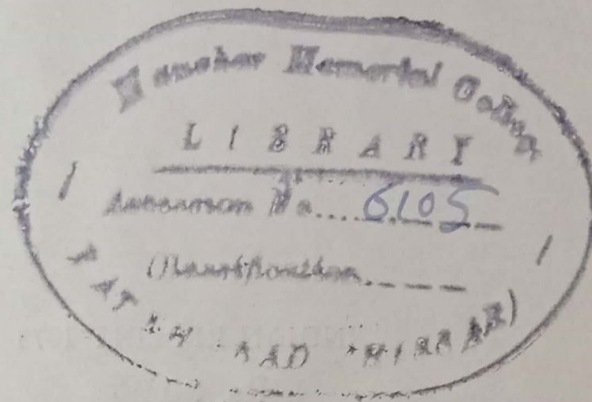
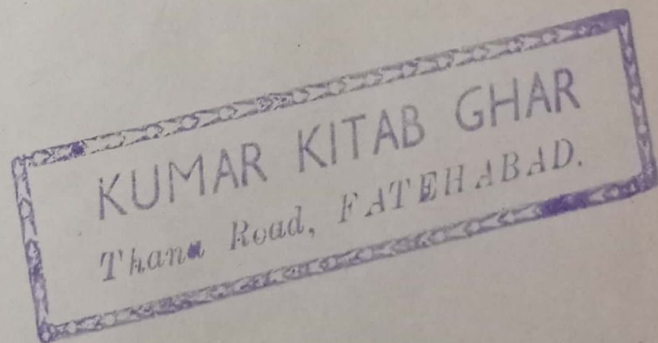


A
BRIEF HISTORY
OF
THE INDIAN PEOPLES



By
Sir WILLIAM WILSON HUNTER



ORIENTAL PUBLISHERS

1488, Pataudi House, Daryaganj, Delhi-6. (India)

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
THE COUNTRY,	13-26

Situation and size of India, 13, 14; the three regions of which it is composed, 14; first region—the Himálayas, 14-17; Himálayan river system—Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra, Ganges and Jumna, 17, 18; second region—river plains of India, 18, 19; work done by the rivers—the Bengal delta, 20-22; crops and scenery of the river plains, 23; third region—the southern tableland, its scenery, rivers and products, 25, 26; British Burma, 26.

CHAPTER II.

THE PEOPLE,	27-32
-----------------------	-------

General survey of the population, 27; population statistics in British and Native India, 27-29; density of population, 30; scarcity of large towns, 30; overcrowded and under-peopled Districts, 30, 31; nomadic system of husbandry, 31; rise in rents, 31; abolition of serfdom, 31; four-fold division of the people, 32; the two chief races of pre-historic India, 32.

CHAPTER III.

THE NON-ARYANS,	33-43
---------------------------	-------

The non-Aryans or 'Aborigines,' 33; described in the Veda, 33, 34; the non-Aryans at the present day, 34, 35; the Andaman islanders, 35; hill tribes in Madras, 35, 36; in the Vindhya ranges, 36; in the Central Provinces, 37; leaf-wearing tribe in Orissa, 37; Himálayan tribes, 37, 38; the Santáls of Lower Bengal, their system of government, history, etc., 38, 39; the Kandhs of Orissa, their customs, human sacrifices, etc., 40, 41, 42; the three great non-Aryan stocks, 42; character of the non-Aryans, 43.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

6

CHAPTER IV.

PAGE

44-64

THE ARYANS IN INDIA,
 Early Aryan conquest in Europe and Asia, 44; the Aryans in their primitive home in Central Asia, 45; the common origin of European and Indian religions, 45; and of the Rig-Veda, languages, 45; Indo-Aryans on the march, 46; the Vedic gods, 46, 47; Aryan civilisation in the Veda, 47, 48; the Vedic gods, 48-50; the Bráhmanas, 51; the four castes formed, 51, 52; establishment of the Bráhman supremacy, 52; four stages of Bráhman's life, 52, 53; the modern Bráhman philosophy, literature, medicine, music, law, poetry, 55-58; the epics of the Máhábhárata and the Rámáyana, 58-62; later Sanskrit epics, 62, 63; the Sanskrit drama and lyric poetry, 63, 64.

