

# The South Asia File



# The South Asia File

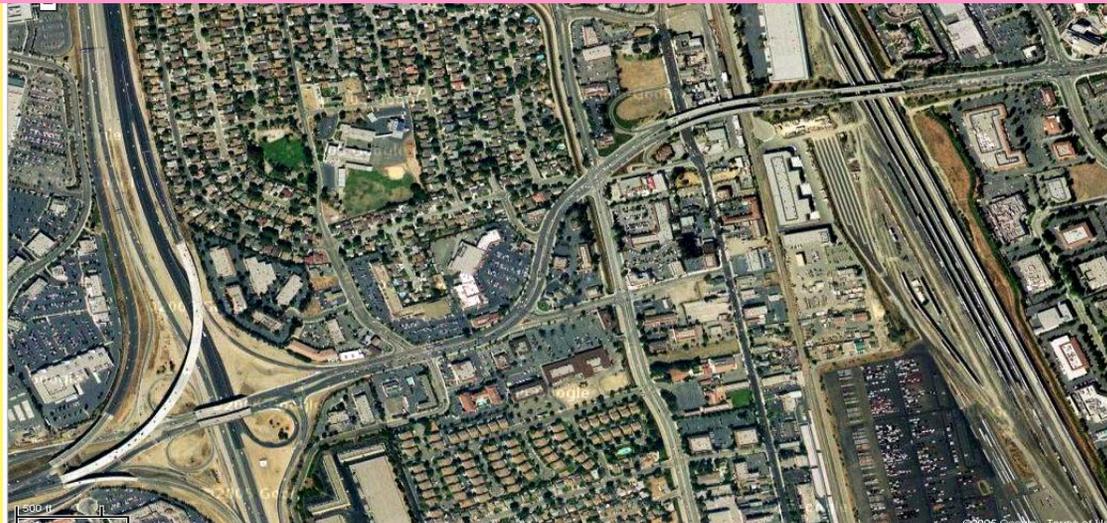


**India Research Foundation**

**Lecture Series on**

**Strategic issues facing India and the Indic Civilization**

**Inaugural Lecture January 27, 2006**



# Topical Research Series

Strategic Issues Facing India and the  
Indic Civilization

**India Research Foundation**



# The South Asia File



## A Geopolitical and Historical Perspective of the Indian Subcontinent

Narrated by  
Kaushal

In India I found a race of mortals  
living upon the Earth, but not adhering to it.  
Inhabiting cities, but not being fixed to them,  
Possessing everything but possessed by nothing.

- *Apollonius Tyanaeus*, Greek Thinker and Traveler,  
- 1st Century AD

# The South Asia File



**A Geopolitical and Historical Perspective of the Indian Subcontinent**

**Narrated by**

**Kaushal**

**The Colonial Impact on the reshaping  
of the mind of the Indic**

# The South Asia File

## Caveats



- No implication that the Brits were especially diabolical during their tenure as overlords of India. They were merely maintaining and furthering the interests of their Nation (Britain) –good reasons to admire the British
- When visualizing conditions in another era, medieval or ancient, one cannot simply extrapolate from current conditions.
- India was vastly different and distinct in many important respects – wealth and economy, status of women and other important parameters

# The South Asia File: Structure of presentation



- ◆ **Phase I Pre Independence (till 1947)**
  - **Primarily a British Endeavor**
- ◆ **Phase II Post Independence (till 1998)**
  - **Primarily orchestrated by Britain during the 50's and 60's with USA playing an increasingly dominant role especially after 1971**
- ◆ **Phase III Recent initiatives**
  - **Essentially a development initiated by ABV's 'natural allies' speech at UN. His predecessors Rajiv , PVNR and even Gandhi, tried but were unsuccessful in overcoming hostility of entrenched foreign policy mandarins in the US State**

# The South Asia File

A typical viewpoint among the elite of Pakistan



***I am against the imperial streak in the Indian psyche. The 1947 riots had a deep impact on my mind...About 5% to 6% Brahmanas dominate India.” “India will give its land when it will be divided into many pieces. India will have to be broken up. If India does not give us our land, we will go to war and divide India...believe me, India is so fragile. India has such weak joints that if we want we could strike these weak joints then India will dismember. ... Jinnah was right when he invited Ambedkar to join Pakistan. Where are the lower classes? I am an Islamist. Islam is the final destiny of mankind. Islam is moderate, Islam is progressive. Islam is everything that man needs. It is not necessary to become a Muslim but it is necessary to adopt the principles of Islam. Naseem Azavi and Iqbal’s writings have influenced my thinking.”***

***–Hamid Gul, Director General Pakistan ISI in the 90’s***

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Some questions we seek to answer



- ◆ How did this viewpoint come about and who or what nurtured such a weltanschauung
- ◆ When did this begin and what was the genesis
- ◆ What were the motives
- ◆ If there was such a concerted effort, could it be termed a conspiracy
- ◆ How was it executed
- ◆ Why is it important to study this topic
- ◆ Where does that leave us now

