Ismaili Khojas in Sindh • Some Gināns Common to Barmatī Panthī and Satpanthī Traditions • Gināns Attributed to Unknown Composers • A Thematic Study of a Satpanthi Ginān and a Mahapanti Bhajan • Creating a Database of Gināns and Related Materials • Rewriting the Gināns: Revolution and Resistance among the Imamshahis • The Myth of Nāgadamaṇa in the Dasa-avatāra and other Gināns • Śrībuddha’s Gracious Rescue of the Pāṇḍavas in Buddhāvatār • Religious Traditions and Early Ismā’īlī History in Western India: Some Historical Perspectives on Satpanthi Literature and the Gināns • Entanglement of the Gināns in the Khoja Governance • ‘Kalām-i Maulā’: Notes on an Indian Ismaili Text • The Concept of ‘GOD beyond God’ in the Khaṭ Niriṇjan of Pīr Sadardīn: A Personal Exegesis • Ta’wil and Ginānic Literature: Knowledge Discourse and Spiritual Experience • Appendix • List of Contributors • Index

‘By emphasizing the heterogenous and dynamic nature of Islam, the book enables the readers to challenge the stereotypes relating to Islam in the context of growing religious tolerance.’ — The Book Review

‘The volume under review is a collection of essays on the religious songs from western India called ginans, little known outside the community, or communities, that have preserved them; it opens some doors . . . to new discussions and alternative perceptions of this phenomenon, while at the same time scrutinizing its management in modern times with a refreshing openness.’ — M G VASSANJI

Summerhill
Ritual, Caste and Religion in Colonial South India*

edited by Michael Bergunder, Heiko Frese and Ulrike Schröder

Making use of a detailed analysis of Tamil and Telugu sources, the book explores the impact of notions of rituals, caste and religion in the formation of social, cultural and religious identities of the society of colonial south India.

Contents
Introduction • Performing the revival: Performance and Performativity in a colonial discourse in South India • Saiva Siddhanta as a universal religion: J.M. Nallasvami Pillai (1864–1920) and Hinduism in Colonial South India • Forging a Tamil Caste: Maraimalai Adigal (1876–1950) and the discourse of caste and ritual in colonial Tamilnadu • Sustaining the pre-colonial past: Saiva defiance against Christian rule in the nineteenth century in Jaffna • No religion, but ritual? Robert Caldwell and The Tinnevelly Shanars • Landscapes of Christianity in colonial South India: The matter of Hindu ritual and Christian conversion, 1870–1920 • Witnessing fun: Tamil-speaking Muslims and the imagination of ritual in colonial South-East Asia • The agraharam: The transformation of social space and Brahman status in Tamilnadu during the colonial and postcolonial periods • Vicissitudes of subaltern self-identification: A reading of Tamilan • ‘More Kshatriya than Thou!’ Debating caste and ritual ranking in colonial Tamilnadu • Soliloquizing Brahmans: Questions to a Telugu journal from the late nineteenth century • Anti-reform discourse in Andhra: Cultural nationalism that failed • Multiple lives of a text: The Sumati Satakamu in colonial Andhra • Appendices • Contributors • Index

Essays on Literature, History and Society

Syed Naqi Husain Jafri

The essays in this volume examine a range of themes, such as ghazal as a form of non-conformist poetry and its Hispano-Arabic connections with English poetry, the role of Sir Syed Ahmed in the Urdu-Hindi controversy, and madrasa education in the late Mughal period, among other themes.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • Poetics and Politics of the Troubadours: The Hispano-Arabic Connection • Some Perspectives on the Medieval Tradition of Poetry • Sufic Themes and Images in Persian and Hindavi: A Re-ordering of Universe and Readjustment of Impulses • The Persian/Urdu Ghazal: A Mode of Non-Conformist Utterance • A Modernist View of Madrasa in Late Mughal India • The Signs and Signifiers of the Urdu–Hindi Controversy • Diwan-e-Ghalib • Sardar Jafri: The Last Romantic • The Need for a Post Colonialist Literary Theory • Hamlet’s Soliloquies: A Note on their Nature and Functional Structure in the light of Natyashastra • The Moone-Calfe: Interpretation • The Muses Elizium: Allegorical Interpretation • ‘When People Can’t Abide Things As They Are’: An Interpretation of Albee’s Vision of Life • Poetry in the Contemporary Era • Image of the Orient in Shakespeare • The Human Predicament and its Sublimation • Paying Court • Inner Dimensions of Islamic Worship • Hyder, My Temples, Too (Mere Bhi Sanamkhane) • Remembering Abbu • Remembering A Friend • Appendix

