

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1931

VOLUME X



THE  
WESTERN INDIA STATES' AGENCY

IN TWO PARTS

PART I—THE REPORT

PART II—THE STATISTICAL TABLES

BY

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INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE

PROVINCIAL SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS  
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

from May 27th till October 31st, 1932

with an Introduction by

A. H. DRACUP, B.A.

BOMBAY PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE

PROVINCIAL SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS  
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

up to May 26th, 1932



BOMBAY

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS

1933

U45-257

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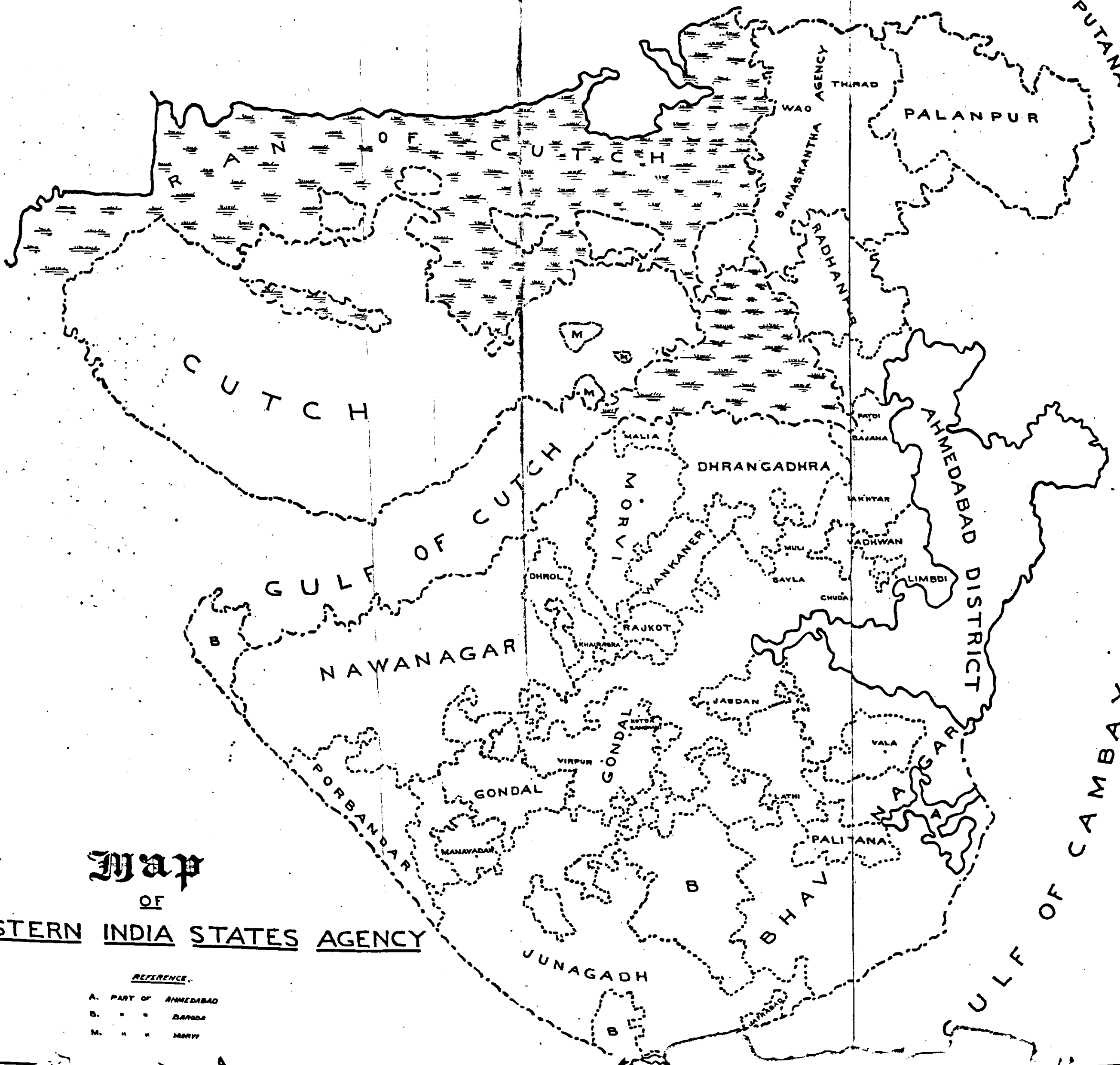
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S I N D

RAJPUTANA AGENCY



# Map

OF

## WESTERN INDIA STATES AGENCY

REFERENCE.

