

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

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History 449

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HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA  
Radical Changes During the Age of Company Raj

The main emphasis of the course is focused upon processes by which many communities and peoples within the subcontinent of India (South Asia) have come into enduring relationships with each and into relationships with peoples outside the subcontinent. Of central concern are processes of integration and disintegration. Underlying issues of political stability or instability have been questions about cultural and social relations with special reference to how these were reflected in concepts of man, concepts of property, concepts of the state, and concepts of change.

In other words, how did India come to be what it now is? How did so many kinds of people, holding such different world views and speaking so many different languages, first become incorporated into the one enormous political system which is now known as the Republic of India?

In modern times, the story begins with the Mughals and with various regional kingdoms and principalities. These, in turn, gradually gave way before the rising power of that strange and unique (Anglo-Indian) socio-political amalgam known as "Company Raj". It was the East India Company, which created the Indian Empire; and it was this empire served as the bedrock upon which the Indian Nation was later erected. But this process was not without costs and consequences. Divergent movements threatened and then, ultimately, have sundered the political unity of the subcontinent.

Focus in this course, therefore, will be upon critical assessments of successive phases of political development and upon changes in underlying social relations and structures. In broad perspective, the advent of Modern India can be marked as having begun with the arrival of the Portuguese from overseas (1498) and with that of the Mughals from overland (1526). Albuquerque and Akbar, between them, symbolize the new and radical interminglings of alien and indigenous cultures which began to occur. Dutch and English commerce in Eastern Seas brought influences which were even more radical. Out of the creative turmoil of the 18th century came three successive regimes of one ever growing political system -- Company Raj, Crown Raj, and Congress Raj (together the breakaway regimes of Pakistan and Bangladesh, not to mention Burma).

India is now emerging as a major world power. Indeed, some feel that India, as also China, may become another superpower. Such being the case, Americans need to acquaint themselves with the complexities of the manifold cultures and historical contexts out of which India has emerged. The price of not doing so -- the price of uninformed public opinion and of uninformed public policy -- could be high. This course offers an opportunity to meet the challenges and responsibilities of a shrinking world through a deeper historical understanding of one of its major civilizations.

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- Davies, C. Collin, An Historical Atlas of the Indian Peninsula. Madras and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1949, & later editions. Dated, but useful.
- Davis, Kingsley, The Population of India and Pakistan. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1951. A classic, now dated, still insightful.
- Gilbert, W.H., The Peoples of India. Washington: 1944. While very dated, it is still a useful introductory sketch.
- Habid, Irfan, An Atlas of Mughal India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1983. The latest and best work of its kind.
- Maher, J. Michael, India: A Critical Bibliography. Tuscon: University of Arizona Press (for the Association of Asian Studies), 1964, 1966. A starter only. Also see works by Maureen Patterson and Patrick Wilson.
- Schwartzberg, J., Historical Atlas of South Asia. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978. The finest work of its kind; a goldmine.
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<sup>1</sup> Works listed here and below are available in various UW Libraries: Memorial Library, College (Helen White) Library, History Library or South Asian Studies Center/Department Library on the 14th Floor of Van Hise Hall.

SYLLABUS: SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS <sup>2</sup>INTRODUCTION1. General Approaches to India

- [R] P. Spear, India, Pakistan and the West (Oxford: 1949,&c).
- [R] Ved Mehta, The New India (New York: Penguin, 1978).
- [R] V.S. Naipaul, India: The Wounded Civilization (New York: 1977, 1978)/

2. Historiographic Background, Context, and Perspectives

- [R/H] William A. Green and John P. Deasy, Jr., "Unifying Themes in the History of British India, 1757-1858: An Historiographical Analysis," Albion 17, 1 (Spring 1985): 15-45.
- [R/H] R.E. Frykenberg, "Traditional Processes of Power and Administration in South India....," IESHR, 1: 2 (October-December 1963), 1-21.
- [R/H] Burton Stein, "Politics, Peasants and the Deconstruction of Feudalism in Medieval India," Journal of Peasant Studies 12, 2/3 (January/April 1985): 54-86.
- [R/H] Burton Stein, "The Segmentary State in South Indian History," Realm and Region in Traditional India. Durham, NC: Duke, 1977. Ed. by R.G.Fox.