*Only for sale in South Asia

Prices are subject to revision without prior notice
Medieval Indian Mindscapes: Space • Time • Society • Man

Eugenia Vanina

The book centres on the world perception of the Indians in precolonial times, both in the specific features of their ‘mental programme’ and its comparability with counterparts in other pre-modern societies. While analysing the importance of space in the medieval world view, the book discusses how medieval Indians comprehended their territories and the landscape as ‘their own’ vis-à-vis the ‘alien’ space; the development of territorial-cultural and territorial-political identities, and knowledge about other lands and peoples. In a discussion of medieval temporality, the book also studies the ways of perceiving the reckoning time, attitudes to the historical past and the manifold ways of recording it.

Contents
Acknowledgements • Introduction • Space • Time • Society • Man • Conclusion • Bibliography • Index

Music as History in Tamilnadu

T K Venkatasubramanian

This volume examines the ways in which interdisciplinarity between music and history may be established and also how history and aesthetics exist in reciprocal relation to one another.

Contents
Preface • Music as History: The Tamilnadu Experience • Rational and Social Foundations of Music and Dance of Early Tamils • The Legitimacy of Order: Music as Ideology in Ancient and Medieval Tamilakam • History of Music during Vijayanagara: Nayaka Phase • Music and Musical Composers of South India with Special Reference to Annamacharya, Kshetrajna and Thyagaraja • Cultural Production in a pre-Colonial South India Town: Tanjore under Nayakas and Marattas • Maratta Tanjore in the Lyrics of Thyagaraja (c. 1763–1850) • Music as an Index of Civilization: A Case Study of Karnatak Music • Dramatic Heritage and the Role of Music in Tamilnadu • The Role of Performing Arts in India’s Freedom Struggle with Special Reference to Drama and Music • Mathematical Nature of Tonal Intervals in Indian Music • Appendices • Index

‘Musical heritage . . . territorially binds all the four linguistic States of southern India. The book traces the historical growth of music as a classical art in the Tamil-speaking areas of south India. . . . An interesting dimension of this evolutionary process is the deification of the king, with musical pieces singing his glory and attributing divinity to his persona.’

—The Hindu
Beyond the Private World: Indian Women in the Public Sphere

edited by Subrata Bagchi

*Beyond the Private World* explores the status of Indian women, through the ages, in the framework of the private-public dichotomy, as reflected in their lives. Keeping in mind the Habermasian concept of ‘public sphere’ as a reference point, yet mindful of the incongruity between the Eurocentric ideas and the Indian reality this collection of essays appraises the position of Indian women in the pre-modern period with reference to tradition. It also provides glimpses of the various social movements and struggles to overcome patriarchy as well as the nationalist-democratic movements in colonial and post-colonial India that filtered into the ‘private sphere’ and transformed it.

**Contents**

Preface • Introduction • Exploring Gender and the Public Sphere in India • Religion and Women in Pre-Modern India: Reflections Beyond the Stereotypes • Conceptualizing Women, Public Sphere and Hinduism in Ancient India • Religion and Public Space: The Place of Women Saints in Pre-Modern India • Situation Ethics and Muslim Women in Medieval India • Women in Modern India: the Perspective of Caste, Community and Tribe • Women, Hinduism and the Public Sphere in Modern India • Muslim Women and the Struggle for Citizenship Rights: A Study of Rokeya Nari Unnayan Samiti and Society for Empowerment of Women in India, South Kolkata (Formerly Bengal Forum for Muslim Women’s Rights and Empowerment) • Dalit Women and the Public Sphere in India: In Pursuit of Social Justice • Munni Hembrom and Her Fellow Adivasi Women’s Struggle for Freedom and Development • Indian Women and the Means of Empowerment and Change • Women and Education in India: A Case for Social Change • Gender and Governance: A Narrative of Women Empowerment in India • Impediments to Economic Freedom: Women’s Livelihood and Work Participation Trends in India • Indian Women Break with Tradition • Travel and Female Sartorial Reform in Colonial Bengal: The Experiences of Jnanadanandini Devi • A Century of Negotiations: The Changing Sphere of the Woman Dancer in India • Confronting Patriarchy: Women, Sport and the Public Sphere in Post colonial India • Conclusion • Gender Violence, Women’s Agency and Resistance • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index
Women and Development: Self, Society and Empowerment

