

**INDIAN PRINCES UNDER
BRITISH PROTECTION**

INDIAN PRINCES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION

A STUDY OF THEIR PERSONAL RULE, THEIR
CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION AND THEIR FUTURE

BY

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Preface by the Rt. Hon.

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D.S.O., M.P.



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TO
the millions of people
of the Indian States suffering under the
autocratic rule of their Princes,
I dedicate this book as a
humble effort at their
emancipation.

THE AUTHOR

PREFACE

THIS book by Mr. Chudgar needed writing. The case of the Indian of the Indian States has not been known ; it has vanished in the cloud of normal nationalist activity. When the British rulers think at all of the Indian States the problems they see are the relations of the Rajahs with the Suzerain, while one-sixth of the Indian people suffer a continued exclusion from civilized human rights.

All this part of India is like the Germany of the eighteenth century—a quantity of little princelings with absolute power and a patient peasantry. Jew Suss and his master are multiplied all over India. Napoleon has not shaken them yet, and the mighty arm of Great Britain protects them, preserves them, and perpetuates conditions of servitude which are a disgrace to our democracy.

The Ruling Chiefs want no change ; the British Bureaucracy want no change ; the Indian nationalist turns away his eyes ; statesmen in England put " Safety First " ; and Labour Party and British democracy do not know that millions of their fellow-subjects have no rights to person or property in that most mysterious patch of the ever mysterious East.

But readers of Mr. Chudgar's book will see at last—and may they be as many as those who read *Mother India*.

JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD.

October 10th, 1929.

FOREWORD

THE Indian problem or, to be quite precise, the problems of India, have been theoretically before the British public ever since the Crown undertook the responsibility for the administration of India. With the progress of political sentiment throughout the world these problems have assumed at an accelerated speed enormous proportions and await with increasing insistence a solution which statesmanship alone, both British and Indian, can supply. One of these problems—namely, the problem of the Indian States and their people—lately brought to prominence by the report of the committee of inquiry under the chairmanship of Sir Harcourt Butler, it is the purpose of the following pages to discuss. I dare say, therefore, no apology is needed for the publication of this book at the present moment.

The book is divided into two parts—Part I dealing with the description of the administration in most of the Indian States, and Part II with the discussion of their constitutional problems and future. With regard to Part I a word of explanation may be necessary. In describing the administration, as is generally prevalent in the States at present, I have drawn upon my experience as a first class magistrate in my own State, as a legal practitioner in the States of Western India Agency for over fourteen years, as one of the organisers of the Indian States' Peoples' Movement, and upon records, such as

the Administration Reports and such other authorised publications. Far from being an overstatement, I am afraid I have often understated the case, as I had to exercise considerable restraint in the selection of my facts and their dispassionate presentation. In short, I have been keenly alive to the responsibility that lies on me as I wrote the following pages. Part II speaks for itself. It is my contribution towards the solution of the problems which must necessarily come to the forefront when the entire constitutional position of India is under consideration.

Before concluding I must express my sense of thankfulness to the many friends, both here and in India, for their generous support. I am particularly obliged to Mr. Jagjivan U. Talsania for his active assistance, and to Messrs Amritlal D. Sheth, M.L.C., Balvantrai G. Mehta, and Kakalbhai Kothari for the collection of material. In the execution of the work I am greatly indebted to Mr. R. Ramani, M.A., B.L., of the Middle Temple, barrister-at-law, for his invaluable assistance, Mr. R. S. Dikshit, M.A., LL.B., for his advice and guidance, and Miss Eileen Young for revising the book and making several suggestions. I owe the index to Mr. Sunder Kabadi, who also very kindly went through the proofs.

Nobody can be more conscious than myself of the imperfections and shortcomings of this work, but from the nature of the task undertaken and the difficulty of bringing to light much that must remain hidden from the public it was impossible to do more in the circumstances. However, I have felt during my stay in this country that the British public, far from being wilfully apathetic to the demands of elementary rights of the people elsewhere, is too preoccupied with its own problems to appreciate,

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much less to grasp, the enormity of the suffering and misery under which such a large proportion of humanity is groaning. I only wish this little effort of mine may show them the light.