- A. PART OF AHMEDABAD
- B. " " BARODA
- M. " " MARIY

# WESTERN INDIA STATES AGENCY REPORT

## INTRODUCTION.

This volume, which is numbered Vol. X of the Census of India Series, deals with the area known as the Western India States Agency and its production marks the beginning of a new era in the Census literature of Kathiawar. Hitherto the figures relating to Kathiawar have been incorporated in the statistical volume of tables for the Bombay Presidency and any explanatory remarks which the figures called for were inserted in the General Report for the province of Bombay. As a result of the decision to relieve the Government of Bombay of direct political control over the group of Indian States in Kathiawar and to place these States in direct political relations with the Government of India, a new situation was created and it was decided to regard this group of States as a separate province. In consequence of this decision the Imperial Tables for Kathiawar have been excluded from the volume of statistics prepared for the Bombay Presidency and are printed in a separate volume.

2. The Western India States Agency, as at present constituted, was created in October 1924, when the political control of the Government of Bombay ceased and direct relations with the Government of India through the Agent to the Governor-General began. The territory now incorporated in this Agency includes the area formerly known as Kathiawar and Cutch and the Palanpur Agencies.

3. **Geographical and physical characteristics.**—Geographically the Western India States Agency extends from the 21st to the 25th degree of latitude north. For a more detailed description of the physical characteristics of the Agency, a reference is invited to the relevant passages in the chapter entitled "Native States", *vide* pages 326-429 of the 2nd volume of the Imperial Gazetteer of India—1909 edition—dealing with the Bombay Presidency.

4. **Administrative arrangements.**—Prior to the creation of the entity now known as the Western India States Agency, the Cutch and Palanpur Agencies each possessed a separate Political Agent, while Kathiawar was administered by an agent to the Governor of Bombay, under whom were four Political Agents, for the four Prants or divisions into which the agency was divided, *viz.* :—

(i) Halar Prant (Headquarters, Rajkot).

(ii) Sorath Prant (Headquarters, Jetalsar).

(iii) Gohelwad Prant (Headquarters, Songadh).

(iv) Jhalawad Prant (Headquarters, Wadhwan).

In 1923 these four Prants were reduced to two divisions, *viz.* : (i) the Western Kathiawar division comprising the former Halar and Sorath Prants, (ii) the Eastern Kathiawar division formed by uniting Gohelwad and Jhalawad. In 1924, when the political control of the Government of Bombay was transferred to the Government of India, Cutch and the sixteen salute states formerly included in the old Kathiawar and Palanpur Agencies came into direct relations with the Agent to the Governor-General, and the remaining States and Estates were placed under the jurisdiction of the Political Agents in Western Kathiawar, Eastern Kathiawar and Banas Kantha with headquarters at Rajkot, Wadhwan and Palanpur respectively.

The civil stations of Rajkot and Wadhwan were placed under the administrative control of the Agent to the Governor-General. The non-jurisdictional estates have been grouped into Thanas, each under a Thandar.

5. **States and Estates.**—The Western India States Agency contains 202 states and talukas of which 85 are jurisdictional and the rest non-jurisdictional.

The 17 Salute States in the Agency vary greatly in size, from Cutch with an area of several thousand square miles to Jafrabad, which is contained within 53 square miles. The estates also vary in size, the smallest being less than one-third of a square mile in extent, with a population of less than 200.

6. **Units for census purposes.**—In the Census of 1921, the states of Cutch, Bhavanagar, Gondal, Nawanagar, Junagadh and Palanpur only were treated as separate units, the remaining states and estates being merged in two other units as under :—

- (1) Rest of Kathiawar.
- (2) Rest of Palanpur Agency.

On this occasion the total number of units for which figures have been compiled is 48 (for details, see Imperial Table I). This has entailed considerable difficulty, as it necessitated ransacking scattered records for data hitherto not compiled in a compact form nor preserved in a single record room. While every care has been taken to insert correct comparative figures for previous decenniums, complete data for 1921, 1911, 1901, 1891 and 1881 are not forthcoming in the case of certain units and in consequence the tables contain a few gaps, and it is possible that further research may reveal isolated instances of inaccuracy even in the figures given. Further, since it has not proved possible to procure the precise figures of population of some of the units for each previous decennium, it has not been possible to furnish totals for the sub-agency groups such as the Eastern and Western Kathiawar Agencies and Banas Kantha (*vide* Imperial Table II).

The existence of these gaps is unfortunate, the only consolation being that the decision to prepare and to print separate statistics for the Western India States Agency will ensure that adequate figures will be forthcoming for all units at least with effect from 1931.

The method of selection of the units now included in the tables was elaborated in close consultation with and in conformance with the advice of Mr. Kealy, the Agent to the Governor-General for the Western India States Agency, who as a former Provincial Superintendent has personal experience of Census work and the trials that befall the lot of a Provincial Superintendent.