edited by Posh Charak and Chandra Mohan

This book explores notions of development as they relate to women and representations of women in society and literature across the world. Multidisciplinary in its approach, the essays in this volume examine subjects such as women’s writing, dialectics of the self and society, as well as empowerment, to trace women’s negotiation for space. To this end, Women and Development: Self, Society and Empowerment makes a significant contribution to women’s studies.

Divided into four sections, the essays by eminent scholars of South Asia provide a rich diversity of viewpoints in aspects of women’s empowerment and representation, gender discrimination and the role of women in ancient and modern workplaces. The book also provides insights into important areas of women’s education, legal rights, and subaltern (re)configurations in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Women and Development: Self, Society and Empowerment will be of interest to scholars and academics of Women’s Studies, New Literatures in English, Postcolonial and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Contents

Foreword • Introduction • Gender and Translation: The ‘Writing Woman’ and Male Mentors • Transcribing ‘the Self’ in Various Landscapes: Voices of Some Canadian Women Poets • Standing on a Whale, Fishing for Minnows: Margaret Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale and Jeannette Armstrong’s Whispering in Shadows • ‘I Too Call myself I’: Identity Motif in Indian English Women Poets • ‘Do as You Desire’: Feminine Stereotypes in Shashi Deshpande and That Long Silence • The Ethics and Politics of Empowerment • Empowering Women Through Education: Women as Agents of Change • Between Reality and Representation: Women’s Agency in War and Post-Conflict Sri Lanka • Woman’s Emancipation and Selective Abortion in India: A Source of Gender Discrimination • Representation of the Female Tribal: Mahasweta Devi’s Aesthetics and Activism • Gender and Nationalism in Colonial India • A Carnival of Power: Shahrazad’s Women in The Thousand Nights and One Night • Ethnicity and Gender: Interrogating the Asian-Canadian Aesthetics of Arun Mukherjee • E-Governance in India: A Gender Perspective • Patriarchal Societies and Domestic Violence: Need for Empowering Women • Apotheosis of African New Woman: Buchi Emecheta’s Destination Biafra • Male–Female Gaze: Portrayal of Women in Canadian Prairie Fiction • Gender Power in Eudora Welty’s Fiction • Eden Robinson’s Monkey Beach: Indigeneity on the Margins • Women Entrepreneurship in Ancient Times and Aandaal • Women Entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir • Economic Status and Contribution of Third Age Women in the Urban Metropolis • Women and Development: UNESCO Perspective • Notes on Editors and Contributors • Index
Inviting Death: Historical Experiments on Sepulchral Hill  
(Revised Edition)

S Settar

One of the foremost communities to have paid serious attention to death are the Jainas of India. Indeed, their preoccupation with it has been so intense that without understanding their philosophy of death, it is almost impossible to make out their notion of life. The Jainas did not consider death a subject of intellectual exercise; they held it as a force that permeates the social, religious and philosophical sinews of life.

The codified rules of the art of inviting death, descriptive accounts of Puranic and historical personalities who embraced it, and an interesting body of epigraphical and archaeological remains, provide a rich corpus of information on those who voluntarily terminated their lives. Inviting Death presents this history spread over a millennium and half, on the Samadhi-betta or the Sepulchral Hill at Sravana Belogola, the foremost of the Digambara Jaina centres in the world.