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## Phase I Pre Independence



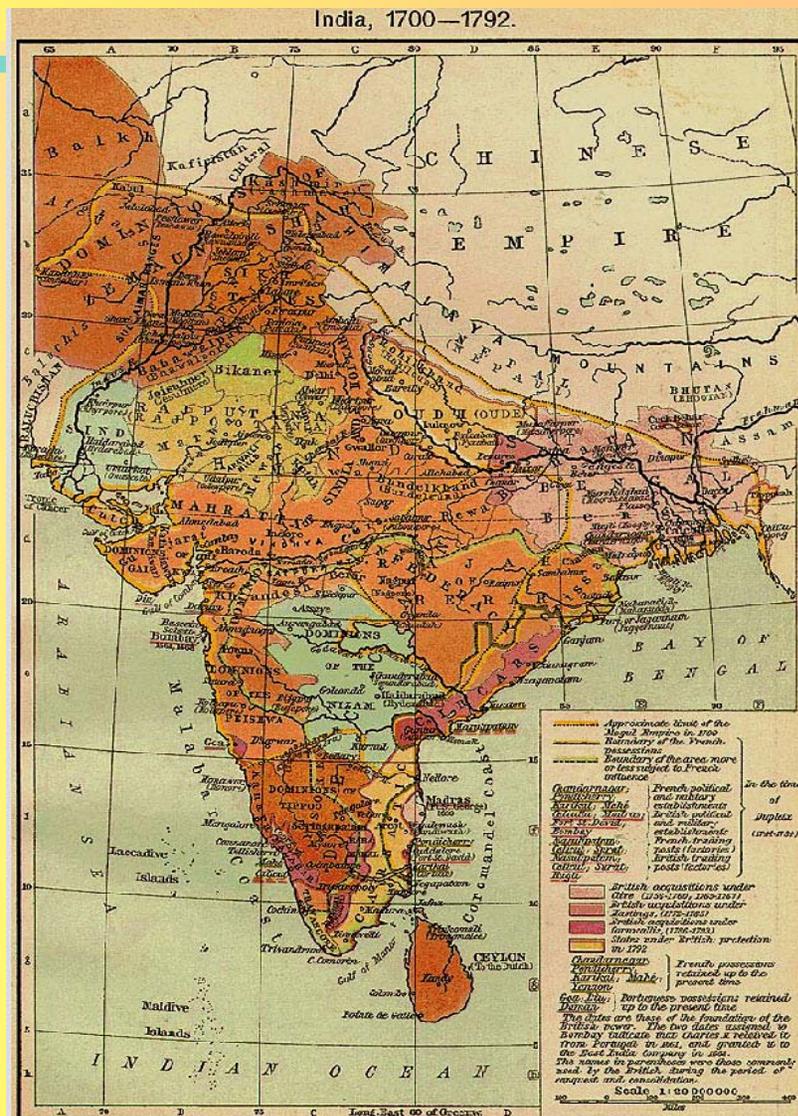
### Primarily a British Endeavor

**Note – the Brits never felt secure in India, especially after 1857, they were after all less than 100,000 in number and in all likelihood in the neighborhood of 20,000 at any given time (before the 1857 uprising)**

### The Goal

**To prolong British rule in India and control of the Indian subcontinent as long as feasible**

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Depicts growth of British Power and absence of Islamic domination since early 1700's

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## Why study the British Colonialist period?

**After all in the words of Fernand Braudel**

**Islamic rule in India as a "colonial experiment" was "extremely violent", and "the Muslims could not rule the country except by systematic terror. Cruelty was the norm -- burnings, summary executions, crucifixions or impalements, inventive tortures. Hindu temples were destroyed to make way for mosques. On occasion there were forced conversions. If ever there were an uprising, it was instantly and savagely repressed: houses were burned, the countryside was laid waste, men were slaughtered and women were taken as slaves."**

**For one thing the consequence of British actions are still with us and the techniques still in use**

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**Most in England, believed that the British Raj was in large part a Anglo Indian enterprise**

Sir Penderel Moon ” ***The British conquered the country with the assistance and connivance of Indians themselves, and then ruled it for over a century with their **collaboration and tacit consent**. The empire was from start to finish far more of a joint Anglo-Indian enterprise than either party has usually been inclined to admit. As early as 1795 one of the company’s servants, Sir John Shore, wrote ‘Our dominion of India has been established and is maintained by the natives themselves’ “***

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- ◆ **The initial motive for the Brits coming to India**
  - Profit through Plunder
  - India was one of the richest countries in the 17th century
  - But by the time they left India, she was unquestionably one of the poorest
- ◆ **Later, a multiplicity of motives were advanced, amongst which were**
  - External Factors
  - Rivalry with French (Napoleon) 1800's, Russians
- ◆ **As they came to be aware of the antiquity of India the Brits became more sophisticated in their explanations and in their future plans for India**

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## The Nature of the Colonialist Enterprise



**The freebooters of the 18th century were giving way to the bureaucrats of the 19th century. Ironically, it is highly debatable which of the two, freebooters or bureaucrats, were the most dangerous to the people of India. Treasure can be replaced. Cultures, once tampered with, are nearly impossible to reclaim**

**Kevin Hobson, “Ethnographic mapping and the Construction of the British Census in India “**

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## An alternate center of Sunni Islamic Power in the Indian subcontinent



