

ETH ZÜRICH /
D-GESS
LEHRSTUHL GESCHICHTE DER
MODERNEN WELT
HS 2019

VL: The Rise of an Asian Giant? — Introduction to the History of Modern India (c. 1600-2000)



The moment of arrival? — Swiss architect Le Corbusier and India's Prime Minister Nehru in Chandigarh, 1955

TIME: Monday 15:15-16:45
LOCATION: ML E 12
INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: Prof. Dr. Harald Fischer-Tiné

Course Description

India is not only one of the rising economic superpowers in the 21st century, it is also a nuclear power and a country of tremendous geo-strategic importance. How did this new "Asian giant" acquire its status? The lecture offers a survey of the historical trajectories taken by the Indian subcontinent from the beginning of the 17th to the end of the 20th century. The thematic foci include, but are not limited, to an examination of the question whether or not there was a pre-European South Asian modernity, the assessment of the impact of colonialism and an analysis of post-colonial nation-building processes.

Through this course, students are thus acquainted with the history of one of the most important world regions. The objective is not only to introduce participants to a richly diverse civilization, they are also encouraged to look at interrelations and make comparisons with the West. Through this interactional approach, their knowledge of European history is contextualised in a global framework while simultaneously their intercultural sensitivity is being trained.

Mandatory Readings

- For each session, a carefully selected text providing a survey of the respective topic is available in the Polybox. Additionally, the PowerPoint slides will be made available on the same platform within a week following the session.
Polybox link: <https://polybox.ethz.ch/index.php/s/fMWNjlFocexAP6w>
PW: india2019

For all technical and organisational questions, please contact the teaching assistant Rahel Gutmann, rahel.gutmann@gmw.gess.ethz.ch

Course requirements

- Presence in 80% of the sessions is highly recommended
- A 1,500-word summary of a text marked with a flower symbol (🌸) of your own choice, to be submitted to the teaching assistant, Rahel Gutmann, by 1st December 2019, 23:59 CET in a word document containing the authors name.
- and passing of the final exam (> 50% of the maximum marks)

SESSION OUTLINE

(incl. list of mandatory readings)

- Session 1 (23. 09. 2019) India or South Asia? – Introduction to the Course**
- BATES, Crispin, *Subalterns and the Raj: South Asia since 1600*, London-New York, 2007, pp. 1-21.
- Session 2 (30. 09. 2019) A Non Western Modernity? – the Mughal Empire and its Successors (ca. 1550-1750)**
- ROBB, Peter, *A History of India*, Houndmills-New York 2002, pp. 81-115.
- Session 3 (07. 10. 2019) From Trade to Conquest: Local Powers and the Expansion of the East India Company (1750-1818)**
- RAY, Rajat Kanta, 'Indian Society and the Establishment of British Supremacy' in: P.J. Marshall (ed.), *The Eighteenth Century*, Oxford 1999, (=OBHE, II) pp. 508-529. ✪
- Session 4 (14. 10. 2019) Reform and Revolt: Apex and Decline of Company Rule (1818-1858)**
- BAYLY, C.A., *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*, Cambridge 1987, (=NCHI, II.1), pp. 106-135.
- Session 5 (21. 10. 2019) High Noon of the *Raj*: Restauration, Economic Exploitation and Protest (1858-1885)**
- PEERS, Douglas M., *India under Colonial Rule 1700-1885*, Harlow 2006, pp. 64-88
- Session 6 (28. 10. 2019) Urbanisation and Industrialisation: The Social Consequences of Colonial Modernity (c. 1860-1930)**
- MARKOVITS, Claude, *A History of Modern India, 1480-1950*, London 2002, pp. 432-449.
- Session 7 (04. 11. 2019) Nationalism and Social Reform: Moderates and Radicals in the Age of Elite Nationalism (1885-1918)**
- METCALF, Barbara D./METCALF, Thomas R., *A Concise History of India*, Cambridge, 2002, pp. 123-164. ✪
- Session 8 (11. 11. 2019) 'The Coming of the Mahatma': M.K. Gandhi and the Politics of Mass Nationalism (1919-1939)**
- BANERJEE-DUBE, Ishita, *A History of Modern India*, Cambridge 2015, pp. 260-302. ✪

Session 9 (18. 11. 2019) Triumph and Tragedy: Communalism, Independence and Partition (1930-1947)

- MARKOVITS, Claude, *A History of Modern India, 1480-1950*, London 2002, pp. 468-491. ✪

Session 10 (25. 11. 2019) India in the Zero Hour? – Caesurae and Continuities during the Nehruvian Era (1947-1964)

- BRASS, Paul R., *The Politics of India since Independence*, Cambridge 1990 (=NCHI, IV.1), pp. 1-27.
- BATES, Crispin, *Subalterns and the Raj: South Asia since 1600*, London-New York, 2007, pp. 212-227.