Contents

Abbreviations • Figures and Maps • Foreword • Religious Backdrop for Ritual Experiments: Age of Spiritual Sublimity • Age of Great Material and Religious Prosperity • Time of Trouble: Ritual Death, A Blurred Memory (AD 1300–1900) • Voluntary Termination of Life: Philosophy and Practice: Meaning and Significance of Rituals • The Ritual in Practice • Some Honoured Saints: Their Career and Contributions • Art of Commemorating the Dead: Nisidhis—Characteristics Variety and Art • Appendices • Plates • Glossary • Bibliography • Index

‘He is an art-historian as well as an engaging Jaina scholar. The . . . appendices are an indologist’s delight.’  
—Journal of American Oriental Society

‘Professor Settar has made a very considerable contribution to the literature on . . . religion. He says, modestly, that he has taken the first step into an unexplored territory. He has, in fact, done far more than this. . . . [He] has produced a work of valuable scholarship which is readable and enlightening for the scholar and non-expert alike.’  
—Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society

‘This book, although highly specialized in its subject matter, is one of the more important monographs on the Jains written in recent decades. It is recommended for any library which aims to represent adequately South Asian religion in its collection.’  
—Religious Studies Review, Cambridge
Health Care in Bombay Presidency, 1896–1930

Mridula Ramanna

Studying aspects of public health in Bombay Presidency from 1896 to 1930, using extensive primary data, this book will contribute to an understanding of the all India public health scenario of the pre-independence years, and will be of interest to scholars of history, sociology, community health, gender studies, and South Asian studies, as well as to health workers and NGOs.

Contents
List of Abbreviations • Acknowledgements • Introduction • ‘We Thought the Government was Our maa-baap!’: State Intervention and Indian Responses to Plague Control Measures, 1896–1920 • Promotion of Sanitary Consciousness • Changing Reactions to Hospitalization • Maternal Health and Welfare Measure • Women Physicians • Relative Positions of Western and Indian Medicine • Conclusion • Bibliography • Index

‘Health Care in Bombay Presidency, 1896-1930 by Mridula Ramanna is a well-brought out book. It attempts to move out of the much-studied 18th century to look at the early 19th century’s medical history of India and adds fresh historical material on some aspects of public health in that period.’

— IMRANA QADEER, Economic & Political Weekly

The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India*

edited by Biswamoy Pati and Mark Harrison

The volume explores a unique set of themes that capture the diversities of India, such as public health, medical institutions, mental illness and the politics and economics of colonialism.

Contents
List of Figures • List of Tables • List of Contributors • Acknowledgements • Social History of Health and Medicine: Colonial India • Ranald Martin’s Medical Topography (1837): The Emergence of Public Health in Calcutta • Beyond the Bounds of Time: The Haj Pilgrimage from the Indian Subcontinent, 1865–1920 • ‘Subordinate’ Negotiations: Indigenous Staff, the Colonial State and Public Health • Plague, Quarantine and Empire: British-Indian Sanitary Strategies in Central Asia, 1897–1907 • Medical Research and Control of Disease: Kala-azar British India • The Leprosy Patient and Society: Colonial Orissa, 1870s–1940s • Institutions, People and Power: Lunatic Asylums in Bengal, c.1800–1900 • ‘Prejudices Clung to by the Natives’: Ethnicity in the Indian Army and Hospitals for Sepoys • Racial Pathologies: Morbid Anatomy in British India, 1770–1850 • Pharmacology, ‘Indigenous Knowledge’, Nationalism: A Few Words from the Epitaph of Subaltern Science • Creating a Consumer: Exploring Medical Advertisements in Colonial India • Opium as a Household Remedy in Nineteenth-Century Western India? • Index

‘The book is a must for students of the history of South Asia, and not just its medical history, since it has a lot about colonial rule in practice.’