CHAPTER V.

BUDDHISM IN INDIA (543 B.C. to 1000 A.D.), 65-74
 Rise of Buddhism, 65; life of Gautama Buddha, 65-67; Buddha's doctrines, 67, 68; missionary aspects of Buddhism, 68, 69; early Buddhist councils, 69; Asoka's conversion to Buddhism, and its establishment as a State religion, 69; his rock edicts, 69, 70; Kanishka's council, 70, 71; rivalry of Buddhism and Bráhmanism, 71, 72; Śiláditya's council (634 A.D.), 72; great Buddhist monastery of Nalanda, 73; victory of Bráhmanism (600 to 800 A.D.), 73; Buddhism an exiled religion from India (900 A.D.), 73; the Jains the modern successors of the ancient Buddhists, 73, 74; influence of Buddhism on modern Hinduism, 74.

CHAPTER VI.

THE GREEKS IN INDIA (327-161 B.C.), 75-79
 Early Greek references to India, 75; Alexander the Great's campaign in the Punjab and Sind, 76, 77; his successors, 77; Chandra Gupta's kingdom in Northern India, 77, 78; Megasthenes' description of India (300 B.C.), 78; later Greek invasions, 79.

CHAPTER VII.

SCYTHIC INROADS (about 100 B.C. to 500 A.D.), 80-83
 The Scythians in Central Asia, 80; Scythic kingdoms in Northern India, 80, 81; Scythic races still in India, 81; wars of Vikramáditya

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

7

PAGE

against the Scythians (57 B.C.), and of Saliváhana (78 A.D.), 81, 82; later opponents of the Scythians—the Śtáh Gupta, and Vallabhí dynasties, 82, 83.

CHAPTER VIII.

GROWTH OF HINDUISM (700 to 1500 A.D.), 84-97

The three sources of the Indian people—the Aryans, non-Aryans, and Scythians, 84, 85; Aryan work of civilisation, 85; the Bráhmanas, 85, 86; two-fold basis of Hinduism, caste and religion, 86-89; Buddhist influences on Hinduism, 89; non-Aryan influences on Hinduism, 89; the Hindu Book of Saints, 89, 90; Sankara Achárya, the Sivaite religious reformer of the ninth century, 90; twofold aspects of Siva-worship, 90, 91; the thirteen Sivaite sects, 92; Vishnu-worship, 92, 93; the Vishnu Purána (1045 A.D.), 93; Vishnuvite apostles—Rámánuja (1150 A.D.), Rámánand (1300-1400 A.D.), Kabír (1380-1420 A.D.), Chaitanya (1485-1527 A.D.), Vallabha-Swámi (1520 A.D.), 93-97; religious bond of Hinduism, 97.

CHAPTER IX.

EARLY MUHAMMADAN CONQUERORS (714-1526 A.D.), 98-119

List of Muhammadan dynasties, 98, 99; Arab invasions in Sind (636-828 A.D.), 99, 100; India on the eve of the Muhammadan conquest, 100, 101; Muhammadan conquests only partial and temporary, 101, 102; first Túrki invasions—Subuktigín (977 A.D.), 102; Mahmúd of Ghazni (1001-1030), his seventeen invasions of India and sack of Somnáth, 102-105; house of Ghor (1152-1206), 106; defeat of the Rájput clans, 106, 107; conquests of Bengal (1203), 107; the Slave kings (1206-1290)—Kutab-ud-dín, 108; Altamsh, 108, 109; Empress Ráziya, 109; Mughal irruptions and Rájput revolts, 109; Balban, 109, 110; house of Khiljí (1290-1320), 110-112; Jalá-ud-dín, 110, 111; Alá-ud-dín's conquests in Southern India, 111; extent of the Muhammadan power in India (1306), 111, 112; Khusrú, the renegade Hindu emperor, 112; the Tughlak dynasty (1320-1414), 113-115; Muhammad Tughlak, his cruelties, revenue exactions, 113-115; Firúz Sháh Tughlak, his canals, 115; Timúr's invasion (1398), 115; the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties, 115-116; Hindu kingdoms of the south—Vijayanagar, 116; the Muhammadan States in the Deccan, and downfall of Vijayanagar, 116-119; Independence of the Muhammadan States (1500 A.D.), 119.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

10

CHAPTER XIV.

