
Outlines of Indian History

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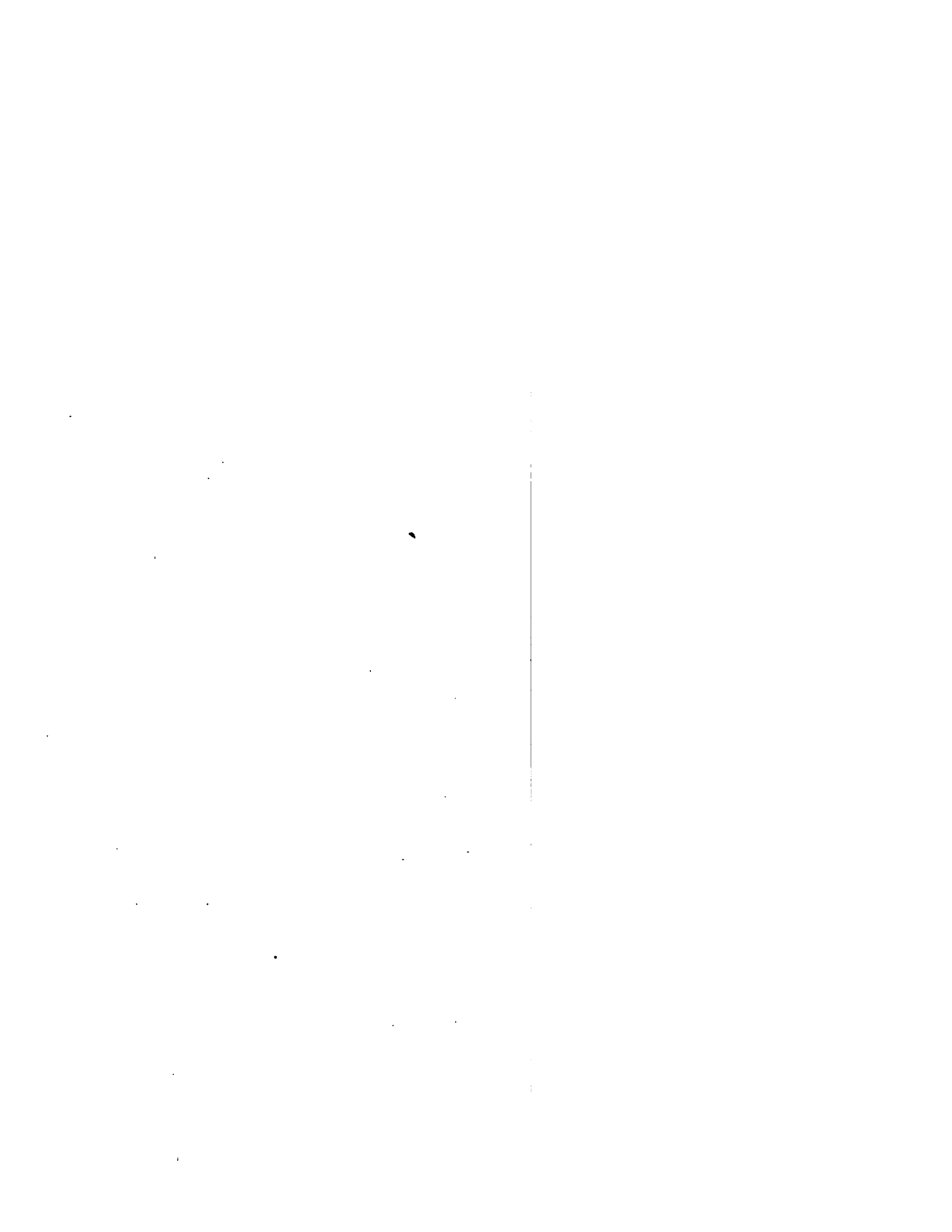
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OUTLINES OF INDIAN HISTORY.