— MICHAEL MANN, H-Soz-U-Kult

*Only for sale in South Asia
The year 1911 saw the publication of the first volume of the *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, arguably the most significant publication of the period of the Imperial Record Department that had been founded in 1891, under G.W. Forrest. One of Forrest’s eventual successors was C.R. Wilson, who conceived a ‘brilliant scheme, that of calendaring the entire series of Persian records . . . ‘. These records were a part of the very large corpus of ‘ancient papers’ of the East India Company that had long been held in ‘various secretariat offices at Calcutta’. They included some 26,000 bound volumes, as well as 1.5 million unbound documents, making up a total of roughly 18 million folios of Company-related papers in various languages. The *Calendar* was to present to the public a summary version of merely a part of these, namely the Persian-language ‘letters which passed between some of the [East India] Company’s Servants and Indian Rulers and Notables’, commencing in 1759. Though initially concerned mainly with the ‘Affairs in Bengal’, the series—of which the first five volumes, covering the years 1759 to 1780, had appeared by 1930—eventually came to take into account other parts of India as well.
Dictionary of Historical Places: Bengal, 1757–1947
edited by Ranjan Chakrabarti

This volume is the first of its kind to deal with the little known histories of hundreds of places in Bengal. Given the recurring geophysical and climatic disruptions in West Bengal, repeated changes of administrative units and names, lack of collective memory or adequately documented folk sources or oral traditions, the compilation of such a dictionary brings its own challenges. The entries in this dictionary are but an attempt at writing aspects of local history during a particular period, and demonstrate how numerous factors affected the landscape of West Bengal.

Contents
Index to Sequence of Contents • Editorial Advisory Committee • List of Contributors • Introduction—Editorial • Places A to Z • Pictures and Maps • Appendices

A Voyage to Modernism: Syed Ahmed Khan
Translated and edited by Mushirul Hasan and Nishat Zaidi

The nature of Muslim knowledge concerning the West through travel accounts makes for fascinating reading. The eighteenth-century encounters of Munshi Ihtisamuddin and Mirza Abu Taleb Khan, embedded in their travelogues, however, seem very distant and less urgent. With Syed Ahmed, however, begins an entirely new phase with his interplay between Muslims and the West, on the one hand, and between Islam and Christianity, on the other. Even though his portrait of England is sometimes facile, his account of his travels opens the door to new questions, particularly because this was the period when the relations between Europeans and Indians were at the centre of many debates.

Its English translation, the first ever to be undertaken in full, makes it accessible to those who have no knowledge of Urdu. Set apart from his later endeavours like the Tahzibil Akhlaq and Asar-al Sanadid, it is the Syed’s impressions caught in A Voyage to Modernism that mattered to all those who knew anything about his standing in public life and his stature as an enlightened reformer in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. This eminently readable translation is enriched by editorial interventions by translators and editors of the work, and supported by rare archival photographs.

Contents
Editors’ Note • Introduction • Safarnama-i-Musafiran-i Landan • Appendix • Glossary • Index
**Chandernagore: From Bondage to Freedom, 1900–1955**

Sailendra Nath Sen

Chandernagore, a former French possession near Kolkata, has experienced several changes in fortune, moving from being the hub of revolutionary activities against British imperialists to being subjugated by the French. Utilizing diverse original sources from India and France, this book examines the unfolding events in the struggle of the people of Chandernagore against French colonial rule. This book is a groundbreaking research work on Chandernagore—a town on which there is still little published material available—and provides important scholarship in the field of the history of West Bengal.

**Contents**

- List of Abbreviations
- Preface
- Introduction
- Revolutionary Activities in Chandernagore
- Ferment
- Diplomatic Interlude
- Road to Referendum
- Referendum—Its Significance
- *De Facto* Transfer
- Franco-Indian Commission: *De Jure* Transfer
- Aftermath of Transfer: Municipal Assembly Election
- Advisory Council
- Jha Committee
- Final Exit of France
- Epilogue
- Chronological Tables
- Glossary
- Bibliography
- Index

‘...Sailendranath Sen vividly describes the historical role of Chandernagore in the revolutionary activities against the British and its ultimate desire to merge with the mainland Bengal...this work will be treasure for the students of history, more notably the history of the Indian freedom struggle.’

—V B Ganesan, The Hindu

**Explorations in Modern Bengal, c. 1800–1900: Essays on Religion, History and Culture**

Amiya P Sen

This book examines a regional culture through a study of three key facets to contemporary Hindu thought—possible interplay between the divinely ordained and human history, innovative extensions in the meaning of older terms like ‘Dharma’, and new moral and cultural theories around select mythical figures and traditionally revered texts.