3. Contemporary Perspective/Relevance of Modern India

- [R] Stephen P. Cohen & Richard L. Park, India: Emergent Power? (NY: 1978).

I. THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE SUBCONTINENT

1. The Countries: Geographic Unity and Diversity
2. The Peoples: Demographic and Linguistic Variety

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<sup>2</sup> Books cited [R] or [R/H] are on reserve in the College Library or in the History Department Library.

Readings:

- [R] B.H. Farmer, An Introduction to South Asia (London & New York: Methuen, 1984), pp. 1-11.
- [R] Adam Watson, A Concise History of India (London & New York: 1974), pp. 3-38. Abbr.: CHI.
- [R] Stanley Wolpert, A New History of India (New York: OUP, 1977,&c), pp. 3-23. Abbr.: NHI.
- [R] Judith Brown, Modern India (Oxford: 1985), pp. 3-15. Abbr.: MI.

Other Readings:

- [R] R.E.Frykenberg, India (Lexington MA: 1973), 1-21.
- [R] Spear, India, Pakistan, and the West, 1-32
- [R] Spear, A History of India - 2 (New York: Penguin, 1965, 1970, &c), 11-14. Abbr.: AHOI-2
- [R] Spear, India: A Modern History (Ann Arbor: Michigan, 1961, 1972). Abbr.: IAMH. On Reserve in Memorial and White Libraries.
- [R] Spear, Oxford History of Modern India (Oxford: OUP, 1964, &c). Abbr.: OHMI.

II. THE SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF THE SUBCONTINENT

1. The Family - Traditional Patterns of Kith, Kin, and Lineage.
2. The Community - Caste, Class and Categories of People.
3. The Village - Morphologies of Locality, Place, and Space.

Readings:

- [R] Judith Brown, Modern India (Oxford: 1985), pp. 16-35.
- [R] Pauline Kolenda, Caste in Contemporary India: Beyond Organic Solidarity (Meno Park CA: Benjamin/Cummings Pub.Co., Inc. 1978), 1-111.

Other Readings:

- [R] Charlotte & William Wiser, Behind Mud Walls, 1930-1960 (Berkeley: UCP, 1969). Revision of earlier classic.
- [R] S.C. Dube, Indian Village (New York: Harper, 1967 edition).
- David G. Mandelbaum, "Family, Jati, and Village," Structure and Change in Indian Society (Chicago: Aldine, 1968), 29-50. Edited by B.S. Cohn and M. Singer.
- Morton Klass, Caste: The Emergence of the South Asian Social System (Philadelphia: ISHI, 1980). In Memorial Library.

### III. THE SACRED TRADITIONS OF THE SUBCONTINENT

1. The Classical Heritage of High Antiquity
2. The Cultural Legacies of Pluralistic Antiquity

#### Readings:

CHI, 39-86; NHI, 24-103; MI, 16-36 (again).

#### Other Readings:

- [R] Theodore de Bary, ed., Sources of Indian Tradition (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958 and later editions).
- [R] Pratima Bowes, The Hindu Religious Tradition (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977).
- [R/SA] T.J. Hopkins, The Hindu Religious Tradition (Encino CA: Dickinson Publishing Company, Inc., 1971). Paperback.
- [R] K.M. Sen, Hinduism (New York: Penguin A515, 1961 & later).
- [R] J.A.B. Van Buitenen, ed., Tales of Ancient India (Chicago: 1959; NY: 1961).

### IV. THE ISLAMIC LEGACY OF THE SUBCONTINENT

1. Indo-Arabian Belief: Religion and Sacred Language
2. Indo-Persian Style: Sophistication and Taste

3. Indo-Turkish Might: Organized Power and Rulership
  - (1) The Delhi Sultanate
  - (2) The Deccan Sultanates
  - (3) The Mughal Empire

Readings:

CHI, 87-128; NHI, 104-167; IAMH, 1-60; and AHOI:2, 1-50.

- [R] R.E. Frykenberg "The Study of Delhi: An Analytical Introduction and a Historiographic Overview," Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society (Delhi & Oxford: Oxford University Press), xx-xxxix.

Delhi Through the Ages (New Delhi: OUP 1986), edited by R.E. Frykenberg. Pp 63-128; 129-191; 18-62. Abbr.: DTA. Chapters by Digby, Goswami, Naqvi, Blake, Jackson, Hambly, et al.