- ◆ The plan to create an alternate center of Sunni Islamic Power was mooted by an Englishman by the name of William Skawen Blunt in the 1800's. He laid the foundation for what became the British policy towards the Islamic world
- ◆ Award special privileges to the Islamic Ummah within the subcontinent
- ◆ Encourage the extinction of the Indic civilization in its ancestral homeland thereby cutting off the Indic from the source of his tradition
- ◆ Britain set about methodically and systematically to execute the plan during the ensuing several decades

# The South Asia File

Why was the emasculation of the Indic civilization a key ingredient in British Policy towards India



- ◆ **Cut off the Indic from his own traditions.**
  - ✓ Note this is a key ingredient in European approach to domination of other races and countries
  - ✓ Examples – Pizarro and the Incas, Cortes and the Aztecs, reconquista in Spain, elimination of native American traditions in North America
  - ✓ Pressure from Missionaries –after 1857 – to eliminate Pagan religions in all British dominions

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The chronology of events is significant and critical to the analysis



- ◆ The 1857 uprising – the Brits were astonished at the extent of the unity inherent in the uprising and realized they could not hold India against a united populace
- ◆ Until then the Muslim sultans and their cohorts were held in great contempt
- ◆ Henceforth the plan to create a rival Sunni power in the subcontinent and to emphasize and exploit the diversity of India and to create tectonic faults in the landscape took on an added urgency
- ◆ The underlying assumption - control of the Indian subcontinent was essential for the well being and prosperity of Britain

**Genesis of Plan was hatched in the aftermath of the 1857 Uprising**  
**The Motive – to prolong British rule in India despite a sticky wicket**

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## Why was control of India important to the Brits

- ◆ **Bolstered its self image as the legitimate successor to the Roman Empire**
- ◆ **In one fell swoop the King (or Queen) of England became an Emperor with sway and absolute sovereignty over vast lands and a huge proportion of the population of the globe**
- ◆ **Britain became a world power despite the loss of the Americas and could claim global interests by virtue of its possession of India**
- ◆ **For example, Britain could dictate to China to purchase opium grown in India in order to pay for imports from China. India was a heaven sent opportunity for Britain ,the Crown jewel of the British Empire and formed the rationale for domination of other parts of the globe**

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## The Premise behind the Plan unveiled

- ◆ **Sir John Strachey (Finance minister 1874):** “The existence side by side of these (Hindu and Muslim) hostile creeds is one of the strong points in our political position in India. The better classes of Mohammedans are a source of strength and not weakness.” They **constitute a comparatively small but an energetic minority of the population whose political interests are identical with ours.**”
- ◆ **Sir James Caird of Thanjavur, 1879:** "there was no class except Brahmans, which was so hostile to the English."

# The South Asia File



## The Premise behind the Plan unveiled

**Sir John Strachey again "this is the first and most essential thing to learn –that there is not and never was an India or even any country of India, possessing according to European ideas any sort of unity ,physical, political about India**

**Note: the British public were sold on the notion that any kind of nationhood that India could aspire to was purely a consequence of the British conquest and dominion of India and the implication was strong that what Caesar giveth Caesar can take away**

**The plan was breathtakingly simple – work ceaselessly but circumspectly to see that there was no unity and then on the day of reckoning one could say 'see there is no unity, I have to divide the country accordingly'**



## The caste System of the Subcontinental Muslim

- ◆ **Despite egalitarian pretensions, the Subcontinental Muslim had/has a very well defined Caste hierarchy**
  - **Sayyeds – descended from Arab conquerors**
  - **Ashrafs – descended from Persian and Turkish conquerors**
  - **Atraps, Ajlafs and Arjals – Indian born converts and their descendants**
- ◆ **While officially maintaining there is no caste in Islam, the IM continues to ask for reservations and quotas**

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## The Subtext



- ◆ **Exploit the ethnic diversity of India and encourage the notion that India was not one cultural entity with common traditions**
- ◆ **Assert that everything good in India came from somewhere else, that India was just a compilation of continuous invasions.**
- ◆ **With the exception of a few martial races, that the Indic was incapable of defending himself**
- ◆ **Reinvent the caste system as a watertight system of stratified castes whose only interaction with one another was exploitive in nature**
- ◆ **Denigrate and ridicule the higher castes as the source of social stagnation and exploitation – this was truly a masterstroke – killed two birds with one stone deflected attention from themselves (the true exploiter) and placed it on the Brahmana. A tried and true tactic through the ages – destroy those in leadership positions among the competition and/or denigrate them endlessly**

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## Cast and the census of India



- ◆ No indigenous equivalent to the word 'Caste' in India. The English word Caste was derived from Portuguese word Casta which meant race, breed or lineage. Quite distinct from 'varna'
- ◆ The Brits institutionalized the word 'Caste', using the decennial Census of India as a tool for ethnographic mapping and conjured up 100's of new castes
- ◆ the Census acted as a catalyst for an increased consciousness of caste as caste status became an increasingly significant factor in attaining material status.
- ◆ See for instance Nicholas Dirks 'Castes of Mind'

