

Community, Empire and Migration

Also by Crispin Bates

SUBALTERNNS AND THE RAJ: A History of Modern South Asia

Community, Empire and Migration

South Asians in Diaspora

Edited by

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palgrave



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(Maps 1 and 2 were drawn by Anona Lyons, Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh.)

Preface

This volume is the result of a conference held in Edinburgh in the summer of 1997, the year in which India celebrated 50 years of independence. Organized through Edinburgh University's Department of History and Centre for South Asian Studies, its purpose was to highlight issues of identity and the imperial legacy, community and communalism amongst groups of South Asians in diaspora. It was to be a conference in which history and anthropology were combined, and participants were enjoined to bring interdisciplinary perspectives to bear wherever possible. Beginning with the Indian Ocean region, the scope of the conference soon enlarged as historians of migration responded to the opportunity to discuss neglected social, religious and ideological aspects of their field, whilst anthropologists responded to the challenge to think about migrant identities in a new and unorthodox fashion. A particular focus was on the possible origins and meanings of 'communalism' in non-South Asian contexts, together with examples of adaptability and innovation amongst South Asian communities scattered throughout the world. Collected here are some of the more thought-provoking papers contributed, although there were a great many other valuable papers discussed over the course of three days that have had to be excluded purely for reasons of space.

Thanks are due to Katharine Charsley and Sari Wastell, who acted as conference secretaries, especially Sari who managed to juggle this responsibility at a crucial moment together with the demands of a new-born baby and a second part-time job. A special word of gratitude is due to Marina Carter for her generous support and suggestions at various stages of the project, and to Oliver Woodhams and Andrea Major for their invaluable help in preparing the final papers for publication. Financial support was provided by the Faculty of Arts, the University of Edinburgh Development Trust and Interdisciplinary Research Fund, to the Centre for South Asian Studies, and to the Departments of Social Anthropology, Sociology and History. Personal acknowledgements are due to Jeff Lloyd, Yvan Nadeau, Roger Jeffery, Jonathan Spencer and Tony Good, all of whom lent their advice and support or helped to smooth over bureaucratic obstacles at crucial moments.

This volume is dedicated to the families of the many tens of thousands who lost their lives during the Partition of India and in the numerous other 'partitions' that have continued since in former colonial territories in North India, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Ireland and elsewhere.

Notes on the Contributors

Crispin Bates is a Senior Lecturer teaching modern South Asian History in the Department of History at the University of Edinburgh. He completed his PhD at Cambridge University on economic and social change in colonial central India, and edits a series on New Historical Perspectives on Migration for Leicester University Press. His publications include *Subalterns and the Raj: A History of Modern South Asia* (Routledge, forthcoming) and he is presently completing a book on *adivasis* and migration.

Sumita Chatterjee completed her PhD on 'Indian Women's Lives and Labor: The Indentureship Experience in Trinidad and Guyana – 1845–1917' at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1997. She is presently rewriting the thesis with a view to publication.

Thomas Blom Hansen is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Development Studies, Roskilde University. His publications include (with Christophe Jaffrelot) *The BJP and the Compulsions of Politics in India* (Delhi: OUP, 1998); and *The Saffron Wave: Hindu Nationalism and Democracy in Modern India* (Princeton University Press, 1999).

Amarjit Kaur is Professor of Economic History in the School of Economic Studies, University of New England, Armidale. Her most recent book is *Economic Change in East Malaysia: Sabah and Sarawak since 1850* (Macmillan, 1998). She also co-edited *The Shaping of Malaysia* (with Ian Metcalfe) (Macmillan, 1999) and her book *Wage Labour and Social Change in Southeast Asia* is to be published shortly by Macmillan.

John D. Kelly is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago. He has two books forthcoming, both jointly authored with Martha Kaplan: *Laws Like Bullets: Imagined Disorder in British Colonial Worlds* and *Nation and Decolonization*.

Karen Leonard is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine. Her most recent publications include *The South Asian Americans* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Publishing, 1997); *Making Ethnic Choices: California's Punjabi Mexican Americans*

(Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992); and *Social History of an Indian Caste* (New Delhi: Sangam Books, 1994).