Session 11 (02. 12. 2019) India Shining? – From Crises to Economic and Political Ascent in the late 20th Century (1965-2000)

- STEIN, Burton and Arnold, David, *A History of India (second edition)*, Malden etc. 2010, pp. 398-420.
- ROTHERMUND, Dietmar, *Contemporary India: Political, Economic and Social Developments since 1947*, Delhi and Chennai 2013, pp. 95-121.

Session 12 (09. 12. 2019) The other successor state of British India – The early development of Pakistan (1947-1971)

- Talbot, Ian, *Pakistan: A new History*, London 2012, pp. 47-92. ✪

Session 13 (16. 12. 2019) FINAL EXAM



Hindu-Muslim riots during the infamous 'direct action day' in Calcutta, August 1946

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Overviews

- BATES, Crispin, *Subalterns and the Raj: South Asia since 1600*, London-New York 2007.
- BOSE, Sugata and JALAL, Ayesha, *Modern South Asia. History, Culture, Political Economy*, London-New York 2011.
- BROWN, Judith, *Modern India: The Origins of an Asian Democracy*, Oxford 1994.
- GUHA, Ramachandra, *India after Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy*, (Repr.) London 2008.
- MARKOVITS, Claude, *A History of Modern India, 1480-1950*, London 2002.
- METCALF, Barbara D. and METCALF, Thomas R., *A Concise History of India*, Cambridge 2006.
- MISRA, Maria, *Vishnu's Crowded Temple: India since the Great Rebellion*, New Haven and London 2007.
- PEERS, Douglas M., *India under Colonial Rule 1700-1885*, Harlow 2006.
- — — and GOOPTU, Nandini (eds), *India and the British Empire (=Oxford History of the British Empire Companion Series)*, Oxford 2012.
- ROBB, Peter, *A History of India*, Houndmills-New York 2002.
- ROTHERMUND, Dietmar, *India: The Rise of an Asian Giant*, New Haven 2009.
- SARKAR, Sumit, *Modern India, 1885-1947*, Madras 1984.
- STEIN, Burton and ARNOLD, David, *A History of India (second edition)*, Malden etc. 2010.

Specific works dealing with thematic foci of the lecture

- ALAM, Muzaffar/SUBRAHMANYAM, Sanjay (eds.), *The Mughal State in India 1526-1750*, Delhi 1998.
- ANONYMOUS (ed), *1857: Essays from Economic and Political Weekly*, Hyderabad 2008.
- ARNOLD, David, *Colonizing the Body. State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth Century India*, Berkeley etc. 1993.
- BANNERJEE, Sikata, *Make me a Man! Masculinity, Nationalism and Hinduism in India*, Albany 2005.
- BARUAH, Sanjib, *Ethnonationalism in India: A Reader*, New Delhi, 2010.
- BAYLY, C.A., *Rulers Townsmen and Bazaars. North Indian society in the age of British expansion 1770-1870*.
- BAYLY, C.A., *Empire and Information. Intelligence gathering and social communication in India*, Cambridge 1996.