Other Readings:

- [R] S.M. Ikram & A.T. Embree, Muslim Civilization in India (New York: Columbia University Press, 1964). Quick, easy reading.
- [R] Simon Digby, Warhorse and Elephant in the Delhi Sultanate (Oxford: 1971).
- M.N. Pearson, Merchants and Rulers of Gujarat: The Response to the Portuguese in the Sixteenth Century (Berkeley CA: 1976).
- Adam Watson, War of the Goldsmith's Daughter (London: 1964).

V. THE FARANGI ENCLAVES ALONG THE COASTS OF THE SUBCONTINENT

1. Struggles for Survival: Local Positions, Profits and Power
  - (1) The Portuguese Conquests: Goa and Seaborne Empire
  - (2) The Dutch Encroachments: Batavia and Maritime Empire
  - (3) The English Enterprises: Madras and Country Trade
  - (4) The French Competition: Pondichery and Country Power

Readings:

AHOI-2, 51-79; NHI, 135-185; CHI, 105-125; I:AMI, 146-184; OHMI, 1-20.  
MI, 37-43.

- [R] R.E. Frykenberg (ed.), Land Control and Social Structure in Indian History (Madison: 1969). Chapters by Cohn and Stein, 53-122, 175-216.
- [R] Karl de Schweinitz Jr., The Rise and Fall of British India (London and New York: 1983), 37-83. Abbr. = RFBI

Other Readings:

C.R. Boxer, Four Centuries of Portuguese Expansion, 1415-1825 (Johannesburg and Berkeley: 1972). A Succinct Survey.  
C.R. Boxer, The Portuguese Seaborne Empire, 1415-1825 (London: 1969).  
C.R. Boxer, The Dutch Seaborne Empire, 1600-1800 (London: 1965).

K.N. Chadhuri, The Trading World of Asia and the English East India Company, 1660-1760 (Cambridge: CUP, 1978).

K.N. Chaudhuri, Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean (Cambridge: CUP, 1985), 63-118, and 121-220.

Ashin Das Gupta, Malabar in Asian Trade, 1740-1800 (Cambridge: CUP, 1966).

Ashin Das Gupta, "The Merchants of Surat, c.1700-50," Elites in South Asia (Cambridge: CUP, 1970), edited by E. Leach & S.N. Mukherjee.

Tapan Raychaudhuri, Jan Company in Coromandel, 1605-1690 (The Hague: 1692).

## 2. Struggles for Succession Within a Context of Imperial Disintegration

(1) Mercantile Enterprises of the Baniya Company - Commercial Power

(a) Madras : 1639: - An Emerging City State on the Coromandel

(b) Bombay : 1661: - An Emerging City State and Island Refuge

(c) Calcutta: 1692: - An Emerging City State on the Sundarbans

Readings:

- [R/H] R.E. Frykenberg, "The Socio-Political Morphology of Madras: An Historical Interpretation," Changing South Asia: City and Culture (London: SOAS,

University of London; Hong Kong: Asian Research Service, 1982 [UNESCO auspices]), 21-41. Edited by K.A. Ballhatchet and J.B.-Harrison.

- [R] Philip Mason, The Men Who Ruled India (New York: 1953; Norton 1985 abridged edition), 3-92. Abbr.: MWRI.
- [R] Karl de Schweintz, Jr., The Rise and Fall of British India: Imperialism as Inequality (New York: Methuen, 1983), 37-117. Abbr.: RFBI.

Other Resources:

M. Athar Ali, The Mughal Nobility Under Aurangzeb (Aligarh and Bombay: Asia Publishing House, 1968).

Ashin Das Gupta, "The Merchants of Surat, c. 1700-50", Elites in South Asia, (Cambridge: CUP), edited by E. Leach and S.N. Mukherjee.

Peter J. Marshall, East Indian Fortunes (Oxford: 1976).

Om Prakash, The Dutch East India Company and the Economy of Bengal, 1630-1720 (Princeton: 1985).

J.F. Richards, Mughal Administration in Golconda (Oxford:1975).