OUTLINES OF
INDIAN HISTORY

COMPRISING THE HINDŪ, MAHOMEDAN
AND CHRISTIAN PERIODS

FROM THE EARLIEST DATE TO THE RESIGNATION OF
THE VICEROYALTY OF BRITISH INDIA BY
SIR JOHN (NOW LORD) LAWRENCE

WITH MAPS, AND APPENDICES CONTAINING DETAILS (WITH AREA
AND POPULATION) OF THE DIFFERENT PRESIDENCIES
AND PROVINCES COMPOSING BRITISH INDIA
AND NUMEROUS EXAMINATION
QUESTIONS

BY A. W. HUGHES

BOM. UNCOV. CIVIL SERVICE
AND GRAY'S INN



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PREFACE.

THESE "Outlines," arranged on the plan adopted by Messrs. Ince and Gilbert in their excellent little work, "Outlines of English History," have been divided into three parts, the Hindū, Mahomedan, and Christian periods, such as are now generally recognized as correct divisions of Indian history,—the first extending from the earliest periods of Hindū history up to the date of the invasion of India by Sūltān Mahmūd of Ghuzni (A.D. 1001). This portion, which is very indistinct and unsatisfactory in character, abounds in fabulous narratives and puerile legends, and though there is much that is interesting in the study of the two great Hindū epic poems, the Māhābhārat and the Rāmāyāna, the subjects are essentially mythical, and there is such an utter absence of all reliable dates, as to make them altogether useless as guideposts to authentic history.

The second portion extends from the reign of Sūltān Mahmūd, the Ghuznvide, to A.D. 1761, the year which witnessed the disastrous battle of Paniput, and the consequent annihilation of the great Maratta power, while at the same time it saw the Mogul Emperor of Delhi a fugitive, and the English already sufficiently powerful to take an important political part in India. This portion of its history is one of great interest, as describing the gradual acquisition of nearly all India by the Mahomedans, and particularly so when treating of the Mogul emperors of the house of Teimūr, whose extensive conquests, as well as splendour and magnificence, have been made known not only by the native historians of

those times, but by European travellers also, who were eye-witnesses of the great displays of grandeur at one or other of the imperial courts.

The third, and by far the most important portion of Indian history, is the period of Christian rule, commencing from the year 1761, when the Mogul empire was to all intents and purposes politically extinguished, and the foundation of British supremacy in Hindūsthān securely laid, and extending to the present time, which in this compilation ends with the resignation of the Vice-royalty of British India by Sir John (now Lord) Lawrence and its assumption by Lord Mayo. In this portion, which necessarily occupies the largest space, there is to be found matter of the very highest interest, as showing the wonderful progress of a body of foreigners, who, permitted at first merely to trade with the subjects of a great ruling power, found themselves under circumstances over which they had evidently no control, gradually attaining an ascendancy, which led in the end to their becoming the masters of that immense territory now recognised as British India. At no stage of this world's history is there anything to compare with the rise and progress of that great trading corporation known as the "EAST INDIA COMPANY." Consisting, in 1599, of a small capital and a few ships, its members cautiously ventured to obtain a share of that commerce in the East which the Portuguese and Dutch had enjoyed before them. By a strong and steady perseverance, and assisted at times by fortuitous circumstances, they laid the foundation of an extensive trade, and by taking part in the disensions of the different races with whom they were brought into contact, soon obtained a political ascendancy which enabled them to become the arbiters of the rise and fall of great Asiatic princes. At length, district after district, province after province, and ultimately whole kingdoms, fell in succession under their sway, and the result has been the extension of British

rule from the Punjāb to Cape Komorin. Never before had a simple trading company attained to such political power as this, and it was the more remarkable, since its directors had ever set their faces against territorial aggrandisement, and had specially desired this rule to be observed by their great officers, the Governors-General of India. How little this was heeded, and how impossible in fact it was found to attend to such an injunction, a careful perusal of the administrations of Warren Hastings, of the Marquesses Cornwallis, Wellesley, Hastings, and Dalhousie, will fully show.

