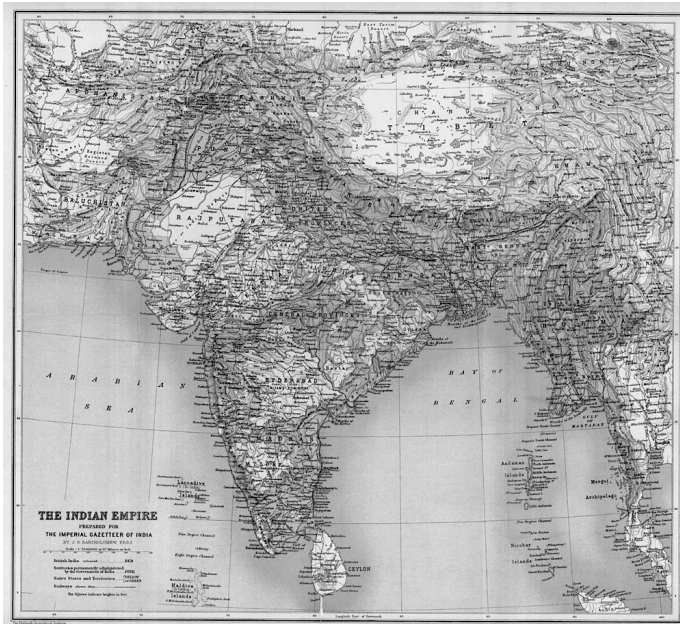


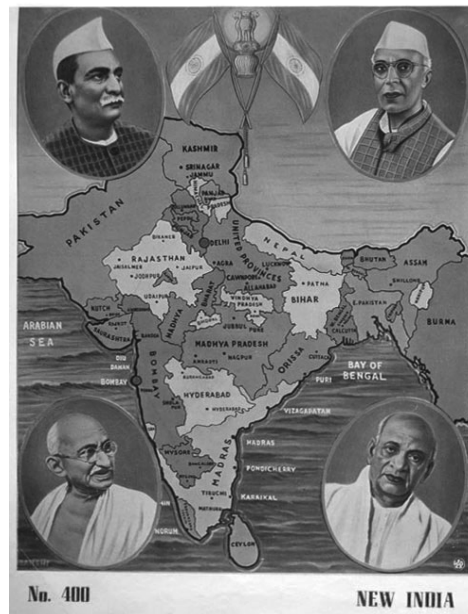
Professor Benjamin R. Siegel
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Lecture, Fall 2014:
Tuesdays, Thursdays 3:30 – 5:00
Room: CAS 237
Office Hours: Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00

HI234: Introduction to India and South Asia



Map of British India, c. 1909



Map of South Asia, c. 1950

Course Description

It is easy to think of the Indian subcontinent, home of nearly 1.7 billion people, as a region that is only now moving into the global limelight, propelled by India's remarkable growth against a backdrop of enduring poverty and the dramatic contestations over civil society in Pakistan.

Yet South Asia has been, since antiquity, one of the world's most important crossroads and melting pots, a place where cultures met and exchanged ideas, goods, and populations. The region was the site of history's most prolonged and intensive colonial encounter in the form of Britain's empire in India, and Indian individuals and ideas entered into long conversations with counterparts in Europe, the Middle East, East and Southeast Asia, and elsewhere.

Since India's independence and partition into two countries in 1947, the region has struggled to overcome poverty, disease, ethnic strife and political conflict. Its three major countries – India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh – have undertaken three distinct experiments in democracy with three radically divergent outcomes. Those countries' large, important diaspora populations and others have played important roles in these

nation's development, even as the larger world grows more aware of how important South Asia remains, and will become.

This course is a survey of South Asian history from antiquity to the present, focusing on the ideas, encounters, and exchanges that have formed this dynamic region. For the first two-thirds of the course, we will focus on the history of South Asia from ancient times to 1947, privileging the two-and-a-half centuries of British colonial rule in India and the political, social, and cultural contestations that culminated in its independence. In the course's final third, we will focus on the history of the region since India's partition, honing in on India but touching upon important comparative developments in Pakistan and Bangladesh. After proceeding chronologically, the last few weeks of the course will be structured more around major themes in twentieth-century South Asia.

