PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

The revised fourth edition details events right up to 1978 and includes lists of Presidents and Prime Ministers of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan till 1977-78. It discusses recent Constitutional Amendments, socio-economic changes and educational experiments. India’s relations with the U.S.A., the Soviet Union, China, the Arab states, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been critically reviewed. Finally, India’s role as a champion of international amity and peace has been clearly outlined.

K. K. D.
PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The chequered annals of our ancient land have been the theme of many a writer of the East as well as the West. If a fresh attempt is now made to recite the *itiḥāsa purāṇa* it is due in large measure to the accumulation of new stocks of information which every year are yielded to the spade of the archaeologist and the patient industry of the scholar. It is also due in part to the teaching of experience which suggests the need, with fresh data at our disposal, of viewing things from a different angle of vision.

The book which is now published is primarily intended to meet the requirements of advanced students who have already an acquaintance with the broad outlines of the subject. It has been the endeavour of the authors to place before them in the course of the narrative such details about the salient features of Indian History in the different periods of its evolution as may be fitted into the framework of the story provided for them at the earlier stages of their educational career. In doing this a special stress has been laid on administrative, social, economic, and cultural aspects, which do not always receive in studies of this kind the attention that is their due. A prominent place has also been given to such important topics as the colonial and cultural expansion of the ancient Hindus, the evolution of different types of art and architecture, and the growth of a new India as a result of the impact of different civilisations in recent times.

The history of the latest periods has been written on a somewhat novel plan. Instead of dealing separately with the brief rule of each succeeding Governor-General, an attempt has been made to treat in their logical sequence such absorbing subjects as the rise and growth of a remote island people as a political power in our country, the different phases of constitutional and administrative changes, and the social, religious, and economic conditions during well-defined periods. In other words, in treating the events of the modern age, attention has in the main been focused not so much on personalities as on movements and courses of policy. This method may involve some loss of dramatic interest but has the merit of tracing clearly the main threads of history in a given epoch.
PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

We have tried to make the details as accurate and authentic as possible in the light of the latest researches, and where no definite conclusion is possible we have sought to indicate the different view-points in a detached spirit. An attempt has been made to add flesh and blood to the dry skeleton of history, particularly that of the earlier periods, with the help of such materials as may be gleaned from a close scrutiny of the original sources. The maps, select bibliographies, and genealogical and chronological tables, will, it is hoped, be of some use to earnest investigators. We need not dilate upon other special features of the book which cannot be missed by anyone who examines it.

A joint literary production, in spite of its obvious advantages, is not unlikely to suffer from some serious defects. The authors sought to minimise these as far as possible by periodical discussions and scrutiny of the contents of each chapter. Whether, and how far, they have been able to avoid the imperfections that are apt to occur in a work of this kind, it is for others to judge. Apart from this, some defects may be attributed to the printing of the book in Great Britain at a time when communication between the authors and the publishers was rendered more and more difficult by circumstances over which they had no control. All these shortcomings may, we hope, be largely removed in future editions of the work. In the meantime we can only crave the indulgence of our readers for such errors of omission and commission as they may detect in the following pages.

In writing Oriental names and expressions we have adopted in a general way the method of transliteration which has been followed in standard works like the Cambridge History of India.

We take this opportunity of expressing our deep obligation to the pūrva sūris and to various individuals and associations who have lent us illustrations, etc., belonging to them, with permission to make photographic reproductions. Our special thanks are due to the representatives of the publishers for the keen interest they have taken in the progress of the work. If the book now offered to students helps in some measure to prepare the ground for a fuller and clearer view of the "broadening stream" of our country's history, the labour of the authors will be amply repaid.

R. C. MAJUMDAR
H. C. RAYCHAUDHURI
KALIKINKAR DATTA

Calcutta
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Political changes of a momentous character have taken place in India since the first publication of this volume. The most important of these is the abdication of power and authority in India by the British, with the grant of virtual independence to the Dominions of India and Pakistan. It has therefore been thought desirable to bring this history up to August 15, 1947, when power was actually transferred to the hands of the Indians. Although in general this revised edition does not go beyond that date and does not even refer to such notable events as the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, nevertheless passing allusion has occasionally been made to later happenings in order to make the treatment of some non-controversial topics up-to-date.

The recent integration of Indian States into different Unions took place after August 15, 1947, but the readjustment of the boundaries of these states has so completely changed the political geography of modern India that it would be unwise to ignore it in a text-book of Indian History. We have accordingly dealt with this matter in an Appendix.

A second Appendix gives a summary of the new Constitution of India which came into force on January 26, 1950.

A new chapter has been added to describe India's struggle for independence, and the accounts of constitutional changes in 1935 have been somewhat abridged. The whole book has been thoroughly revised in order to correct errors and incorporate the results of the latest researches.

The appreciation of this book by the press and the public has exceeded our greatest expectations, and we have spared no pains to make it still more useful by means of the new material added to this edition.

R. C. M.
H. C. R. C.
K. K. D.
PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The book has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date by incorporating in this new edition results of the latest researches in Indian history. Although we have adhered to the old decision of narrating the history of India from the earliest time to the achievement of independence in 1947, we have added a few notes on some important events by modifying Appendix II and adding a new Appendix III. The new Appendix II brings the amendments to the Indian Constitution up to date, and the Appendix III refers to the aggressions of China and Pakistan. The Appendix III is not intended to be a full and critical narrative of the wars with China and Pakistan, but simply a recital of the chief events in these two episodes which vitally affect the future of India.

The appreciation of this book by the press and the public had exceeded our greatest expectations, and we have spared no pains to make it still more useful by means of the new material added to this edition.

January 1967

R. C. M.

K. K. D.
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