PAGE

184-204

THE CONSOLIDATION OF BRITISH INDIA,

Marquis of Cornwallis' second administration (1805), 184; Sir George Barlow (1805), 184; Earl of Minto (1807-1813), 184, 185; Lord Moira (Marquis of Hastings), 1814-1823, 185-188; the Gúrkha war (1814-1815), 185, 186; Pindári war (1817), 186, 187; last Marhattá war (1817-1818), and annexation of the Peshwá's territory, 187, 188; Lord Amherst (1823-1828), 188-190; first Burmese war, 189, 190; capture of Bhártpur, 190; Lord William Bentinck (1828-1835), 190-192; Bentinck's financial reforms, 191; abolition of *Sati* and suppression of *Thagi*, 191, 192; renewal of Company's charter (1833), 192; Mysore protected and Coorg affairs, 192; Lord Metcalfe (1835-1836), 192, 193; Lord Auckland (1836-1842), 193-195; the first Afghán campaign and our early dealings with Kábul, 193, 194; installation of Sháh Shujá by the British (1840-1841), 193, 194; military occupation of Afghánistán and massacre of the British force on its rising of the Afgháns, and massacre of the British force on its winter retreat to India, 194, 195; the army of retribution (1842), 195, 196; Lord Ellenborough's proclamation, the gates of Somnáth, 196; conquest of Sind (1843), 196; Lord Hardinge (1844-1848), 196, 197; history of the Sikhs and of their rise into a power under Ranjít Sinb, 196-198; first Sikh war (1845), battles of Múdkí, Firozshahr, Aliwál, and Sobráon, 198; Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856), 198-204; his administrative reforms, the Indian railway system, 198; second Sikh war (1848-1849), battles of Chilianwála and Gujráat, 199; pacification of the Punjab, 199, 200; second Burmese war (1852), 200; Dalhousie's policy towards the Native powers, 201, 202; Dalhousie's policy towards the Native powers, 201, 202; annexation of Oudh (1856), 202, 203; Dalhousie's work in India, 203, 204; Earl Canning in India before the Mutiny (1856-1857), 204.

CHAPTER XV.

THE SEPOY MUTINY OF 1857. 205-211

Causes of the Mutiny, 205; the 'greased cartridges,' 206; the army drained of its talent, 206; the outbreak in May 1857, 207; spread of the rebellion, 207, 208; Cawnpore, 208; Lucknow, 208, 209; Delhi, 209; reduction of Oudh by Lord Clyde, 209, 210; of Central India by Sir Hugh Rose, 210; summary of the history of the Company's charters, 210, 211; India transferred to the Crown (1858), 211.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

11

CHAPTER XVI.

PAGE

212-217

INDIA UNDER THE BRITISH CROWN, 1858-1883.

The Queen's Proclamation of 1st November 1858, the cost of the Mutiny, 212; Mr. Wilson's financial reforms, 212, 213; legal reforms, 213; Lord Elgin (1862-1863), 213; Lord Lawrence (1864-1869), the Bhután war, Orissa famine of 1866, 213; Lord Mayo (1869-1872), the Ambála *darádr*, visit of the Duke of Edinburgh, establishment of Agricultural Department, reform of internal customs lines, Lord Mayo assassinated at the Andamans, 213, 214; Lord Northbrook (1872-1876), dethronement of the Gáekwár of Baroda, visit of the Prince of Wales to India, 214; Lord Lytton (1876-1880), Proclamation of the Queen as Empress of India, the great famine of 1876-1877, 215; Afghán affairs (1878-1880), 215, 216; Marquis of Ripon (1880-1883), conclusion of the Afghán war, 216; Sir Evelyn Baring, 216; Education Commission, 216; Native Troops in Egypt, 217.