GLOSSARY

(Alternative or archaic spellings are given in brackets)

agraharam Village or part of a village occupied by Brahmans and usually held on privileged tenure (S. India).

amil Pre-British district revenue official.

bach (baach) A money rate fluctuating with the demand, and paid by all the sharers according to the quantity of land in the possession of each and without reference to his hereditary share of the estate.

ballotadar A village officer or member of service caste, traditionally 12 in number (W. India).

(balutadar)

bangar Upland, as distinct from khadir or riverain land.

baniya (banya, bunneah) Hindu trader, often also a moneylender.

barah Lit. twelve. A group of 12 mutually dependent villages.

bargadar Sharecropper, metayer (Bengal).

bargdar A village co-sharer (Gujarat); cf. pattidar.

basti Village, town, inhabited place.

batische A group of 32 mutually dependent villages.

bhaiachara Lit. custom of the brotherhood. Under British revenue law denoted a form of tenure in which the land-revenue demand was apportioned among the village proprietors on some principle other than ancestral shares.

(byachara, bhaeereh)

bigha Land measure standardised by the British at 4ths of an acre.

bighadam Apportionment of revenue demand at so much per bigha; cf. bach.

biswa Lit. a twentieth. A twentieth share of a village or estate.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>biswadar</em></td>
<td>A coparcener. In taluqdari estates the term used under British revenue law in N.W. Provinces for a village sub-proprietor.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Borah</em> (bohra)</td>
<td>Member of a Gujarati trading and banking caste. Used loosely to denote village banker.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>chak</em></td>
<td>A separate parcel or tract of land.</td>
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<td><em>chali</em></td>
<td>Land bearing highest rate of assessment, a share of which each permanent cultivator was required to cultivate (W. India).</td>
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<td><em>Chamar</em></td>
<td>Member of a caste traditionally associated with tanning hides and menial labour tasks.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Chattri</em> (Chhattri, cf. Kshatriya)</td>
<td>Term commonly used in eastern U.P. to denote member of a Rajput caste.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>chaudhuri</em></td>
<td>Local headman or petty notable.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>chaukidar</em> (chowkidar)</td>
<td>A watchman.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>chaurasi</em></td>
<td>A tract containing nominally 84 villages usually controlled by one particular dominant clan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>des</em></td>
<td>Country, local district, homeland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>desi</em></td>
<td>Local, locally-produced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>desmukh</em></td>
<td>Hereditary local headman or petty notable of a district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>despande</em> (despandiya)</td>
<td>Hereditary revenue accountant of a locality (W. India).</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>dharra</em> (dhar)</td>
<td>Faction.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>doul</em> (daul, doul)</td>
<td>Estimate of amount of revenue an estate might be expected to yield.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>ghair maurusi</em></td>
<td>Lit. without hereditary land rights. A cultivator holding by lease or custom without hereditary rights.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>got</em> (gotra)</td>
<td>Exogamous kin group or clan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>gram</em></td>
<td>Type of pulse or grain.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>grassia</em> (grasia)</td>
<td>Military or predatory chieftain claiming portion of revenue of certain villages as protection money (W. India).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>haq</em> (huk)</td>
<td>Prescriptive fee or allowance.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>haq mehat</em></td>
<td>Village headman’s perquisites or allowance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>haveli</em></td>
<td>Tract adjacent to capital town of a district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>huzur</em></td>
<td>Lit. pertaining to authority. Used often to denote chief or leading, as the chief pargana of a district in which the capital is situated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

*ilaqa (ilaka)* Dependency, property, or estate.

*inam* Grant of land held rent-free (S. & W. India).

*istumrari* Land held in revenue farm or leased on a perpetual rent.

*jaedad (jaidad)* Life grant of revenue from a tract for the maintenance of troops.

*jagir (jaghir, jageer)* The assignment to a person of the State revenue due from a specified area or estate.

*jagirdar* The holder of a jagir.

*jama (jumma)* Aggregate revenue payable by a cultivator or estate.

*jamabandi* Detailed rent roll or revenue statement of a village or estate.

*jemedar (jamadar)* Most junior commissioned officer in the Indian army.

*jihad (jeehad)* Muslim holy war.

*jodi* An easy or quit-rent.

*jote (jot)* Tillage, cultivation. Often used to denote *nij-jot*, or proprietary cultivation; cf. *sir*.