Assignments and Evaluation

There will be two lecture classes each week, with ample time allotted in each session for discussion. The readings listed below are to be done before class: some weeks there is a relatively light workload, and other weeks are more demanding. For the first eight weeks of the course, we will rely primarily upon Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal's *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (London: Routledge, 2011). In the ninth week of the class, we will switch to readings from Ramachandra Guha, *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy* (New York: Ecco, 2007); copies of each are available at the Bookstore and on reserve in the library.

Each week there will be a number of primary source readings. These are drawn primarily from William Theodore De Bary and Ainslie T. Embree, eds., *Sources of Indian Tradition*, 2nd ed., vol. 1 (New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1991); and Rachel Fell McDermott et al., eds., *Sources of Indian Tradition*, 3rd ed., vol. 2: Modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013). These, and all other readings, will be made available online on Blackboard Learn.

This course will be graded on the basis of attendance and participation in class discussion, a small map quiz, an in-class midterm exam, and a final exam at the end of the semester. There will also be one book review assignment (5-7 pages), due before the final examination, asking you to situate a book of South Asian fiction in the context of the course material. You may choose between these following books, or another book with prior permission:

Ahmed Ali, *Twilight in Delhi* (1940); Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* (2008); Bama, *Karukku* (1992); Bibhutibhushan Banerji, *Pather Panchali [Song of the Road]* (1929); Upamanyu Chatterjee, *English, August* (1988); Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, *Devdas* (1917); Intizar Husain, *Basti* (1979); Kamala Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve* (1953); Taslima Nasrin, *Lajja [Shame]* (1993); Premchand, *Godaan [Gift of a Cow]* (1936); Raja Rao, *Kanthapura* (1938); Rahi Masoom Reza, *A Village Divided* (1984); Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (1980); Sankar, *Chowringhee* (1962); Fakir Mohan Senapati, *Six Acres and a Third* (1902); Kushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan* (1956); Sri Lal Sukla, *Raag Darbari* (1969)

Class attendance is expected, as is arriving on time and staying for the entire class: the lectures cover different (often very different) material from the assigned reading, which should be finished prior to class. Computers and cell phones are not permitted in the classroom, unless the former are required for documented accessibility needs. Plagiarism is a serious offense and, if suspected, will be referred to the Dean's Office; a copy of Boston University's code of conduct is available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>.

Beyond these reminders, it is also essential in a course of this nature to approach the course material and your classmates with respect and an academic mindset and attitude: much of the material we will cover, particularly that regarding religion, caste, and ethnicity in South Asia, is controversial and the subject of heated debate well outside of the region. Please be sensitive to this dynamic in our classroom discussions.

I encourage you to come to office hours, either by appointment or by simply dropping in, to discuss your writing and course matters more generally. I will respond to all e-mails within twenty-four hours but not necessarily on the same day or night that you write; I also expect you to be similarly accessible via your BU e-mail address.

Final grades will be based on the following rubric:

Attendance and participation: 15%
Map Quiz: 5%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Book review: 20%
Final Exam: 40%

Weekly Reading and Lecture Schedule

September 2, 2014: Introductory Lecture

September 4, 2014: The "Idea of India"

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 1, "South Asian History: An Introduction"
- Jawaharlal Nehru, "The Panorama of India's Past," "Bharat Mata," and "The Variety and Unity of India," in *The Discovery of India* (New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2010).

September 9, 2014: From Mohenjo-Daro to the Conquest of Sindh: Ancient India

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 2, “Modernity and Antiquity: Interpretations of Ancient India”
- “The Origin of the World” [from the Vedic literature], SOIT 1, p. 20-21
- Buddha, “The Four Noble Truths,” SOIT 1, p. 100-101
- Varna-Dharma or Organization of the Four Classes, SOIT 1, p. 221-223
- “The Necessity of Action” [from the Bhagavad-Gita], SOIT 1, p. 280-283

September 11, 2014: Indo-Islamic Exchanges

- Bose and Jalal Chapter 3, “Pre-Modern Accommodations of Difference: The Making of Indo-Islamic Cultures”
- Mahmud of Ghazni, SOIT 1, p. 437-446
- Selections from Kabir, SOIT 1, p. 373-385
- Early Sufism in India, SOIT 1, p. 450-456
- Selections from the *Adi Granth* [Guru Granth Sahib Ji], SOIT 1, p. 501-508
- **Map Quiz, In Class**