P. L. C.

48 DANES INN HOUSE,
265 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.
October 15, 1929.

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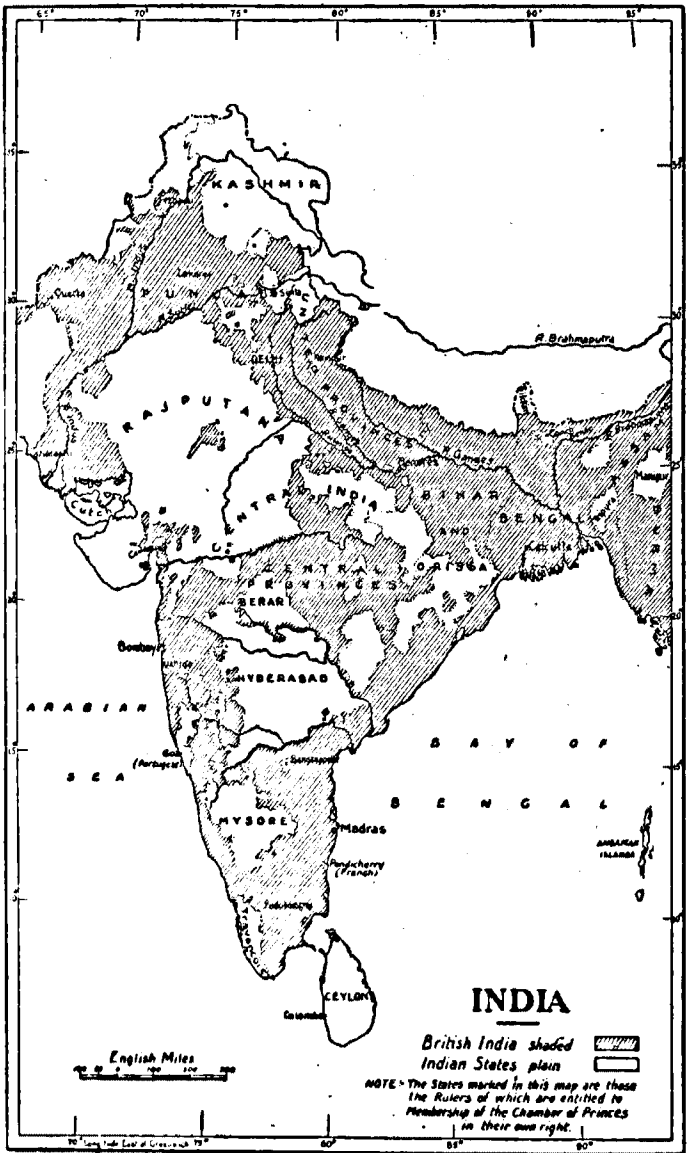
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APPENDIX A



MAP SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN STATES

APPENDIX B

STATEMENT SHOWING HOW THE SALUTE STATES ARE DISTRIBUTED OVER INDIA

Name	No. of States.	Total area in sq. miles.	Population.	Revenue for last Statistical Year (Rs.)
Assam	1	8,456	384,016	791,000
Baluchistan	1	73,278	328,281	1,649,000
Baroda	1	8,135,200	2,126,522	23,707,000
Bengal	2	5,423	896,926	6,83,8000
Bihar and Orissa	4	11,293	1,891,348	4,467,000
Bombay	19	1,088,155	2,754,424	17,184,000
Central India	28	49,374	5,755,884	38,636,000
Gwalior	1	26,382	3,195,476	2,140,000
Hyderabad	1	82,698	12,471,770	65,351,000
Jammu and Kashmir	1	80,000	3,322,030	22,777,000
Madras States Agency	4	10,476	5,448,586	32,013,000
Mysore	1	29,528	3,859,952	34,637,000
Punjab States Agency	13	41,264	3,308,040	33,117,000
Punjab	1	3,820	86,077	334,000
Rajputana	19	2,437,196	9,332,864	61,373,000
Sikkim	1	2,818	81,721	433,000
United Provinces	3	94,529	1,134,824	9,082,000
Western India States Agency	17	335,904	2,744,076	41,499,000

The States pay a tribute of £533,743 to the Government of India. This forms part of the revenue under the Government of India Act.

