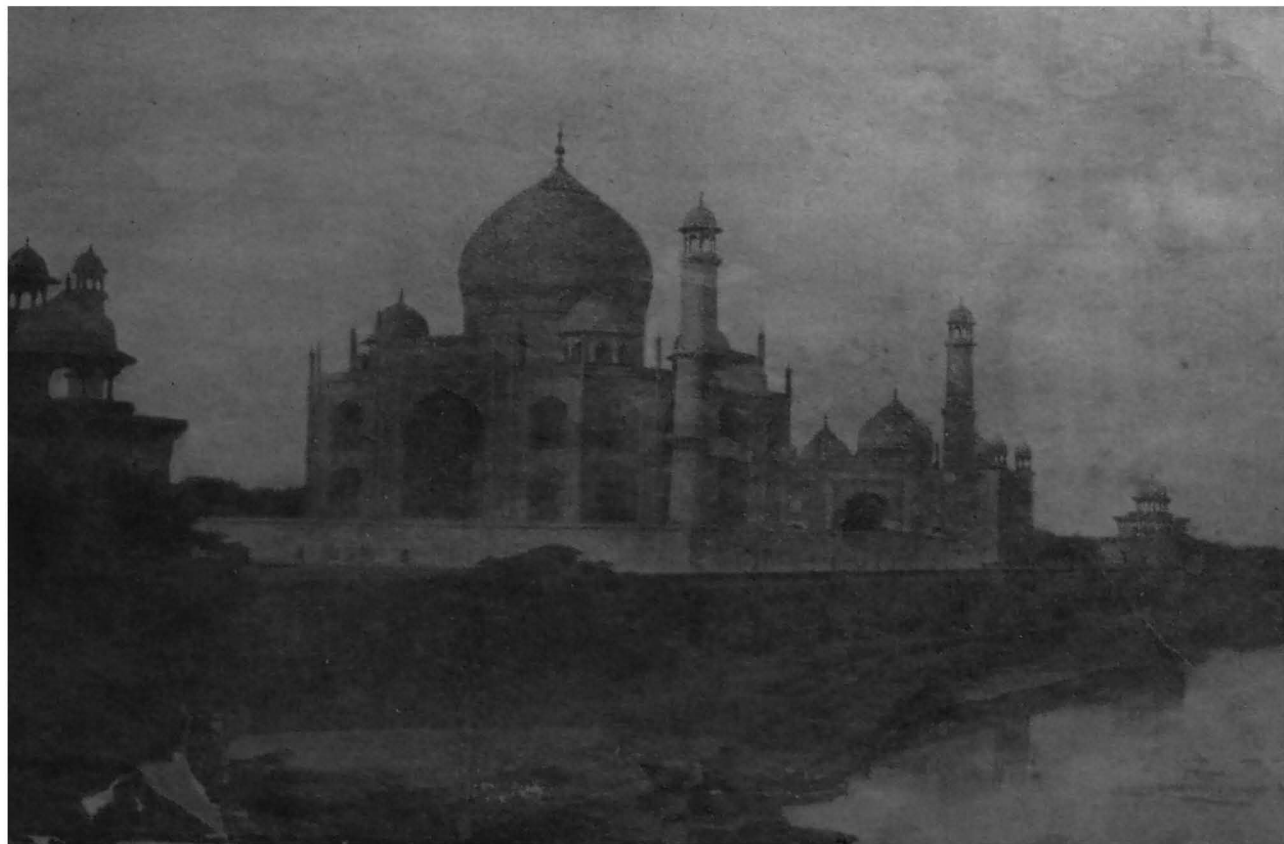


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THE OXFORD HISTORY OF INDIA

From the Earliest Times to
the end of 1911

BY

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SECOND EDITION

Revised and continued to 1921

By S. M. EDWARDES, C.S.I., C.V.O.

Late of the Indian Civil Service

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE work of revision has consisted chiefly in correcting errors and adding information which has become available since Mr. Vincent Smith's death. My thanks are due to Dr. W. Croke, C.I.E., for various suggestions, and to Mr. William Foster, C.I.E., for kindly permitting me to embody in the text various amendments which his expert knowledge of the British period had shown to be necessary. The brief account of the Coorgs on page 660 has been entirely rewritten in the interests of accuracy; the narrative and chronology of the later period have been carried forward to the end of 1921.

S. M. E.

LONDON, 1922.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE purpose of this book is to provide in one volume of moderate bulk and price a compendious up-to-date History of India as a whole, based on the results of modern research and extending from the earliest times to the end of 1911. It has been designed with the desire to preserve due proportion throughout in the Ancient, Hindu, Muhammadan, and British Periods alike, the space being carefully allotted so as to give prominence to the most significant sections. The author has sought to attain scrupulous accuracy of statement and impartiality of judgement, so far as may be. The subject has engaged his attention for nearly half a century.