September 15, 2014: The Mughal Empire

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 4, “The Mughal Empire: State, Economy and Society”
- Babur, “My Observations on Various Aspects of Hindustan,” in *Babur Nama: Journal of Emperor Babur*, trans. Annette Susannah Beveridge (New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2006), p. 264-278.
- Akbar, “The Divine Faith,” SOIT 1, p. 469-471

September 18, 2014: The Decentralization or Decline of the Mughal Empire

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 5, “India Between Empires: Decline or Decentralization?”
- Aurangzeb, “Letters to His Sons,” SOIT 2, p. 4-5
- Iradat Khan, “Decay at the Center of the Empire,” SOIT 2, p. 7-8

September 23, 2014: The Rise of the British Empire in South Asia

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 6, “The Transition to Colonialism: Resistance and Collaboration”
- “Business Men are the Glory and Ornament of the Kingdom,” SOIT 2, p. 22-23
- Ghulam Husain Khan, “The Nawab of Bengal, the Marathas, and the Jagat Seths,” SOIT 2, p. 24-25

September 25, 2014: Indian Society under “Company Raj”

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 7, “The First Century of British Rule, 1757 to 1857: State and Economy”
- The Nawab of Bengal, “I Have No Remedy,” SOIT 2, p. 52-53
- Richard Becher, “This Fine Country is Verging Towards its Ruin,” SOIT 2, p. 53-54

September 30, 2014: Religious and Social Reform in British India

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 8, “Company Raj and Indian Society, 1757 to 1857: Reinvention and Reform of “Tradition””
- Thomas Babington Macaulay, “Speech to Parliament on the Government of India Bill,” “The Minute on Education,” SOIT 2, p. 68-72
- Rammohan Roy, “Hinduism is Not Inferior to Christianity,” SOIT 2, p. 74-75
- Duarte Barbosa, “[The Practice of Sati](http://goo.gl/eDdQyz),” <http://goo.gl/eDdQyz>

October 2, 2014: The “Great Mutiny” of 1857

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 9, “Eighteen Fifty-Seven: Rebellion, Collaboration and the Transition to Crown Raj”
- The Azamgarh Proclamation, SOIT 2, p. 98-101
- The Rani of Jhansi: An Eyewitness Account, SOIT 2, p. 101-106
- Bahadur Shah: The Last Days of the Last Mughal Emperor, SOIT 2, p. 106-108

October 7, 2014: India’s “Crown Raj” and Late Colonial Economy

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 10, “High Noon of Colonialism, 1858 to 1914: State and Political Economy”
- Dadabhai Naoroji, “The Pros and Cons of British Rule” SOIT 2, p. 188-191
- Romesh Chunder Dutt, “The Causes of India’s Poverty” SOIT 2, p. 211-216
- Sayyid Ahmed Khan, “The Indian National Congress as a Danger and a Folly” SOIT 2, p. 216-224

October 16, 2014: The Birth of “Swadeshi” Nationalism

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 11, “A Nation in the Making? ‘Rational’ Reform, ‘Religious’ Revival and Swadeshi Nationalism, 1858 to 1914”
- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, “Hail to the Mother” SOIT 2, p. 254-262

October 9, 2014: In-Class Midterm

October 21, 2014: Mohandas Gandhi and Indian Nationalism in the 1920s

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 12, “Colonialism Under Siege: State and Political Economy after World War I” and Chapter 13, “Gandhian Nationalism and Mass Politics in the 1920s”
- Mohandas K. Gandhi, “Hind Swaraj and the Proper Relationship Between Means and End,” “Hindu-Muslim Tension, Its Cause and Cure,” “Untouchability and Swaraj,” SOIT 2, p. 345-363

October 23, 2014: The Great Depression and World War II in India

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 15, “Nationalism and Colonialism during World War II and its Aftermath: Economic Crisis and Political Confrontation”
- Mohandas K. Gandhi, “[Quit India Speech](http://www.mkgandhi.org/speeches/qui.htm),” August 8, 1942, <http://www.mkgandhi.org/speeches/qui.htm>