The actual strength of the Indian States Forces on 1st October, 1927, was 36,058 out of an organised strength of 44,570.

STATEMENT SHOWING HOW NON-SALUTE STATES ARE DISTRIBUTED
OVER INDIA

Non-Salute States.	No. of States.	Total area in sq. miles.	Population.	Revenue for Last Financial Year. Approx.
Baluchistan . . .	1	168	50,696	384,000
Bihar and Orissa . . .	22	16,363	2,068,321	4,595,000
Bombay	132	85,256	1,017,824	7,538,835
Central India	62	135,014	278,254	210,300
Central Provinces	15	30,701	2,046,745	4,937,000
Gwalior Residency	1	68	14,619	25,000
Madras State Agency	1	167	11,684	147,000
Punjab	20	1,613	292,991	2,702,000
Rajputana	2	359	31,424	201,000
Western India States Agency	189	9,263	755,924	6,000,000

APPENDIX C

DIRECT TAXATION IN NAWANAGAR

For City People

1. Octroi, i.e. tariff on all sorts of things imported in the city.
2. House Tax.
3. Conservancy Tax.
4. Wheel Tax.
5. War Loan Tax.
6. Grazing Tax.
7. Ghee¹ Production Tax.
8. Ghee Import Tax.
9. Brokerage on things imported.

Poll Tax on Non-Agriculturists in Villages

1. Ubhad Vero, i.e. a tax per head on all non-agriculturist people, as follows :
 1. Bankers, grocers, drapers, and other goods traders, per head . . . Rs. 4 0 0
 2. (a) Ordinary traders 3 8 0
 - (b) Artisans, i.e. carpenters, tailors, etc. 3 8 0
 3. (a) Blacksmiths 3 0 0
 - (b) Agricultural labourers 3 0 0
 - (c) Cotton carders, weavers, etc. 3 0 0
 4. Other occupations not included in above classes 2 0 0

¹ Ghee—clarified butter.

5. Shepherds, etc.	Rs. 1 0 0
6. Beggars (Brahmins, Fakirs, Sadhus)	1 0 0
7. People owning no property and engaged in sundry forms of labour	0 8 0
2. Ghee Tax.	
3. Grazing Tax.	
4. Octroi.	
5. Cotton Tax.	
6. Salt Dues.	
7. Famine Fund.	

On Agriculturist Villagers

1. Assessment.
2. Property-Right Tax, four annas per rupee of assessment.
3. Famine Tax, one anna per rupee of assessment.
4. Famine Insurance Fund.
5. Milch Cattle Tax.
6. Cotton Tax.
7. Cattle Sale Tax.
8. Ghee Tax.
9. Grazing Tax.
10. Agricultural Produce Sale Tax.
11. Miscellaneous Assessment.
12. Girl Marriage Tax.
13. Marriage Party Tax.
14. Re-marriage Tax.
15. Fruit Trees Tax.
16. Raw Sugar Pot Tax.
17. Sugar Produce Tax.
18. Postal Tax.
19. Vegetable Produce Tax.

Be it noted that an agriculturist pays more than 60 per cent of his income in taxes, including the Land Tax.

INDIRECT TAXATION

Monopolies

Over and above the monopolies of intoxicants, i.e. liquor, opium, etc., there are a number of other monopolies, of which the following deserve particular attention :

1. Monopoly of tobacco.
2. Monopoly of cotton ginning and pressing.
3. Monopoly of kerosine oil.
4. Monopoly of petrol.
5. Monopoly of matches.

NOTE.—Each of these monopolies has been granted for a fee varying from £5,000 to £10,000 per year.