**Contents**

- Preface
- Introduction
- On God, Man and History: Representative Voices from Nineteenth-Century Bengal
- Hermeneutics and Ethical Theory: Re-visioning *Dharma* in Nineteenth-Century Bengal
- Re-locating Moral and Religious Authority: The *Gita* in Nineteenth-Century Bengal
- Appendix A, Part I: List of manuscript copies of the *Gita* in Sanskrit with commentaries as found with public libraries and private holdings in Bengal
- Appendix A, Part II: List of manuscript copies of the *Gita* in Bengali translation with commentaries [original/translated] found with public libraries and private holdings in Bengal
- Appendix B: Printing history of the *Gita* in Bengali translation: 1800–1904
- Bibliography
- Index

‘This work will interest the specialist, one keen to study the fanatic intellectual activity that colonials intervention unleashed in Bengal.’

—Anshu Malhotra, American Historical Review

*Prices are subject to revision without prior notice*
**Plural Cultures and Monolithic Structures: Comprehending India**

Kapila Vatsyayan

The essays in this volume raise a set of highly pertinent questions with regard to comprehending the complex issues that arise when plural cultures meet the monolithic structures of administration and policy that accompany the aspirations of the nation state. How does the nation state with its commitment to the quantifiable collectives of caste, religion, community, and even culture, respond to the fluid and multiple matrixes of region, history, social identity, ritual, and language in India? The essays explore the problems that arise when shifting cultural categories are juxtaposed against the more rigidly constructed categories created by the institutions of the state. The issues enlarged upon here are those that the author has often discussed, including the interconnectedness of the arts and the integration of body, mind and senses in the Indian artistic traditions.

**Contents**

Preface • Introduction • Reconstruction or Rejuvenation of a Tradition • Political Freedom and Creative Response • Plural Cultures, Monolithic Structures • Comprehending India On and Through Its Own Terms • The Cultural Foundations of South Asian Cooperation • This Matter of Education and Culture Again • Indian Art: The One and the Many • Education Through the Arts: Values and Skills • Culture and Science • Knowledge: Fluid Cultures, Frozen Structures • Index

**Transmissions and Transformations: Learning through the Arts in Asia**

edited by Kapila Vatsyayan

The essays in this volume, by educationists from different Asian countries, highlight the diverse and the distinctive ways of transmitting knowledge through the arts and crafts, which also contribute to the recent focus on evolving alternative pedagogical tools in the formal and non-formal systems of education.

**Contents**

Preface • Arts in Education and Society Today: An overview • Main streaming Arts Education in School Curriculum: A socio-psychological study • Arts in Asian Education Observatories • Arts in Action Project: A development of a framework for evaluation • Inter-Ministerial Partnerships in Arts Education in Korea • ARTS-ED and Heritage Education in George Town, Malaysia: A case study • Heritage education in Lahore, Pakistan: A case study • Promoting Arts in Education: Arts Council of Mongolia • Heritage Education in Jaipur, India: A case study • Learning and Empowerment through Indian Classical Dance • Socio-cultural Learning through the Arts in India • The irrelevance of Arts and Artists in Today’s Cultural Ethos • Arts Education: Select non-school Indian initiatives • Education for the Twenty-First Century • Notes on Editor and Contributors • Index
Enslaved Innocence: Child Labour in South Asia

edited by Shakti Kak and Biswamoy Pati

This volume explores the historical, economic, and social factors surrounding the issue of child labour. This volume attempts to highlight the structural factors in capitalist societies that have made such exploitation possible, and to place the issue of child labour in theoretical framework relating to capitalist modes of production and need for the generation of surplus for capital accumulation.

Contents

‘In the context of the enactment of the ‘Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009’ the present volume is significant as it takes a view that combating child labour can happen only when every child is in school.’

