TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface ix

Chapter I—Hindu historiography: its characteristics and ramifications ... ... 1—9
  (1) Kalhana—(2) Rajput bardic literature and later Rajasthani sources—(3) Ahom and Assamese Buranjis—(4) Marathi Bakhars and Shakavali—(5) Sikh Sources—(6) General characteristics: Lack of critical acumen.

Chapter II—Muslim historiography ... 10—29
  (1) A Novel gift to India—(2) Historiography in Islam—its characteristics and ramifications—(3) Nature of Muslim histories—Conception of history—Stages and types of history—Value of Arab Histories.

Chapter III—Medieval Indo-Muslim Historiography 30—64
  Section A: Period of Arab Contact and Conquest
    7th-10th centuries A.D. ... 30—33
      I. Early Arab Geographers—II. Historians of Sind.

  Section B: Period of the advent of the Turks and Delhi Sultanate (11th-16th centuries): Pre-Mughal Indo-Persian histories. 33—36

  Section C: Mughal Historiography (16th-18th centuries) ... 36—54
  1. Categories of historical literature—(a) Official records or court bulletins—(b) Official his-
tories or chronicle—(c) Royal autobiographies and memoirs—(d) Non-official or private histories or historical biographies—(e) Regional or local histories or historical biographies—(f) Biographical literature—(g) Gazetteers—(h) Correspondence — (i) Administrative manuals .... 36

2. Afghan histories ... 50

3. Hindu historians’ writings in Persian in Mughal India ... 51

4. General characteristics of Mughal historiography ... 53

5. Influence of European scholars and orientalists ... 54

Section D: Value of Indo-Muslim histories 55

Appendix: Historiography during the first half of the eighteenth century (1707-57) 55—64
(a) Official records—(b) Official histories—(c) Chronicles—(d) Memoirs—(e) Biographical works—(f) Statistical, Topographical and Descriptive Accounts—(g) Letters—(h) Regional histories.

Chapter IV: Ideals, Methodology and Achievements of Medieval Indo-Muslim historiographers 65—132

Section 1—Medieval Indian historians’ conception of history ... 65—69
(a) Universal history—(b) General history of the Muslim World—(c) General histories of India—(d) Regional or local histories.

Section 2—The Performance ... 69—75
(a) Nature of history: a science or an art—(b) Attitude of the medieval historians—(c) Influence of the author’s personal history: the personal factor—(d) Social status and class of the medieval historians—(e) Methodology, technique and style: History the Science and History the Art—(f) Extent of the historian’s success in the fulfilment of his mission.
Section 3—Pre-Mughal period ... 75–89
   (1) Al Biruni—(2) Al Utbi—(3) Al Baihaqi—
   (4) Hasan Nizami—(5) Minhaj-ud-din-us-Siraj
   —(6) Ziauddin Barani—(7) Shamsuddin Siraj
   Afif—(8) Yahya bin Ahmad Sirhindi—(9) Amir
   Khusrau—(10) Isami.

Section 4—The Mughal Period ... 90–118
   (a) Royal autobiographers: Timur—Babur—
       Jahangir ... ... 90
   (b) Memoir writers: Gulbadan Begam—Mirza
       Haidar Doghlat—Jauhar—Mirza Nathan 95
   (c) Mughal official historians: the namahs:
       General remarks—Abul Fazl—Abdul Hamid
       Lahori—Mirza Muhammad Kazim—Muhammad
       Saqi Mustaid Khan ... 98
   (d) Non-official or private histories (or biogra-
       phies)—Nizamuddin Ahmad—Mulla Abdul
       Qadir Badauni — Ferishta — Muhammad
       Hashim Ali Khan (Khafi Khan)—Mirza
       Muhammad Hasan ... 110

Section 5—Performance lagging behind
precept ... ... 118–121

Section 6—Intelligibility in History 121–132
   (a) The play of Divine intervention or Free Will
       —(1) Turko-Afghan period—(2) Mughal
       period ... ... 123
   (b) Conventional religio-ethical background: his-
       tory as propaganda ... 127
       (1) Turko-Afghan period—(2) Mughal period.
   (c) History at the service of religion 128
   (d) Didacticism ... ... 128
       (1) Kalhana—(2) Turko-Afghan period—
       (3) Mughal age.
   (e) Lack of critical acumen ... 130
   (f) Absence of sociological aspects 131
Chapter V—New Spirit ........................................ 133—141
(1) Al Biruni’s scientific mind—(2) Barani’s Philosophy of History—(3) Abdul Fazl advocates secularism in state policy—(4) Badauni mixes secularism with orthodoxy—(5) Bhimsen as a social historian.

Chapter VI—Conclusion: The problem of historical objectivity ........................................ 142—144

Notes & References ........................................ 145—159
Ch. 1,145-46; Ch. 2,146-49; Ch. 3,149-52;
Ch. 4,152-158; Ch. 5,158-59.

Selected Bibliography ........................................ 160

Index ........................................ 188—195
Errata ........................................ 196