# The South Asia File

## Cast and the Colonialist Enterprise



**Caste (as we experience it today in India) is neither an unchanged survival of ancient India nor a single system that reflects a core cultural value. Rather than a basic expression of Indian tradition, caste is a modern phenomenon – the product of a concrete historical encounter between India and British colonial rule**

**-Nicholas Dirks: *“Castes of Mind, Colonialism and the Making of Modern India”***

# The South Asia File



## Cast and the Colonialist Enterprise

*(continued)*

H. H. Risely, Commissioner of the 1901 census, also bared his underlying British prejudices in an 1886 publication which stated that race sentiment, far from being:

***“a figment of the intolerant pride of the Brahman, rests upon a foundation of fact which scientific methods confirm, that it has shaped the intricate grouping of the caste system, and has preserved the Aryan type in comparative purity throughout Northern India”***

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## Colonialism and its forms of knowledge

The command of Language and the Language of Command



Sir William Jones learning Sanskrit from Indian Pundits

# The South Asia File



## SIR WILLIAM JONES

The real pioneer of Indology was Sir William Jones (1746-94), a true scholar, gifted linguist and founder of the Royal Asiatic Society. Jones ostensibly became an ardent admirer of India.

Mukharji S.N., “Sir William Jones: A Study in Eighteenth Century British Attitudes to India, Orient Longman, 1987). However, even an acknowledged Indophile like Jones could not free himself from the Biblical dogma of Genesis which he took to be literal accounts. His chronology for ancient India, including the dating of Chandragupta Maurya to the period of Alexander's invasion of India was dictated at least in part by the Biblical dogma. Jones may not have had an ulterior motive in doing this. All the same, his disinclination to go against his scriptures renders his conclusions suspect and most likely incorrect.

Two acts with far reaching consequences

1. Misdating of ancient Indian chronology
2. Postulation of Proto Indo European Language

# The South Asia File



## Thomas Babington Macaulay

**Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-59) is best known for introducing English education in India. Though not a missionary himself, he believed that Christianity held the key to the problem of curing India's ignorance. Although he confessed to have no knowledge of Sanskrit and Arabic, he did not hesitate to belittle the religious works of the East.**

# The South Asia File



## Thomas Babington Macaulay

T.B. Macaulay



*Macaulay*

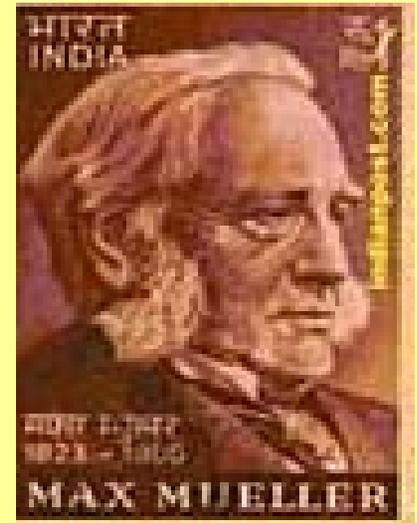
**“I have traveled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief. Such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage, and, therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native self culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation.”** Macaulay was the British version of Allauddin Khilji whose goal was similarly to break the self esteem of the Indian populace

# The South Asia File



## Friedrich Maximilian Mueller

Friedrich Max Mueller (1823-1900) was born in Dessau and educated in Leipzig, where he learned Sanskrit and translated the Hitopadesa of Pandita Visnu Sarma before coming to England in 1846. Since he was penniless, he was cared for by Baron von Bunsen, the Prussian ambassador to England who basked in the childishly pleasant thought of converting the whole world to Christianity. It was in London that Max Mueller met Macaulay who was still on the look out for his 'right man'.



# The South Asia File

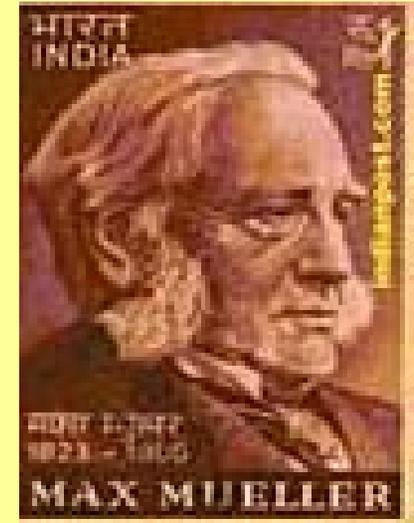


## Friedrich Maximilian Mueller

“Large number of Vedic hymns are childish in the extreme; tedious, low, commonplace.”

