

ETH ZÜRICH /  
D-GESS  
LEHRSTUHL GESCHICHTE DER  
MODERNEN WELT  
HS 2022

## **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 12:15-13:45  
LOCATION: IFW A 32.1  
INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: Prof. Dr. Harald Fischer-Tiné

## Course Description

India is not only one of the rising economic superpowers in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 on Moodle. Additionally, the PowerPoint slides will be made available on the same platform within a week following the session.
- For all technical and organisational questions, please contact the teaching assistant Emina Šahmanović: [emina.sahmanovic@gmw.gess.ethz.ch](mailto:emina.sahmanovic@gmw.gess.ethz.ch)

## Course requirements

- Presence in 80% of the sessions is highly recommended.
- A 1,200 - 1,500-word summary of a text marked with a flower symbol (✿) of your own choice, to be submitted to the teaching assistant, Emina Šahmanović, by 1 December 2022, 23:59 CET in a word document containing your name. => Upload on Moodle.
- Passing of the final exam on 19 Dec 2022.

## SESSION OUTLINE

(incl. list of mandatory readings)

- Session 1 (26. 09. 2022) 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 (03. 10. 2022) 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 (10. 10. 2022) 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 (17. 10. 2022) 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 (24. 10. 2022) 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 (31. 10. 2022) 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 (07. 11. 2022) 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 (14. 11. 2022) '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 (21. 11. 2022) 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 (28. 11. 2022) 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 (05. 12. 2022) India Shining? – From Crises to Economic and Political Ascent in the late 20<sup>th</sup> 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 (12. 12. 2022) 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 (19. 12. 2022) 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.

FISCHER-TINÉ, Harald and FRAMKE, Maria, *The Routledge Handbook of the the History of Colonialism in South Asia* Abingdon 2022.

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.**