*jotedar* A superior cultivator and *de facto* sub-proprietor, often with land leased out to sharecroppers; cf. *bargadars* (Bengal and Bihar).

*juar (jowar, joar)* Type of millet used extensively as food grain.

*kanungo (qanungo)* Hereditary local revenue accountant of *par-gana* or group of villages.

*kapu* Principal cultivator or headman (S. India).

*karinda* An agent or manager.

*karnam* Hereditary village accountant (S. India).

*kazi (qazi)* A Muslim judge in matters of religious law.

*khadir* Low or alluvial lands; cf. *bangar*.

*khalsa* Lands held immediately of Government, not alienated in *jagir* or *inam*, and paying land revenue directly to the State.

*kham* Term used when Government itself has temporarily set aside proprietor or other revenue engager and collects revenue from immediate cultivators.

*khap* Area held or controlled by a clan.

*kharif* The autumn crops or harvest reaped in October–November.
Glossary

khudkasht leased-in land cultivated by a proprietor  
kisan Cultivator, husbandman, peasant.  
koli (kuli, hence ‘cooler’) Tribal people who migrated to plains in Gujarat and formed bulk of labouring class in some areas, but in other areas through turbulence had obtained local village dominance.  
kotwal Chief police officer of town or city.  
kulkarni Hereditary village accountant (W. India).  
lakh One hundred thousand.  
lakhiraj (lakharaj) Land exempt from payment of revenue.  
lambardar One who has a number on the revenue roll. Hence a person who pays land revenue on behalf of a number of small proprietors. One of a number of village headmen.  
lathi A stout stick or stave often ringed and ferruled.  
mahajan (mahajun) A village or small town banker.  
mahal An estate or proprietary holding as defined in the revenue accounts. In upper India it often coincided originally with mauza, or lands pertaining to a single village.  
mahalwari The system of village land-revenue settlements in which the demand was levied on the mahal or mauza (N.W. or later United Provinces).  
malba (malbah) Village expenses, including entertainment and payment of minor functionaries.  
malguzar Person engaging for land revenue.  
malik Lit. master, lord. Term used to describe a proprietor in a village; cf. pattidar.  
malik mabhuza A ryot recognised as having a proprietary right; a plot proprietor (C.P.).  
malikana Under British revenue law the allowance paid to a proprietor temporarily excluded from the revenue engagement.  
mamladadar Revenue officer in charge of a taluka (W. India).  
mar A rich black loam soil.  
maulavi (maulawī) A Muslim scholar or divine.  
milk(i) Property. In Rohilkhand used to refer to revenue-free grants held by Muslims.
### Glossary

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<td><em>milkhiyat-i-zamin</em></td>
<td>Property in the soil equivalent to freehold right.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>miras</em></td>
<td>Property (W. &amp; S. India).</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>mirasdar</em></td>
<td>Person having hereditary ownership of land.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>mirasi</em></td>
<td>Single or joint village landlord right (W. &amp; S. India).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>makassa (mukhasa)</em></td>
<td>Land held rent-free or at privileged rent in return for service (W. India).</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Marwari</em></td>
<td>Lit. a person from Marwar (part of Rajasthan). Used of banking and trading castes from this region.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>muafi (mafi)</em></td>
<td>Grant of land free of revenue.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>mukarari</em></td>
<td>Tract of land or fiscal lordship held at a fixed revenue payment.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>muqaddam</em></td>
<td>One of the managers of a village proprietary body.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>naidu</em></td>
<td>Title or surname used by a person of the Telegu Kamma caste; hence loosely a headman (S. India).</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>nankar</em></td>
<td>Lit. subsistence. An assignment of revenue or land made as a reward for undertaking revenue-management rights, or as compensation for being deprived of them.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Naumuslum</em></td>
<td>A Muslim convert.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>nayakar</em></td>
<td>Military chieftain (S. India).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>nazim</em></td>
<td>Governor of a province or vicegerent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>nikasi</em></td>
<td>An account of the revenue assessed upon an estate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>pahi</em></td>
<td>A temporary or non-resident cultivator without tenurial rights or formal lease: a tenant-at-will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>paltan</em></td>
<td>A regiment or battalion of infantry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>panchayat</em></td>
<td>A caste or village council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>pandal</em></td>
<td>Temporary covered arena or pole and cloth building designed for meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>pargana</em></td>
<td>A revenue subdivision of a <em>tahsil</em>. A group of mutually connected villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>patel</em></td>
<td>A village headman (W. &amp; S. India).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

\textit{patta (pottah)}
Written agreement or lease.

