

A Contemporary History of India

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Civil Servant and History

- Two hats and the philosopher king
- Lessons of history
 - Past and present: Village Chaturabehar
 - Eye for detail: Lord Acton
 - Institutional change
 - Contemporary bias
- Lure of History
 - Philosophes and rulers
 - Specialization and sense of history: Herodotus and Burckhardt

Natural Processes

- The long duree : Himalayas and Monsoons
- Monsoons
 - Continued impact on growth
 - Water harvesting and social structure
 - Famine and floods
 - Prediction, folklore & parametric model
 - Infrastructure and demography. Plague
 - Population density and transition
- Deara

Technology, trade, empire, religion

- Trade Technology and Empire
 - Trade and Indian prosperity: gold, IT and the British
 - Military tech, repeated conquests, diversity, partition.
- Religion
 - Semitic and Indian religions
 - Religious reform and Islam
 - Religious fracture in India: British and Kerala
- Alberuni: Careless scribes and insularity
 - Census, Anil Sadgopal, School system

Social and Political Organisation

- Hierarchy and Civil Society
 - Ordering devices and segmentation
 - Rule of law and regulatory weakness
- Centralization and democratization
 - Medieval state, absolutism and democracy
 - British-landlord alliance and new classes
 - Incomplete centralization and panchayati Raj
 - Civil society: democracy and dictatorship
 - Harmonized quartet (Universal adult franchise and free press; Market driven division of labour; welfare state; universal rule of law) in conjunction with development (unlike India?)

Economy

- India in 18th century: well developed
- British rule and free trade imperialism
 - De-industrialization
 - Low growth rates
 - Modern infrastructure
 - Indian textile industry
- Post Independence
 - Dirigisme up to 1991
 - New economic policy

The Road Ahead

- Insularity and protection
- School system and technology
- Rule based civil society
- Services sector
- Development and democracy