While foot-notes have been confined within narrow bounds, the authorities used are indicated with considerable fullness. The lists of authorities are not intended to be bibliographies. They merely mention the publications actually consulted. Chronological tables, maps, and other aids for the special benefit of professed students have been provided, but it is hoped that the volume may prove readable by and useful to all persons who desire to possess some knowledge of Indian history and do not find a mere school-book sufficient. No book on lines at all similar is in existence. The older works of Meadows Taylor, Marshman, and other authors are necessarily useless for the Hindu Period, which was treated consecutively and critically for the first time in the *Early History of India*, published originally in 1904, and revised in subsequent editions. The accounts of the Muhammadan Period in the writings of Elphinstone and in other books now current are inadequate and out of date, being far behind the present state of knowledge in every section. In the present work much unfamiliar material concerning that period has been utilized, as explained in the second section of the Introduction. The British Period, the subject of innumerable books, offers less opportunity for novelty or originality of treatment.

Notwithstanding the obvious truism that no man can be master in equal degrees of all the parts of India's long story, it is desirable in my opinion that a general history should be the work of a single

PREFACE

author. Composite histories, built up of chapters by specialists, suffer from the lack of literary unity and from the absence of one controlling mind so severely that their gain in erudition is apt to be outweighed by their dullness.

The memorable visit of Their Majesties the King-Emperor and his consort at the close of 1911 seems to be the best stopping-place for the narrative. The years since that event have been passed for the most part under the shadow of the Great War, with which history cannot yet dare to meddle. A bare list of some of the happenings during those terrible years is appended.

The spelling of Asiatic words and names follows the principle observed in my work on Akbar, with, perhaps, a slight further indulgence in popular literary forms. The only diacritical mark used as a general rule is that placed over long vowels, and intended as a guide to the approximate pronunciation. Consonants are to be pronounced as in English. Vowels usually have the Italian sounds, so that *Mir* is to be read as 'Meer' and *Mal-* as 'Mool-'. Short *a* with stress is pronounced like *u* in 'but', and when without stress as an indistinct vowel like the *A* in 'America'. The name *Akbar* consequently is pronounced 'Ukbur' or 'Ukber'. No simpler system is practicable, for we cannot revert to the barbarisms of the old books.

Much research and care have been devoted to the collection and reproduction of the numerous illustrations.

My acknowledgements are due to the Secretary of State for India for general liberty to use illustrations in official publications; to B. Lewis Rice, Esq., C.I.E., for the use of two illustrations from *Mysore and Coorg from the Inscriptions*; and to K. Panikkar, Esq., for the loan of an engraving of Māhādajī Śindia. A few coins have been copied from the *Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, by permission.

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NOTE.—As the book probably will be used in colleges, it seems well to say that the two sections of the Introduction are not intended for junior students, who may leave them unread.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- A. c.—After Christ.
 A. d.—Anno Domini.
 A. h.—Anno Hijrae (Hegirae).¹
Āin.—*Āin-i Akbari*, by Abu-l Fazl, transl. Blochmann and Jarrett.
 A. S.—Archaeological Survey.
 A. S. B.—Asiatic Society of Bengal.
As. Res.—*Asiatic Researches*.
 A. S. W. I.—Archaeological Survey of Western India.
A. V.—*Atharvaveda*.
 B. c.—Before Christ.
 B. M.—British Museum.
 E. & D.—*The History of India as told by its own Historians*, by Sir H. M. Elliot and Professor John Dowson, 8 vols., 1867-77.
E. H. I.—*The Early History of India*, by Vincent A. Smith, 4th ed. (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1923).
 E. I. Co.—East India Company.
Ep. Ind.—*Epigraphia Indica*, Calcutta, in progress.
Gaz.—*Gazetteer*.
H. F. A.—*A History of Fine Art in India and Ceylon*, by Vincent A. Smith (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1911).
I. G.—*Imperial Gazetteer of India* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1907, 1908).
Ind. Ant.—*Indian Antiquary*, Bombay, 1872 to date.
 I. O.—India Office, London.
J. A. O. S.—*Journal of the American Oriental Society*.
J. & Proc. A. S. B.—*Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, Calcutta.
J. As.—*Journal Asiatique*, Paris.
J. A. S. B.—*Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, Calcutta.
J. Bom. Br. R. A. S.—*Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*.
J. B. O. (or J. B. & O.) Res. Soc.—*Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society*.
J. P. H. S.—*Journal of the Panjab Historical Society*.
J. R. A. S.—*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, London.
J. U. P. H. S.—*Journal of the United Provinces Historical Society*.
 MM.—Mahāmahopādhyāya, a title.
 N. S.—New style.
 N. W. P.—North-Western Provinces.
 O. S.—Old style.
Prog. (Progr.) Rep.—*Progress Report*.
 R. A. S.—Royal Asiatic Society.
 R. I.—Rulers of India Series.
R. V.—*Rigveda*.
S. B. E.—*Sacred Books of the East*.
 U. P.—United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

NOTE.—An index number above the title of a book indicates the edition ; e. g., *Annals of Rural Bengal*⁷ means the 7th edition of that work.

¹ The word *hijra* is rendered by 'withdrawal' more precisely than by 'flight', the equivalent usually given.