LIST OF VARIOUS TAXES LEVIED IN BIKANER

Ordinary Taxes

All articles except grains are taxed. Following is the list of articles with the corresponding rates of taxation :

Sugar	Rs. 3 0 0 per maund
Gur (raw sugar)	0 12 0 " "
Brown sugar	1 0 0 " "
Rape seed oil	1 0 0 " "
Ghee	2 0 0 " "
Tobacco	3 0 0 " "
Rice	0 8 0 " "
Foreign cloth	12 8 0
Home cloth	4 8 0
Silk cloth	6 4 0
Piece goods	0 1 6
Apothecary's goods (per rupee)	0 1 6
Per cow	5 0 0
Per ox	5 0 0

Poll Tax

Confectioners	Rs. 10 per annum per head
Betal ¹ merchants	4 " "
Goldsmiths	10 " "
Blacksmiths	4 " "
Carpenters	4 " "
Bisayatis ²	4 " "
Butchers	6 " "
Dyers	5 " "
Regars ³	3 " "
Potters	2 " "
Vegetable merchants	4 " "
Shoe makers	5 " "
Patwas ⁴	3 " "
Flour mills	12 " "
Khatika ⁵	2 " "
Tailors	3 " "

Taxes on Agriculturists

Land Tax, being about one-fourth of the gross produce of land collected in cash or kind.

Other taxes, such as :

Dhol Guvar	} Names under which various levies are enforced.
Hul	
Lajiya	
Pagri Banch	
Dhunva Banch	
Sari Sahela	
Chiri Cherkla	
Pani Piche	
Kila Banch	

¹ Green chewing leaf.

² Tannin.

³ Resident labourers.

⁴ Weavers.

⁵ Labourers.

EXTRAORDINARY TAXES

Besides these there are other kinds of taxes, cesses, etc. A few out of the many are enumerated below :

1. On the occasion of the marriage or demise of a member of a royal family an extra tax is levied on the public.
2. The expenses incurred by the State on the visit of some high official are divided amongst the subjects.
3. Lacs of rupees are invited as subscriptions from big Sahukars¹ whenever an opportunity arises.

The commonest way to get money from the wealthy people is to honour them with the gift of a golden bangle, a silver stick, or belt, or other ornament.

The following facts and figures are also interesting :

Generally assessment charged per bigha² varies from 0.2.6. to 0.4.0. Maurusi (hereditary) lands are assessed from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per biga.

Although there is fixed assessment in cash, the State can at will change it into kind, as was done in the case of the area of Nali in the years 1891 and 1901.

People must pay the Maharajah Nazarana when they buy land. In a very small part of the States (i.e. in Ram Nagara and Hanuman Garh) people have the right of sale and mortgage of agricultural lands, but they can exercise this right only with the permission of the State.

¹ Sahukars—rich men.

² Bigha—1 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

APPENDIX D

Name of State.	Tax per head of population.			Percentage of palace and personal expense of Prince.	Educational expense per head.			Expenses per head of Public Health, Medical Relief, and Sanitation.			Number of literate persons per hundred
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Hyderabad .	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Baroda .	0	15	0	10	0	2	6	0	0	5	7
Mysore .	0	8	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	4	7
Travancore .	0	8	0	5.2	0	1	6	0	0	3	10
Kashmir .	0	8	0	20	0	0	6	0	0	3	2
Bikaner .	1	2	0	20	0	0	5	0	0	4	3
Indore .	0	18	0	17	0	0	7	0	0	2	3
Alwar .	0	15	0	25	0	0	3	0	0	1	2
Patiala .	0	15	0	25	0	0	3	0	0	2	2
Nawanagar .	1	10	0	45	0	0	6	0	0	3	2
Bhopal .	0	17	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	4	3
Bhavnagar .	1	0	0	10	0	1	6	0	0	4	4
Kapurthala .	0	15	0	25	0	0	7	0	0	3	3
Cutch .	1	10	0	25	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Jaipur .	0	10	0	10	0	0	3	0	0	3	3

NOTE.—The States do not publish accurate reports. The above calculations are based upon administration reports of the States for the most part for 1926-27. Accuracy is not claimed, but the figures are as approximately correct as possible in the circumstances. In those cases in which the figures of the States are not available the percentage of literacy is based more or less upon British Indian statistics.

The conditions in other States are worse than in the above-mentioned States. But the figures will give an indication of the general conditions.

The wealth per head cannot be shown as the States never compile these statistics, but it cannot be more than that in British India, which, according to most liberal estimates, does not exceed £3 10s.

The moral and material condition of the people can be fairly judged from these figures.

After providing for palace and personal expense of the Prince, the charges for collection and ordinary expense of administration, very little remains for the moral and material advancement of the people, and for this, as long as the present system of administration continues, there is little hope of improvement.

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