— SHANThA SinHA, The Book Review
Epithalamiums: An Anthology of Marriage Poems From Chaucer to the Modern Age

edited and annotated by Masoodul Hasan and Syed Naqi Husain Jafri

Anthologies provide ready, expansive insights into specific forms of literature. In the genre of poetry, nuptial poetry is singularly under-represented. The only extant anthology on nuptial poetry, published in the last decade of the nineteenth century, is now difficult to find, and does not have entries beyond the eighteenth century. The present anthology aims to compensate for this, and offers a comprehensive selection of epithalamic poetry from the fourteenth to the twentieth centuries. Apart from its wide coverage, the anthology also presents, for the first time, an epithalamic extract from Chaucer, and the hitherto uncollected pieces from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, all put together in one volume. For the first time, also, specimens of spousal poetry from four different countries—England, the USA, Australia and India—are gathered together. Significant changes in poetic taste and fashion, along with changing cultural nuances and matrimonial customs can be traced in the poems chosen here. The ‘Introduction’ to the volume, in a fresh perspective, sets up comparisons with the Oriental traditions—Sanskrit, Hebrew, Arabic and Chinese—of nuptial verse along with their Greek and Latin versions which are the original models for the English epithalamiums.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • Geoffrey Chaucer • Sir Philip Sidney • Edmund Spenser • George Chapman • Michael Drayton • William Shakespeare • Thomas Campion • John Donne • Ben Jonson • Henry Peacham • Thomas Heywood • Phineas Fletcher • Sir John Beaumont • Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher • James Howell • Francis Quarles • Thomas Carew • Robert Herrick • James Shirley • Thomas Randolph • Sir William D’avenant • Henry Glapthorne • William Cartwright • Andrew Marvell • Henry Vaughan • Katherine Philips • John Dryden • Richard Duke • William Somerville • James Thomson • Francis Fawkes • Christopher Smart • Robert Southey • P B Shelley • Alfred Tennyson • Coventry Patmore • John Byrne Leicester Warren • Sir Edmund William Gosse • G K Chesterton • James Elroy Flecker • Francis Brett Young • Gerald Gould • Horace Gregory • W H Auden • May Sarton • Delmore Schwartz • James McAuley • Philip Larkin • Maxina W Kumin • Sarojini Naidu • Nissim Ezekiel • Dom Moraes • Glossary
**Why Unitary Social Science?**

Ramkrishna Mukherjee

The volume for a comprehensive appraisal of social reality. Tracing the visionary and transformative paths of reality from subjective to objective points of view, Mukherjee argues that it is the division of social sciences into discrete disciplines that thwarts the emergence of an objective science of society. Social science is seen here as unitary, with specializations emerging from a single base but proliferating as knowledge advances, as a unified social science rather than as a multitude of social science disciplines.

**Contents**

- Scientia and Discrete Human (Social) Sciences
- Whither Anthropology?
- Unified Social Sciences
- Unitary Social Science
- References Cited
- Name Index
- Subject Index

‘Ramkrishna Mukherjee has made a strong case, with his usual insights and clarity, for a unitary social science. This is a book to be taken very seriously by the world’s social scientists.’

— **Immanuel Wallerstein**

Yale University


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**The Measure of Time in the Appraisal of Social Reality**

Ramkrishna Mukherjee

Coming on the eve of the Indian elections of 2009, *The Measure of Time in the Appraisal of Social Reality* is an explosive exposé of what went wrong in Indian developmental planning. Focusing on land, caste, and gender issues, and advocating a place-time-people based research agenda, *Measure of Time* is a scathing critique of how the nexus between politics and academic neo-colonialism has subverted the cause of genuine development in India.

**Contents**

- Preface
- West Bengal, India, in 2008: The Land Issue
- India in 2008: The Caste Issue
- Women in World Society: The Gender Issue
- The Analytic Significance of Time
- The Synoptic Appreciation of Time
- Index of Names
- Subject Index


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Narratives of Indian Cinema

edited by Manju Jain

This collection of Indian essays by subject specialists examines the politics of violence, communalism and terrorism as negotiated in cinema; the representations of identitarian politics; and the complex underpinnings of literary adaptations.