The great Sepoy mutiny of 1857 shook for a time the British power in India to its foundation, and ended in the extinction of the "mighty Company," but it had the effect of removing, in a great measure, an immense native army, in itself a source of danger, more especially in Bengal, where its members consisted mostly of one caste and creed. From that time to the present, India has enjoyed, with the exception of a few petty wars, the blessings of a long peace, her trade and commerce have flourished, and her revenues have increased beyond all precedent; education has advanced among the people with mighty strides, and, to use the language of the Court of Directors of the East India Company at their last meeting in 1858, it is hoped "the millions placed under the Queen's direct, as well as sovereign dominion, may reward Her Majesty's cares in their behalf, by their faithful and firm attachment to Her Majesty's person and government."

A few remarks seem called for as to the plan here adopted for expressing Oriental words in English letters, especially as there exists much diversity of opinion on this head. Many names of places, hitherto written in maps and books with an initial and medial "c" have in this compilation, where considered necessary and without losing their proper sound, had the "c" changed into "k," thus:—Canara, Cutch, Cuttack, and Cashmir, have been spelt—Kanara, Kutch, Kuttak, and Kashmir.

Words containing a double "o," have had this changed to ū, as, Hindū instead of Hindoo; a long "a" is expressed by ā, as in Afghān, and a double "e" by i, as in Kurrachi and Mir. In this expression of letters, the plan adopted by Mountstuart Elphinstone and Eastwick has to some extent been followed, but a correct and standard system for properly expressing Hindū names in English characters, is a want greatly felt at the present time.

Two maps have been added to this compilation, one representing approximatively the kingdoms of "Bharutkund," or ancient India, with the names and position of the principal cities then existing; the other showing the extent of the Mogul empire in the time of Akbar. A map of British India has not been supplied, as large and elaborate atlases are at the present time so readily accessible to the student of history for purposes of reference. The appendices to this compilation consist of details of districts, with area and population, making up the different Presidencies and Provinces of British India, and among the numerous questions given on the history of India, are those which have from time to time been put to candidates at the examinations for appointments in the Indian Civil Service.

Among the works consulted for this compilation have been, Orme's "History of India," the Journals of the Royal Asiatic Society, Mill's "History of India," Ward's "Hindūs," Hardy's "Eastern Monachism," Mountstuart Elphinstone's "History of India," Anderson's "Western India," Taylor's and Capper's Histories of India, Chambers' "Sepoy Revolt" and "Encyclopædia," Marshman's "History of India," (Vols. I. II. and III.) and Prichard's "Administration of India," (Vols. I. and II.) besides references made to numerous government publications of recent date. To Mountstuart Elphinstone's and Marshman's histories the compiler is mainly indebted for the materials used in preparing these "Outlines."

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THE HINDŪ PERIOD FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO A. D. 1001.

THE extensive country known as INDIA is bounded by the Himalāya mountains, the river Indus and the sea. In length from Cape Komorin to Kashmir, it is 1,900 miles, and in breadth from Kurrachi to Assam about 1,500 miles. Its superficial area, according to a late statistical report (1867), is 1,552,028 square miles, and the population 192,573,814, of which British India comprises 955,238 square miles with 144,674,615 inhabitants. The Vindya mountains divide India into two immense portions, that to the north being called Hindūsthān, and the country to the south the Dekhun. In the former there are the basins of the two large rivers, the Ganges and Indus, together with a great sandy desert on the west, and a tract now called Central India, having an altitude of from 1,500 to 2,000 feet above the sea. The latter possesses a table-land of triangular form with ranges of mountains, known as the Western and Eastern Ghauts, stretching to the south and terminating at Cape Komorin, and having between them and the sea, a narrow belt of land running round the whole peninsula.