“Nay, they (the Vedas) contain, by the side of simple, natural, childish thoughts, many ideas which to us sound modern, or secondary and tertiary .The Vedas are like the twaddles of idiots and the ravings of madmen. Their downright absurdity can hardly be matched

Letter to his wife Oxford, Dec 9,1867 “...this edition of mine and the translation of the Vedas, will hereafter tell to a great extent on the fate of India and on the growth of millions of souls in that country. It (the Rg Veda) is the root of their religion and to show them what the root is, I am sure, the only way of uprooting all that has sprung from it during the last three thousand years”



# The South Asia File

## Discovery of Saraswathi Sindhu civilization



- ◆ **1920s - Discovery of Mohenjo Daro, Harappa by Rakhal Das Banerjee— final confirmation of the existence and history of Indian civilization. This may have firmed the resolve of the British to push through the plans for division of India.**
- ◆ **1930 – Plans to divide the country firmed when the Middle East was secure after the First World War and Saudi Arabia was already a state. The assessment of the colonial powers was that the game was up once the natives connected the Saraswathi Sindhu civilization with the Vedic tradition and that they would realize the true antiquity of their heritage. It would be difficult to keep the country colonized subsequently.**
- ◆ **1935 - The GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT passed by the British parliament. Burma and Aden were separated from India.**

# The South Asia File



Colonialist perspective of Indian History lingers today in the invasion theory of Indian history

The invasion theory of Indian History first postulated by Hegel (1899) that India lacked historical agency and that India was a cultural cul de sac from which nothing worthwhile ever emanated.

Aryan Invasion Theory (AIT), based largely on linguistic conjectures is a narrative that was force fitted to Hegel's postulate. In one brilliant master stroke, the Brits killed several birds with one stone.

Basic Postulates – that a race of nomadic Aryans came thundering across the passes of the Hindu Kush mountain range on horse drawn chariots and overcame the sedentary urban civilization of the Indus river valleys who happened to belong to the Dravidian race and then shortly thereafter in short order decided to compose the entire gamut of Vedic Literature from the Vedas , puranas, the smritis, the Brahmanas the Upanishads and the Itihaas of India. The transformation from Central Asian Nomads to the intellectual speculations inherent in the Vedic literature must surely rank as one of the most rapid transformations in human history

See for instance <http://www.boloji.com/architecture/00002.htm>

# The South Asia File



## The invasion theory of Indian history (continued)

### What did the postulation of AIT accomplish?

- ◆ Postulated a discontinuity between the Vedics and the Saraswathi Sindhu Civilization, and assigned a much more recent date to the Vedics and hopelessly confused the issue of the precedence of the Vedics to the demise of the SSC.
- ◆ Ergo, the Vedics became aliens to the subcontinent and became associated with the mythical Aryans, with all its 20<sup>th</sup> century fascist connotations
- ◆ To top it off, the caste system was now associated with these marauding Aryans
- ◆ The conclusion was inescapable –the Brits were simply a latter version of the Aryans to have conquered India and had as much legitimacy to remain and rule India as did the original Vedics
- ◆ Meanwhile back at the ranch, the defeated and displaced Dravidians allegedly retreated to the south and formed the bulk of the downtrodden castes of modern India – gave rise to the plethora of Dravidian parties in the state of Tamilnadu. So much so that today no party can get elected in TN without the appellation of Dravidian tacked on to its name.

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## Phase-I Pre Independence



### The Aftermath

The Brits played their meager hand very well. With a handful of men they conquered an entire subcontinent, and altered the consciousness of the Indic with a few lethal arrows in his quiver like

- 1.the Introduction of English,
  - 2.the postulation out of thin air of theories such as the AIT and
  - 3.last but not least reinvented and embellished the caste system to such a degree that it bore no resemblance to anything that existed before their arrival
- Truly the mark of genius

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## Phase-II Post Independence



- ◆ Primarily orchestrated by Britain immediately after the war during the 50's and 60's with USA playing an increasingly dominant role thereafter, especially after 1971. Post independence plans set in motion by Noel Baker (Commonwealth secretary) and Ernest Bevin (Foreign secretary) during the watch of Clement Atlee
- ◆ Initially the US (esp. George Marshall, Post war US secy. of state), was well disposed towards India. Marshall made the assertion that the accession of Kashmir to India was final and legal. Marshall even offered India a UNSC seat, but soon thereafter was convinced otherwise by Britain.

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## The Post Independence Plan



- ◆ Continuously undercut India in all international fora such as the UNSC while professing keen interest in the future development and well being of India The US and UK shocked Nehru when they voted for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue in the UN
- ◆ Recommend that India's defenses were kept at ridiculously low levels and not commensurate with the large size of the country, the large number of bordering countries and its long coast line
- ◆ Encourage the notion that Pakistan and India were essentially at parity in terms of defense and military capabilities and keep India occupied perennially fending of threats from Pakistan. A Pakistan now armed with modern weaponry from the US
- ◆ Emphasize at every opportunity that whatever unity India exhibited was the result of British colonial rule and that India would breakup rapidly once the British left
- ◆ Refer to India as Hindu dominated India or predominantly Hindu India

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## The Plan to create a New Khilafat



- ◆ **Process of creating new Khilafat out of the debris left after disintegration expected to take not more than 2 to 3 decades after independence.**
- ◆ **There were setbacks almost Immediately**
- ◆ **One of the main setbacks came in the form of Sardar Vallabhai Patel – the geography of present day India was created by Sardar Patel**

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## Setbacks in plan for a New Khilafat



- ◆ The annexation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir when Maharaja Hari Singh ceded his territory to India
- ◆ Rapid, timely and complete integration of princely states including Hyderabad thanks to Sardar Patel
- ◆ The decisive defeat of Pakistan in 1971, resulting in the surrender of 90,000 troops in one of the shortest wars in modern history demolished the myth of martial races within the subcontinent
- ◆ The fourth setback (and I am certain not the last) was the declaration by India that she was a Nuclear Power in 1998. The prevention of India from becoming a nuclear power was a canonical commandment of the US State Department Mandarins. The resulting discomfiture is one from which they have yet to recover