October 28, 2014: “Communalism” and the Call for Pakistan

- Anatol Lieven, “The Struggle for Muslim South Asia,” in *Pakistan: A Hard Country* (London: Allen Lane, 2011), p. 41-58.
- Muhammad Iqbal, “A Separate State for Muslims Within India,” SOIT 2, p. 488-491
- Choudhary Rahmat Ali, “The Fatherland of the Pak Nation,” SOIT 2, p. 494-496
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah, “Hindus and Muslims: Two Separate Nations,” SOIT 2, p. 500-503

October 30, 2014: Independence and Partition

- Bose and Jalal, Chapter 17, “1947: Memories and Meanings”
- Jawaharlal Nehru, “India’s Tryst with Destiny,” SOIT 2, p. 595-596
- Saadat Hasan Manto, “[Toba Tek Singh](http://goo.gl/kexfUA),” <http://goo.gl/kexfUA>
- Stories of Flight, Abduction, and Honor Killing, SOIT 2, p. 583-590

November 4, 2014: The World’s Largest Democracy

- Guha, Prologue, “Unnatural Nation,” Chapter 7, “The Biggest Gamble in History,” Chapter 8, “Home and the World,”
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, “The Constitution of India,” SOIT 2, p. 600-603
- Rabindranath Tagore, “India’s National Anthem,” SOIT 2, p. 594-595

November 6, 2014: Regional Conflict and Authoritarianism

- Guha, Chapter 9, “Redrawing the Map,” Chapter 12, “Securing Kashmir,” Chapter 22, “Autumn of the Matriarch,” and Chapter 24, “Democracy in Disarray”
- V.P. Menon, “The Integration of the Indian States,” SOIT 2, p. 604-608

November 11, 2014: Land of the Pure: State and Society in Pakistan

- Anatol Lieven, “The Struggle for Muslim South Asia,” in *Pakistan: A Hard Country* (London: Allen Lane, 2011), p. 58-80.
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah, “The Vision of Secular Pakistan,” SOIT 2, p. 759-761
- Sayyid Abul Ala Maududi, “The Islamist Vision of an Islamic System,” SOIT 2, p. 767-763

November 13, 2014: Golden Bengal: the Creation of Bangladesh

- Willem van Schendel, “The Pakistan Experiment,” “Pakistan Falls Apart,” “Armed Conflict,” “A State is Born,” in *A History of Bangladesh* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009); p. 107-130, 161-190.
- Sheikh Mujib: “The Awami League’s Six Points,” SOIT 2, p. 848-850

November 18, 2014: Poverty, Development, and Liberalization

- Guha, Chapter 10, “The Conquest of Nature” and Chapter 29, “Riches”
- Katherine Boo, “Prologue: Between Roses,” and “Annawadi,” in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* (New York: Random House, 2012), p. ix-xxii, 3-16.

November 20, 2014: Caste in Modern India

- Guha, Chapter 11, “The Law and the Prophets,” and Chapter 26, “Rights”
- B.R. Ambedkar and M.K. Gandhi, “The Gandhi-Ambedkar Debate,” SOIT 2, p. 421-429

November 25, 2014: Hindu Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict in India

- Guha, Chapter 17, “Minding the Minorities,” and Chapter 27, “Riots”
- Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, “The Glories of the Hindu Nation,” SOIT 2, p. 484-487

December 2, 2014: South Asia and its Diasporas

- Vivek Bald, *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013); selections TBA.

December 4, 2014: The Creation of an Indian Popular Culture

- Guha, Chapter 27, “A People’s Entertainments”
- Faiza Ahmad Khan, *Supermen of Malegaon* (Montréal: Ciné Fête, 2008); in-class.
- **Book reviews due at beginning of class**

December 9, 2014: Final Reflections on “The World’s Largest Democracy”

- Guha, Chapter 28, “Rulers,” and Epilogue, “Why India Survives”
- Rana Dasgupta, “[Capital Gains](#),” *Granta* 107 (Summer 2009), <http://www.ranadasgupta.com/texts.asp>
- Joe Sacco, “[Kushinagar](#) [Comic],” *The Caravan* (January 2012), <http://www.caravanmagazine.in/reporting-and-essays/kushinagar>

Final exam between December 15 and December 19, 2014 (TBA)