\textit{patti}
Division or share.

\textit{pattidar}
One who holds land on which the payment of the revenue demand is apportioned by the proprietary kin group according to ancestral shares.

\textit{pattidari}
System of tenure in which the land is farmed in severalty but in which the revenue demand on the estate is apportioned by the kin group on ancestral shares.

\textit{peishkar (peshkar)}
Deputy or manager in revenue affairs.

\textit{poligar (poliyagar)}
Small warrior chief (S. India).

\textit{pucca (pukha)}
Lit. ripe, cooked. Substantial, permanent, well-finished.

\textit{rabi}
Spring crops, or harvest reaped in February–March.

\textit{rais (raees)}
A notable, a man of position.

\textit{raj}
Kingdom, principality. Used loosely to denote the British Indian Empire.

\textit{reddi}
Name of a principal caste of Telegu cultivators; loosely a chief cultivator or headman.

\textit{risala}
A troop of horse.

\textit{risaldar}
Indian officer commanding a troop of horse.

\textit{rusoom (rusum)}
A commission or allowance on a transaction.

\textit{ryot (raiyat)}
Cultivator or farmer, as distinct from labourer.

\textit{sadr (sudder)}
Leading or chief (adj.).

\textit{satyagraha}
Lit. truth- or soul-force. Used to denote a non-cooperation or civil disobedience campaign led by Gandhi.

\textit{saukar (sahukar, sowcar)}
A banker, moneydealer.

\textit{sawar (sowar)}
An armed horseman or cavalryman.

\textit{shikmi}
A dependent or subordinate cultivator who pays revenue through a superior but whose name is not recorded in the settlement register. Often used to denote an unrecorded tenant cultivating a proprietor’s sir or home farm.

\textit{shuk (shooqa)}
Royal letter or missive.

\textit{sir (seer)}
Personal or home farm; land under owner cultivation.
**Glossary**

*sirdar* (1) A holder of *sir* land. (2) Under U.P. Zamindari Abolition Act, 1951, a former hereditary tenant who now pays his rent to the State instead of to a private landlord. (3) Corruption of *sardar*, a chief or leading man.

*tahsil (tehsil, tehsell)* Administrative subdivision of a district (N. India).

*tahsili* Administrative headquarters of a *tahsil*.

*tahsildar* Indian officer in charge of a *tahsil*.

*taluk(a) (ta'alluq, talooq)* Lit. dependency, connection. (1) Fiscal lordship or estate, in which the holder is responsible for the revenue collection from a number of dependent villages (N. India). (2) A group of villages held in mutual dependence by lineage ties among the proprietary bodies. (3) Administrative subdivision of a district (W. & S. India); cf. *tahsil*.

*talpad* Land paying the full revenue assessment (Gujarat).

*talukdar (taluqdar)* Holder of a *taluk*. Under British revenue law in N.W. Provinces a superior proprietor drawing a fixed percentage on revenue payments made by village sub-proprietors or *biswadars*. In Oudh a full proprietor of a number of villages; cf. *zamindar* in Bengal.

*tappa* Cluster of villages acknowledging the supremacy of one among them, and often connected by lineage ties. Used more frequently in West U.P. and Haryana; cf. *taluk* in East U.P.

*thakur* Lit. lord, master. Usually denotes Rajput landlord (N. India).

*thana* A police station, or area under jurisdiction of a local police station.

*thika* A private lease or private revenue farm.

*thikadar* One who receives the rents from the cultivators and pays a stipulated amount to the proprietor.

*ubari (oobari)* An overlord tenure in Bundelkhand.

*umul (amal)* Share or portion of revenue after expenses have been defrayed (W. India).
Glossary

\[ Vaish(ya) \] Broad occupational caste classification for any person belonging to a trading or moneylending caste.

\[ vaita \] Land of superior quality and most highly assessed (Gujarat).

\[ zail \] Subdivision of a \textit{tahsil} in the former Punjab province.

\[ zaildar \] Officer in charge of a \textit{zail}.

\[ zamindar \] Lit. landholder. Under British law designated a person recognised as possessing the proprietary right.

\[ zamindari \] An estate held in full proprietary right (N. India). Used adjectively to describe system of land-revenue settlement in which notables responsible for collection from a considerable number of villages were recognised as proprietors of such ‘estates’ (Bengal).