7. **Method of taking the Census.**—The arrangement for the taking of the Census in state territory was as follows. Each state was supplied with the necessary forms and registers by the Provincial Superintendent in accordance with indents from the state, which individually undertook to adopt the system of enumeration laid down in the Imperial Census Code. As a consequence of this collaboration on the part of the various Durbars, the Census in the Western India States Agency has been taken in exactly the same way and by the application of methods identical with those which were employed in the Bombay Presidency and therefore there need be no hesitation in making comparisons between similar groups of figures in Part II of Census Volumes VIII and X, on the score that the figures have been collected on different systems and compiled on varying principles. I must however record that the quality of the work done in respect of enumeration has displayed varying degrees of excellence. In some states the general schedules were written up in a manner which was wholly satisfactory while in others, and these formed a larger percentage than was desirable, the entries in the enumeration books were often illegible and carelessly made, with the result that abstraction was hampered. Since a separate volume of statistics is now being printed for the benefit of the States, and the amount of Census data made available is much greater than formerly, it is to be hoped that all Durbars will insist on adequate steps being

taken to ensure careful enumeration within their borders, as the value of the whole work depends entirely on the accuracy of the entries in the General Schedules.

8. **Tabulation.**—A somewhat unfortunate situation arose in connection with the arrangements for abstraction and compilation of the information collected during the process of enumeration. In view of the fact that the population of no less than 202 different states and estates was to be dealt with, it was the considered opinion both of myself and the Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Western India, that the most suitable method of handling the enumeration books of this vast number of units of varying sizes was to concentrate the schedules in a central abstraction office to be located in some central site, preferably Rajkot. As the total population was just under four millions, the institution of such an office was a sound economic proposition, since it would have been feasible to place the office under the supervision of a Deputy Superintendent with local knowledge of Kathiawar and to recruit a competent staff. Such an arrangement would not only have ensured absolute uniformity in dealing with the population of what is undoubtedly not only a political but also a geographical and natural unit but it would have facilitated the investigation of obscure points and the rectification of illegible or unintelligible entries in the enumeration books, since a reference to the source of origin of the books could easily have been made without undue delay. However at the outset almost all the larger states manifested a desire to set up abstraction offices within their state limits in order to deal with the respective state populations. Both Mr. Kealy and myself were averse to such a procedure. But in spite of our united protestations, a certain number of states persisted, and in the result the tabulation of the schedules was carried out as under :—

- (a) In the cases of Bhavanagar, Nawanagar, Cutch, Gondal and Palitana in state abstraction offices set up at the respective capitals of these states.
- (b) In the cases of the remaining Salute States and the Eastern and Western Kathiawar Agencies, Banas.Kantha and the Civil Stations of Rajkot and Wadhwan, at the Central Abstraction Office at Surat.

As a consequence, the tabulation of the material from the last mentioned areas was retarded by reason of the fact that the total population handled at Surat was increased, while in the case of the five states which set up their own offices, the numbers to be dealt with were so trifling that they were able to complete the various stages involved in tabulation much sooner than was possible in British offices which were dealing with millions of schedules apiece. As a result intervals of idleness were enforced upon these state offices and this must have caused unnecessary expense, while the supreme advantage of uniformity of method was denied to all.

9. **Cost of the Census.**—A few details regarding the charges levied for the supply of the forms and registers and on account of the abstraction and compilation work done at Surat on behalf of the states which did not set up their own abstraction offices will perhaps not be out of place. All the durbars elected to obtain from British India the forms and registers they required for enumeration as well as tabulation; this uniformity of procedure enabled these to be supplied at the modest rate of Rs. 1-14-6 per 1,000 of the population. As regards the cost of tabulation, this amounted to Rs. 100 per 10,000 of the population calculated to the nearest rupee and the nearest 100. This scale meant that a large state like Junagadh with a population of over half a million was called upon to pay the sum of Rs. 5,910-4-0 only. It would be interesting to compare this rate of expenditure with the costs incurred by the states that set up their own offices, but the figures are not available.

10. **Acknowledgments.**—A primary requisite for the successful conduct of census operations is whole-hearted and intelligent co-operation. It is with pleasure that I record that my relations with all the state census officers, appointed by the various durbars to supervise operations within their respective boundaries, have been uniformly pleasant. Any suggestion that I ventured to make received courteous and prompt consideration and I can only hope that their recollection of the period during which they and I worked together will be as agreeable as mine will always be.

I take this opportunity of conveying my thanks to Mr. Kealy for the valuable advice and considerable assistance he has given me, and I think I ought to mention that gratitude is due to Mr. Kealy from others besides myself. If it had not been for his steady insistence, it is doubtful whether the decision to publish a separate report for the Western India States Agency would have materialised.

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