- BATES, Crispin (ed.), *Beyond Representation. Constructions of Identity in Colonial and Postcolonial India*, New Delhi 2006.
- BEHAL, R.P. and Van der Linden, M. (eds), *India's Labouring Poor: Historical Studies c. 1600-2000*, Delhi etc. 2007.
- BHATT, Chetan, *Hindu Nationalism: Origins, Ideologies and Modern Myths*, Oxford 2001.
- BIRLA, Ritu, *Stages of Capital: Law, Culture and Market Governance in Late Colonial India*, Durham and London 2009.
- BROWN, Judith and PAREL Anthony (eds), *The Cambridge Companion to Gandhi*, Cambridge etc. 2011.
- CHANDARVARKAR, Rajnarayan, *The Origins of Industrial Capitalism in India: Business Strategies and the Working Classes in Bombay, 1900-1940*, Cambridge. 1994.
- CHATTERJEE, Partha: *The Nation and its Fragments Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*, Princeton 1993.
- DIRKS, Nicholas, *Castes of Mind. Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*, Princeton 2001.
- DODSON, Michael S., *Orientalism, Empire, and National Culture: India 1770-1880*, Basingstoke and New York 2007.
- GOSWAMI, Manu, *Producing India. From colonial economy to national space*, Chicago-London 2004.
- GOULD, William, *Religion and Conflict in Modern South Asia*, Cambridge 2011.
- GUHA, Ranajit, *Dominance without Hegemony. History and Colonial Power in India*, Delhi 1998.
- FISCHER-TINÉ, Harald and MANN, Michael (eds.), *Colonialism as Civilizing Mission. Cultural Ideology in British India*, London 2004.
- HABIB, S. Irfan und RAINA, Dhruv (eds), *The Social History of Science in India*, New Delhi, 2007.
- HAYNES, Douglas et al., *Towards a History of Consumption in South Asia*, New Delhi, 2010.
- INDEN, Ronald, *Imagining India*, (Repr.) Bloomington 2000.
- JAFFRELOT, Christophe, *Dr. Ambedkar and Untouchability. Analysing and Fighting Caste*, London 2005.
- JALAL, Ayesha, *Self and Sovereignty: Individual and Community in South Asian Islam since 1850*, New Delhi 2001.
- LORENZEN, David, 'Who invented Hinduism', in: *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 41 (4), 1999, pp. 630-59.
- MAHAJAN, Sucheta, *Independence and Partition: The Erosion of Colonial Power in India* New Delhi etc. 2000.
- MANI, Lata, *Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India*. Berkeley, Los Angeles and London 1998.
- MAJEED, Javed, *Ungoverned Imaginings: James Mill's The History of British India and Orientalism*, Oxford 1992.
- MARSHALL, P.J. (ed.), *The Eighteenth Century in Indian History: Evolution or Revolution?*, New Delhi 2003.

- MUKHIA, Harbans, *The Mughals of India*, Malden-Oxford-Carlton, 2004.
- PANDEY, Gyanendra, *The Construction of Communalism in Colonial North India*, Delhi 1992.
- PAREKH, B.: *Colonialism, Tradition and Reform, An Analysis of Gandhi=s Political Discourse*, New Delhi-Thousand Oaks-London, 51999.
- RAMNATH, Maia, *Haj to Utopia: How the Ghadar Movement Charted Global Radicalism and Attempted to Overthrow the British Empire*, Berkeley etc. 2011.
- RAMUSACK, Barbara, *The Indian Princes and their States*, Cambridge 2004 (=NCHI III.6).
- RICHARDS, John F., *The Mughal Empire*, Cambridge 1993 (=NCHI I.5).
- ROCHER, Rosane, 'British Orientalism in the Eighteenth Century: The Dialectics of Knowledge and Government', in: Carol A. Breckenridge and Peter van der Veer (eds), *Orientalism and the postcolonial predicament: Perspectives on South Asia*, Philadelphia 1994, pp. 215-49.
- RAO, Anupama, *The Caste Question: Dalits and the Politics of Modern India*, Berkeley etc. 2009.
- ROTHERMUND, Dietmar, *India: The Rise of an Asian Giant*, New Haven 2008.
- ROY, Srirupa, *Beyond Belief: India and the Politics of Postcolonial Nationalism*, Durham 2007.
- SARKAR, Sumit, *Writing Social History*, New Delhi 1998.
- SARKAR, Tanika, *Hindu Wife, Hindu Nation: Community, Religion and Cultural Nationalism*, Delhi 2001.
- SISSON, Robert and WOLPERT, Stanley (eds), *Congress and Indian Nationalism: The Pre-Independence Phase*, Berkeley 1988.
- TRAVERS, Robert, *Ideology and Empire in Eighteenth Century India: the British in Bengal 1757-93*, Cambridge, 2007.
- WATT, Carey A., *Serving the Nation. Cultures of service, association and citizenship in colonial North India*, New Delhi 2005.
- ZAVOS, John, *The Emergence of Hindu Nationalism in India*, Delhi 2000.



Colonial Modernity? — A glimpse of Victoria Terminus, Bombay, c. 1910.