(2) Military Engagements of the Company Bahadur - Conquest Power

(a) Carnatic Wars: 1745 - 1761, 1763 - 1801

(b) Bengal Wars : 1757 - 1765, 1772 - 1801

(c) Deccan Wars : 1750 - 1779, 1792 - 1801 - 1818

Readings:

AHOI-2, 81-92; CHI, 125-49; IAMH, 186-214; OHMI, 37-129; RFBI, 86-117; MWRI, 22-75; Judith Brown, Modern India, 44-57.

- [R] Philip Mason, A Matter of Honour (London & New York: Penguin, 1974)
- S.P. Sen, The French in India (Calcutta: 1947).

Other Readings:



H. H. Dodwell, Dupliex and Clive (London: 1920).

James Grant Duff, A History of the Marathas (London: 1826).

Brijen K. Gupta, Sirajuddaulah and the East India Company (Leiden: 1968).

Abdul Majed Khan, The Transition in Bengal, 1756-1775 (Cambridge: 1969)

(3) Ministerial Establishments of the Company's Raj - Corporate Power

A. Field Operations - The Indian Empire and Its Dependencies

(a) Direct Rule - The Presidencies of 'British India'

- (i) The Presidency of Bengal [Fort William]
- (ii) The Presidency of Madras [Fort St. George]
- (iii) The Presidency of Bombay [Fort....]

(b) Indirect Rule - The Residencies of 'Princely India'

- (i) Delhi and the Princes of Hindustan
- (ii) Deccan Princes of Hyderabad and Mysore
- (iii) Poona's Peshwa and the Maratha Warlords
- (iv) Forest Chiefs and Frontier Warlords

B. Home Operations - The 'Co-Direction' of Company Policy and Patronage

(a) Corporate Control of the East India Company

- (i) The Charter: Its Mandate of Incorporation (20 Year, Renewable)
- (ii) The Court of Directors: Its Chairman and Secretaries
- (iii) The Court of Proprietors: Its Stockholders

(b) Cabinet Control of the Crown-in-Parliament

- (i) The 'Board of Control': Its Chairman, a Cabinet Member
- (ii) The Government: Its Cabinet and Houses of Parliament
- (iii) The State and Society of Britain: Its 'Limited' Public

Readings:

Judith Brown, Modern India (Oxford: 1985), 56-80.

NHI, 139-49; AHOI-2, 93-144; OHMI, 57-150; IAHI, 207-34; CHI, 129-58.

[R] P.E. Roberts, India Under Wellesley (Oxford: 1929).

[R] Philip [Mason] Woodruff, The Rulers of India, I (London: 1954), 93-144.

Other Readings:

- A. Aspinall, Cornwallis in Bengal (London: 1931).
- Richard B. Barnett, North India Between the Empires (Berkeley: 1980).
- Iris Butler, The Marquis Wellesley, 1760-1842 (London: 1973).
- Ainslie T. Embree, Charles Grant and British Rule in India (Columbia: 1962)
- C. C. Davies, Warren Hastings and Oudh (Oxford: 1939).
- Holden Furber (ed.), The Private Record of an Indian Governor-Generalship  
(Cambridge: HUP, 1933). John Shore (Lord Melville).
- Penderal Moon, Warren Hastings and British India (London: 1939).
- Pamela Nightingale, Trade and Empire in Western India, 1784-1806  
(Cambridge: CUP, 1870).
- L.S.S. O'Malley, Modern India and the West (Oxford: 194 ), 1-104.
- C.H. Philips, The East India Company, 1784-1834 (Manchester: 1940).
- T.G. Percival Spear, The Nabobs (Cambridge: 1932).
- T.H. Percival Spear, Twilight of the Mughals (Cambridge: 1952).
- Lucy Sutherland, The East India Company in 18th Century Politics (Oxford: 195  
[An account of London under the George the III.]

VI. THE IMPERIAL SWAY OF COMPANY RAJ OVER THE SUBCONTINENT

1. Consolidation and Reform Within Government and Society
  - (1) The Impact of Jamabandi Systems: Land (Revenue) Settlements
  - (2) The Impact of Adalat Systems: Courts of Law and Judicial Processes
  - (3) The Impact of Modern Education: Cultural Influence and Change
  - (4) The Impact of Radical Religion and Social Reform:
2. Paramountcy Within and Beyond the Frontiers

- (1) Pax Indica: Assam and the Burma Wars of 1826 and 1852
- (2) Pax Indica: Aftermath of the Calamity in Afghanistan
- (3) Pax Indica: War and Annexations of Sindh and Punjab
- (4) Pax Indica: The Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf and Red Sea

Readings:

AHOI-2, 106-57; OHMI, 151-248; IAMI, 235-63; CHI, 129-58; MI, 58-81; RFBI, 118-171.