# The South Asia File

## Setbacks in plan for a New Khilafat



**1971 India Pakistan War - A watershed event in the subcontinent.**

**Demolished several myths:**

- ◆ **Notion of “two nation Theory” –origins in Islamic theology**
- ◆ **Notion that India and Pakistan were roughly equal in military power**
- ◆ **Psychological Boost for India- laid to rest the Martial races theory of the Brits**
- ◆ **Kissinger/Nixon doctrine revealed overtly what had been the worst kept secret of the cold war – the tilt towards Pakistan**

**There were unintended consequences magnified by Pokhran I – the West was alarmed that India would elect to become another militarized state**

**The term South Asia came into currency in a big way. The cold war against the Republic was resumed in earnest.**

# The South Asia File

## The West and the Islamic World



- ◆ Study the chronology of events in the Islamic world
- ◆ Islam and Christianity share a common Semitic heritage fundamentally Abrahamic in nature
- ◆ The Brits developed a relationship with the Ashrafs and the Saudis and the Iranians for different reasons but in the latter two cases because of Oil
- ◆ The Indic civilization was not appreciated till the 20<sup>th</sup> century and even then grudgingly with a lot of caveats (recall the slide on Colonialism and forms of knowledge)
- ◆ The West has always had difficulty dealing with the Indics. He could not reconcile the intellectual pretensions of the upper class Indian with the widespread poverty of the Indic populace (see for example remark by Risley on the Brahmana)-see remarks by Edwin Bryant
- ◆ When asked to rank the sacred books Max Mueller listed the new Testament and the Koran (they were not much different) at the top and the Vedas and the Avesta last

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## Why the tilt to the Islamic Ummah



### To summarize

- ◆ Oil
- ◆ The Subcontinental Muslim (especially the Ashraf) was considered more pliable, presumably because he was a minority
- ◆ Islam has a more well defined view of its Global presence. The educated Indian Muslim is no exception and looks outside India for his ideological moorings
- ◆ Islam has traditionally been more assertive about its place in the world scene – the squeaky wheel gets the grease
- ◆ Prejudice against the alternative – Nixon viewed Indians as Bastards

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- ◆ **Hinduism is not even recognized as an established religious faith in some countries, e.g. France**
- ◆ **Depiction of the Indic traditions (in particular the Hindu tradition) both in text books and in media is demeaning, derogatory, misleading and plain false**
- ◆ **Depiction of status of women is equally demeaning and false, see for instance**
- ◆ **Women and Hinduism in U.S. Textbooks**  
**by David Freedholm in Sulekha**
- ◆ **Puzzling Dimensions and Theoretical Knots in my Graduate School Research**  
**By Yvette Claire Rosser, M.A., Ph.D. - ABD**

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Sir William Jones (1746-1794) the founder of Indology, largely responsible for postulating a Proto Indo European language for which no speakers have been found and for misdating the chronology of ancient India	Hermann George Jacobi (1850-1837) was the first to suggest that the Vedic Hymns were collected around 4500 BCE based on Astronomical observations made by the Vedics
Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-1859) decreed English to be the medium of instruction, drafted the Indian Penal Code	Friedrich Maximilian Mueller (1823-1900) translated the books of the east. His private views of these books were vastly at variance with his public pronouncements
Roberto Di Nobili (1577-1656), Jesuit Priest, posed as a Brahmana, posed a counterfeit Veda, called the Romaka Veda	Rudolf Roth (1821-1893) studied rare manuscripts in Sanskrit
Abbe Dubois, Jean Antoine (1765-18) went to India to convert the heathen returned discouraged that it was very difficult too accomplish	William Carey (1761-1834), Missionary
Sir Charles Wilkins (1749-1836) Translated the Bhagavad Gita in 1785	Colonel Colin Mackenzie (1753-1821) Collector of Indian Manuscripts
Henry Thomas Colebrook (1765-1837) Studied Sanskrit from the Pundits and wrote on the Vedas	Horace Hayman Wilson (1786-1860) First Boden Professor of Sanskrit at Oxford U wrote on the Puranas
August Wilhelm Schlegel (1767-1845) Lecturer in Sanskrit, Bonn University	Franz Bopp (1791-1867) Did detailed research leading to postulation of Proto Indo European (PIE)
James Mill (1773-1836), Completed The History of British India in 1817	Colonel Boden who endowed the Boden Chair of Sanskrit Studies in 1811 with the purpose of debunking the Vedas
Sir Monier Monier-Williams (1819-1899), Boden Professor of Sanskrit, Oxford	Robert Caldwell (1815-1891) Collected Sanskrit manuscripts, a British missionary
Sir Alexander Cunningham (1814-1893), member of Asiatic Society of Bengal	Vincent Smith (1848-1920), author of Oxford History of India
Frederick Eden Pargiter (1852-1897) published 'Purana texts of the Dynasties of the Kali age'	Arthur Anthony McDonell (1854-1930), brought 7000 Sanskrit manuscripts from Kashi to Oxford University
Sir Mark Aurel Stein (1862-1943), Archaeological Survey of India	Maurice Bloomfield (1855-1928), interpreted the Vedas
Arthur Barriedale Keith (1879-1944) published 'The religion of and philosophy of the Vedas' in 2 volumes in 1925, Cannot be regarded as a authentic or reliable translation	Sir Robert Eric Mortimer Wheeler (1890-1976)
Morris Winternitz (1863-1937), wrote History of Indian Literature	Alexander Basham
Sir John Hubert Marshall, (1876-1958) director general Archaeological Survey of India	Alain Danielou (1907-1994)
Edwin Bryant (Ph.D Columbia, 1997)	Joseph Campbell (1904-1987) follows in the tradition of Heinrich Zimmer, albeit he uses the word myth much too liberally
Heinrich Zimmer (1890-1943) author of Philosophies of India "Indian philosophy was at the heart of Zimmer's interest in oriental studies, and this volume therefore represents his major contribution to our understanding of Asia. It is both the most complete and most intelligent account of this extraordinarily rich and complex philosophical tradition yet written."	