Contents
Preface • Introduction • The Natives are Looking: Cinema and Censorship in Colonial India • Cinema and Hindi Periodicals in Colonial India: 1920–1947 • History Matters • The Panoramic Vision and the Descent of Darkness: Issues in Contramodernity • Melodramatic Imaginings: Representations of Sectarian Violence within Hindi Popular Cinema and Indian Documentaries • A New Universalism: Terrorism and Film Language in Mani Ratnam’s Kannathil Muthamittal • Merit and Opportunity in the Child-Centric Nationalist Films of the 1950s • Reading Rape: Sexual Difference, Representational Excess and Narrative Containment • Frames of Cinematic History: The Tawa’if in Umrao Jan and Pakeezah • The Art of Film Adaptation: The Remains of the Day • Screening Reality: The Remains of the Day as Fact, Fiction and Film from a Postcolonial Perspective • ‘Filmi’ Shakespeare • A Dramatic Film: Performative Politics in Peter Brook’s Mahabharata • Notes on Contributors • Index

Class, Power and Consciousness in Indian Cinema and Television

Anirudh Deshpande

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, cinema has influenced social consciousness in India. Like printing and photography, which had exerted a formative influence on power, information and knowledge before it, cinema has influenced millions of people in a myriad ways.

It is a well known fact that cinema, and its cousin television, comprise a media which is central to the self-perception of contemporary Indians. Indeed, it would not be wrong to say that the visual representations of social realities in this media shape popular mentality in a country with an old, influential and thriving film industry. In sum, being Indian today is often expressed in the idiom popularized by Hindi cinema and television.

This book offers a historical understanding of the Indian Audio-Visual media. It asserts that the media is essential to the bourgeois domination of a system in which democracy normally does not work for the poor. This book narrates the history of Indian cinema while simultaneously examining the histories of the Indian nation portrayed in this cinema.

Contents
Preface • Images and Power in Modern Visual Narratives • Historiography or Historiophoty: A Historian’s Dilemma • The Imagined Nation in Hindi Cinema Historicals • Hindi Cinema Narrative of a Bourgeois Nation-State • War and History in Hollywood and Hindi Commercial Cinema • Select Bibliography • Index

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LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Indian Writing in English: An Anthology of Prose and Poetry Selections

edited by Anjana Neira Dev and Amrita Bhalla

*Indian Writing in English: An Anthology of Prose and Poetry Selections* covers the syllabus for Discipline Course 1, Semester 1 for students of English under the Four Year Undergraduate Programme of the University of Delhi. Beginning with the poetry of H.L.V. Derozio, and closing with a short story by Aravind Adiga, the book also includes readings by noted commentators on the development of Indian writing in English. It carries comprehensive introductions to the history of the development of Indian Literature in English spanning over one hundred years, as also extensive headnotes to introduce the individual poetry and prose selections.

This course attempts to include a large cross-section of Indian poets and authors who have made their mark on the literary map. The texts and the authors have been chosen carefully to represent various geographical and cultural variations in terms of caste, class, linguistic background, and domicile. The writers featured in this text are: Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, Nissim Ezekiel, Kamala Das, Robin S. Ngangom, Mulk Raj Anand, Salman Rushdie, Rohinton Mistry, Aravind Adiga, Raja Rao, Meenakshi Mukherjee and Bruce King.

Contents

Preface • Acknowledgements • Introduction • Freedom to the Slave • The Orphan Girl • Enterprise • Night of the Scorpion • An Introduction • My Grandmother’s House • The Strange Affair of Robin S. Ngangom • A Poem for Mother • The Two Lady Rams • The Free Radio • Swimming Lessons • The Sultan’s Battery • Foreword • Commonwealth Literature Does Not Exist • Divided by a Common Language • Introduction • List of Contributors
A Concise History of English Literature & Language

K. Radha Kumari

*A Concise History of English Literature & Language* is designed specially as a Core text for the First Degree Programmes under the CBCS system in B.A. English Literature and B.A. Communicative English, University of Kerala. The book provides a need-based and student-friendly perspective on the history of English literature and a brief development of the language over the ages. This handy and useful textbook will help students to understand, for example, how people lived during the various ages in Britain and the social and political organizations that evolved, as well as the literature that emerged from these conditions. Thus, the evolution of British culture is examined through the lens of English literature. The book also provides an introduction to the study of the growth and development of the English language. Supported by detailed references and numerous quotations from representative works of literary importance, a timeline enumerating the major events that highlight the social and literary history of England, the book examines the representative literary works that have left an indelible mark over the years, not only on British but also on world literature.

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