Woodruff, I: 344-80; and II, 1-114. Read "The Punjab School".

- [R] Bernard S. Cohn, "Structural Change in Indian Rural Society," Land Control and Social Structure in Indian History (Madison: UWP, 1969), edited by Frykenberg.
- [R] "Modern Education in South India, 1784-1854: Its Roots and Its Role as a Vehicle of Integration under Company Raj", American Historical Review 91, 1 (February, 1986), 37-65
- [R/H] "The Emergence of Modern Hinduism In the Light of Changing Historical Knowledge: A Reappraisal With Special Reference to South India," Hinduism Reconsidered (Heidelberg: South Asia Institute). Edited by Gunther Sontheimer and Hermann Kulke. (27pp.)

Other Readings:

B.H. Baden-Powell, Manual of Land Revenue Systems and Land Tenures of British India (Calcutta: 1882). Land Systems of British India (Oxford: 1892, 1894 abridged).

- [R] C.A. Bayly, Rulers, Townsmen and Bazaars: North Indian society in the age British Expansion, 1770-1870 (Cambridge: CUP, 1983).
- [R] R. E. Frykenberg, Guntur District, 1788-1848: A History of Local Influence and Central Authority in South India (Oxford: 1965).

Kenneth Ingham, Reformers in India: 1793-1833 (Cambridge: CUP, 1958).

John Kaye, The Administration of the East India Company (London: 1853). A classic. Also see B.B. Misra, The Central Administration of the East India Company (Manchester: 1959).

L.S.S. O'Malley, The Indian Civil Service, 1600-1930 (Oxford: 1931).

Eric Stokes, English Utilitarians in India (Oxford: 1959).

W.K. Fraser-Tytler, Afghanistan: A Study... (London: OUP, 1950), 47-119.

From Sepoy to Subedar: Being the Life and Adventures of Subedar Sita Ram, A Native Officer of the Bengal Army... (Lahore: 1873; London: 1970).  
Translated by Lt. Col. Norgate. Edited by James Lunt.

J.W. Kaye, History of the War in Afghanistan (London: 1851). Two volumes.

3. The Grand Climacteric of the Indian Empire: Mutiny, Rebellion, and Revolt

- (1) High Noon of Imperial Over-Confidence, Ignorance and Arrogance
- (2) Insecurity and Unrest Among the Peasant Lords of Hindustan
- (3) Sparks Setting off the Great Conflagration: How Inevitable?
- (4) Rampage, Recovery and Retribution: The Legacy of Bitterness
- (5) The Queen's Proclamation: Succession of Crown over Company Raj
- (6) The Victorian Veneer of "Colonialism" and the Indian Empire.

Readings:

MI, 81-89; NHI, 201-39; and readings in AHOI-1, IAMH, OHMI, & CHI.

- [R] Syud Ahed Khan, An Essay on the Causes of the Indian Revolt (Calcutta: 1860). Translated by Captain W.N. Lees.
- [R] Philip Mason, A Matter of Honour, "The Storm," pp. 219-309.
- [R] Eric Stokes, The Peasant Armed: The Indian Rebellion of 1857 (Oxford: 1986). Edited by C.A. Bayly.

Other Readings:

- [R] Wayne G. Broehl, Jr., Crisis of the Raj: The Revolt of 1857 through British Lieutenants' Eyes (Hanover NH and London: Dartmouth, 1986).
- Thomas R. Metcalf, The Aftermath of Revolt (Berkeley: UCP, 1964).
- John Pemble, The Raj, the Indian Mutiny, and the Kingdom of Oudh, 1801-1859 (Hassocks, Sussex: Harvester Press, 1977).
- Edward Thompson, The Other Side of the Medal (London: 1925).
- Edward Thompson and G.T. Garratt, Rise and Fulfilment of British Rule in India (London: 1934), 435-498, 499-525.