# The South Asia File



## Harvard Prof of Sanskrit Studies Michael Witzel's racist views of Hindus

Rajesh, I agree: The Hindus in North America ( HINAs) are not just hiina, "lost, abandoned", but they (understandably) cling to their homeland in all manners they can come up with.

“Reforming” our schoolbooks according to an imagined Golden Age (Ram Raj), hoary India is just one of the expressions we can observe.

They also tell their daughters to study Classical Indian dance (not exactly a highly regarded occupation back home), they build many temples and have Sunday schools (as many other ethnicities do). But, they hardly invest in Higher Education as other successful Asians have done. Nor allow their children to study items outside Law or Medicine, such as Indian Studies, --- the only way that members of their group could speak with real authority (for example, in school books).

# The South Asia File



## Nationhood and identity of India

India," Winston Churchill once barked, "is merely a geographical expression. It is no more a single country than the Equator." Churchill was rarely right about India, but it is true that no other country in the world embraces the extraordinary mixture of ethnic groups, the profusion of mutually incomprehensible languages, the varieties of topography and climate, the diversity of religions and cultural practices, and the range of levels of economic development that India does

**Shashi Tharoor in India, From Midnight to the Millennium**

# The South Asia File

## The term “South Asia” and Indic identity



- ◆ Began to be used by the US State Department after the 1971 war
- ◆ The US established numerous grants to Universities to develop South Asian studies with emphasis on subaltern studies and to study the role of Muslim minorities in India
- ◆ Served a twin purpose
- ◆ Minimized the predominantly Indic nature of the civilization
- ◆ Opportunity to give prominence to the notion of a hyphenated subcontinent where Pakistan has an equal role
- ◆ Further the plan to establish a Sunni Ummah in “South Asia”

# The South Asia File



Phase III Recent initiatives to arrive at an entente

- ◆ **Essentially a development initiated by ABVajpaae's 'natural allies' speech at UN.**
- ◆ **His predecessors Rajiv, PVNRao and even Indira Gandhi in her second term, tried but were unsuccessful in overcoming hostility of entrenched foreign policy mandarins, a legacy of the Nixon/Kissinger doctrine which institutionalized the anti-India tilt practiced with circumspection since the days of John Foster Dulles**

# The South Asia File

## Towards a strategic partnership



**India is no longer dismissed as a perennially underdeveloped country but as an Emerging Power**

**Despite almost five decades of hostility from the west the Indian republic has made significant strides in its geopolitical ranking.**

**India has**

- ◆ **become self sufficient in feeding her vast population. There have been no famines since 1947. India is now the worlds largest producer of milk and other food products**
- ◆ **developed a respectable manufacturing infrastructure**
- ◆ **vaulted to the top rank countries in IT**
- ◆ **Has become self sufficient in Prescription/OTC Drugs and has developed a strong infrastructure in Biotech**
- ◆ **Whether the change in perception is merely cosmetic remains to be seen.**

# The South Asia File

## Towards a strategic partnership (contd.)



We need to see more such views from Americans before we are convinced there is a change in perception among the foreign policy mandarins

### Why What's Good for India Is Good for Us

**by Charles Wheelan, Ph.D**

**I spent two weeks last month in India, one of the most fascinating places on the planet. Where else can you stroll through the gleaming high-tech Bangalore campus of Infosys only hours after getting stuck in a traffic jam on a major highway caused by a collision between a tractor and an ox cart?**

# The South Asia File

## Towards a strategic partnership (contd.)



**It is best to keep hopes realistic in the face of what are apparently moves of far reaching significance**  
**US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said South Asia is going to be "very high" on her list of priorities and that President George W Bush would be visiting India sometime this year with a view to "enhancing" US' relationship with New Delhi.**

**Phrases that come to mind are:**

- **Agnostic – more credibility if they do not see the need to hyphenate**
- **Keep your powder dry**
- **‘Show me’**
- **Trust but verify**