Aminah I. Mohammad teaches at l'Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (Paris) and is affiliated as a post-doctorate researcher to the Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud. Her PhD thesis was submitted at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, in 1998, and is to be published as *Salam America: musulmans indiens, pakistanais et bangladeshi à New York*, by Editions du CNRS, Paris.

Ari Nave completed his PhD on 'Marriage and the Maintenance of Ethnic Group Boundaries in Mauritius' at the Department of Anthropology, UCLA, in 1997. He subsequently worked on the CD-ROM encyclopaedia *Encarta Africana* and continued his research as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Du Bois Institute, Harvard. His forthcoming publications include 'Marriage and the Maintenance of Ethnic Group Boundaries' in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* vol. 23, no. 2; and 'Communalism as Conflict', in Susan Love Brown (ed.), *Communalism in Anthropological Perspective*. Currently, as Director of Pangea Productions, a non-profit documentary film company, he is pursuing a project on the nature of contemporary slavery in Mauritania and Sudan.

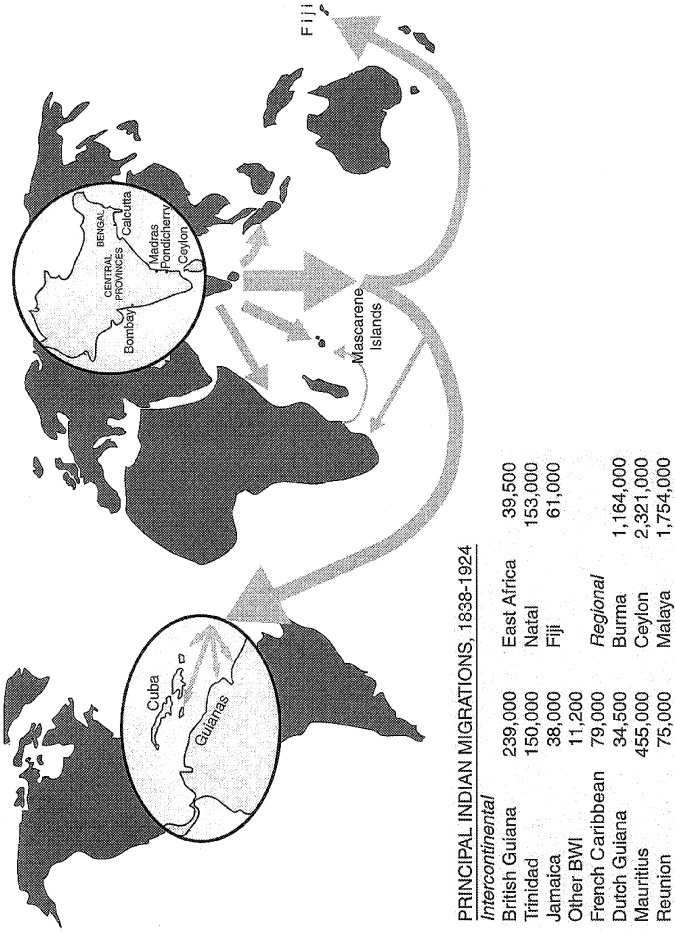
Ravi K.Thiara completed her PhD in 1993 on 'Migration, Organisation and Inter-Ethnic Relations: Indian South Africans 1860–1990' at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, Warwick University. She is currently the principal researcher on an ESRC-funded project under the Youth, Citizenship and Social Change programme at the Department of Cultural Studies and Sociology, University of Birmingham, and deputy director of a development charity working in India. Her publications include *Transitional Ethnicities: Indian South Africans, 1860–1996* (Ashgate, forthcoming).

Michael Twaddle is a Reader in Commonwealth Studies at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. Before completing a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Michael worked in Uganda as a member of the Anglo-American 'Teachers for East Africa' project. Subsequently, he lectured at the Makerere campus of the University of East Africa and at SOAS before joining the staff of the ICS. His publications include *Kakungulu and the Creation of Uganda, 1868–1928* (London: James Currey, 1993); (ed.) *Developing Uganda* (Oxford: James

Currey, 1996); and (ed.) *Decolonisation and the International Community* (London: Cass, 1993).

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Map 1 Principal Indian migration, 1838-1924
 Source: D. Northrup, *Indentured Labour in the Age of Imperialism, 1834-1922* (Cambridge: CUP, 1995), pp. 3 and 53.