# The South Asia File



## Global Geopolitical Ranking (using multiple of GDP-PPP basis and per capita GDP relative to USA)

1. United States (100%)
2. Japan (27%)
3. China (25%)
4. Germany (17%)
5. France (12%)
6. United Kingdom (12%)
7. Italy (11%)
8. **India (8.5%)**
9. Canada (7.8%)
10. Russia (6.5%)
11. Spain (6.4%)
12. Brazil (5.8%)
13. Korea (5.5%)
14. Australia (4.7%)

Ref: GLOBAL POWER FROM THE 18TH TO THE 21ST CENTURY: POWER POTENTIAL (VIP2), STRATEGIC ASSETS AND ACTUAL POWER (VIP),

- ◆ by Dr Arvind Virmani, until recently, Director & Chief Executive of ICRIER (Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations), New Delhi, was released in November 2005.

# The South Asia File



## Futurology

There are 4 possible scenarios

1. India and by association the Indic civilization) will be recognized for her Global sweep and reach
2. India will be grudgingly recognized for her economic and( to a lesser extent) military clout
3. India will always be consigned to the status of a 'wannabe' great power and at best an emerging power (present status) and her civilization will also be under 'virtual' attack (present status)
4. Demographic conditions will reach a point where her civilization will have even less political backing within India than the currently abysmal state of affairs and where the preservation of her ancient traditions will become a moot issue. **The Indic civilization will go the way of the Egyptian civilization and be remembered only in Museums (if it is remembered at all).** The last and most ancient of the great civilizations will cease to be that, except as a memory

# India Research Foundation

## Where does that leave us



- ◆ **First and foremost we must individually arm ourselves with accurate and reliable information not only on our own History but the history of other nations and cultures.**
- ◆ **A Unity based on enlightened self interest is essential**
- ◆ **Develop a Global perspective and a world vision a ‘Darshana’**
- ◆ **It is not Islam but the Dharma that is on the front lines of battle (from an ideological perspective) with the western world for most of recorded History. It is the Dharma that they will take careful aim at in the coming decades and not Islam to further their goal of establishing a Sunni Ummah in South Asia.**
- ◆ **Be alert and proactive in dispelling negative stereotypes, especially about the Indic civilization which has become an orphan child**
- ◆ **Keep alive the flame of Indic civilization**

# The South Asia File

## Conclusions



- ◆ It has been a long term goal of the Western (read US/Anglo) alliance to emasculate the Indic civilization and to establish a South Asia Islamic Ummah and to prevent the development of a harmonious and militarily powerful Indic power in the Indian ocean region
- ◆ It should be the endeavor of every Indian Government to take counter measures one of which is to establish a significant trading and political partnership with the West so that the continuing motivation for the above will eventually dissipate.
- ◆ The US must be made to realize that its policy of backing corrupt dictators in the land of the pure is anachronistic, impresses neither friend nor foe, and bound to fail but old habits die hard
- ◆ US must be made to realize that the Indic civilization has staying power and will outlast any obstacles put before it
- ◆ This is how I interpret Vajpayee's historic statement that "India and US are natural allies"
- ◆ Is there a change currently under way – the best posture is to be agnostic of the future and have a Missouri 'show me' attitude

# The South Asia File



## Did we answer the questions we posed at the outset

- ✓ How did this viewpoint come about and who or what nurtured such a weltanschauung
- ✓ When did this begin and what was the genesis
- ✓ What were the motives
- ✓ If there was such a concerted effort, could it be termed a conspiracy
- ✓ How was it executed
- ✓ Why is it important to study this topic
- ✓ Where does that leave us now
- ✓ Good to remember Napoleon's dictum:  
*"Never attribute to malice what can be explained through incompetence"*

# The South Asia File

## Further Reading



- ◆ **“Future of Islam” by William Skawen Blunt (available from Amazon)**
- ◆ **“Imagining India” by Ronald B Inden**
- ◆ **“The Dominion and Conquest of India” by Sir Penderel Moon**
- ◆ **“Castes of Mind, Colonialism and the making of Modern India” by Nicholas Dirks**
- ◆ **“The History of India as told by its own Historians” by Elliot and Dowson**
- ◆ **“A History of Civilizations” Fernand Braudel. Penguin 1988/1963,**
- ◆ **“Pakistan Flawed not Failed State” by Dennis Kux - the politically correct view peddled by the west**
- ◆ **“The Indo Aryan Controversy” by Edwin Bryant**

# The South Asia File

## Further Reading *(Continued)*



- ◆ Refer to book “The Indic Civilization” for elaboration of many topics touched on here [vepa.us/dir20](http://vepa.us/dir20)
- ◆ This presentation and the associated article are available at [www.indiaresearch.org](http://www.indiaresearch.org)
- ◆ For more about me visit my blog [Kaushal42.blogspot.com](http://Kaushal42.blogspot.com)
- ◆ I spend my time writing, tinkering with my computer, photography, astronomy, travel, my hobby shed
- ◆ Contact me at ‘[Kaushal44@gmail.com](mailto:Kaushal44@gmail.com)’



## Epilog

Arm yourself with Knowledge  
Satyameva jayate, naanritam.

“Truth alone prevails, not unreality”

Mundaka Upanishad  
III,1,6