

fasser gewählte Ansatz, ein sozio-kulturelles Phänomen einmal epochen- und dynastieübergreifend zu verfolgen, ist sinnvoll und nachahmenswert. Trotzdem wäre zu wünschen gewesen, daß sich der Autor dazu hätte durchringen können, dem Leser die Früchte seiner sicherlich langwierigen Forschungen explizit innerhalb eines konzeptionellen Rahmens zu präsentieren. So ist es allzuoft doch sehr mühsam, angesichts der Detailfülle den roten Faden der Argumentation nicht zu verlieren. Hinzu kommt ein überladener, zum Teil kryptischer Anmerkungsapparat. Zitiert werden durchweg alle Nachweise, derer der Autor habhaft werden konnte, ohne daß Jamal Malik die Standortgebundenheit und ‚Wissenschaftlichkeit‘ der von ihm genannten Schriften thematisiert. Da damit eine notwendige Scheidung in Quellen und Sekundärliteratur in vielen Fällen fehlt, stand der Rezensent oftmals irritiert vor einem unüberschaubaren Beleggewirr. Ein Beispiel mag die unkommentierte Übernahme des von Sayyid ‘Abd al-Haqq 1909 entworfenen Entwicklungsmodells des muslimischen Lehrkanons in Nordindien sein. Gerne wüßte man, warum sich Jamal diesem Modell anschließt, auf welche Quellen sich das von einem der Hauptakteure des Gelehrtenrates gemalte Bild stützt und bis zu welchem Grade dieser in seine Darstellung subjektive, nicht unbedingt dem westlichen Plausibilitätsprinzip wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens entsprechende Argumente einfließen läßt.

Darüber hinaus darf auch bezweifelt werden, ob die Malikischen Andeutungen über eine vermeintlich indigene indisch-islamische Aufklärung im 18. Jahrhundert von Bestand sein werden. Für eine solche Hypothese fehlt es zum einen an genauen Einzelstudien insbesondere nicht-muslimischer und synkretistischer Strömungen und Entwicklungen. Zum anderen läuft auch das von Reinhard Schulze errichtete Kartenhaus einer ‚Weltzeit‘, die für das gleichzeitige Auftreten ähnlicher Geisteshaltungen in unterschiedlichen Gesellschaften sorgte, ständig Gefahr zusammenzubrechen, um der sicherlich plausibleren Theorie weltweiter Ungleichzeitigkeiten Platz zu machen.

*Stephan Conermann*

PATRICK TUCK (ed.), *The East India Company: 1600-1858*. 6 vols. London and New York: Routledge, 1998. 1984 pages, £ 525.00. ISBN 0-415-15517-7

The editor of this set of six volumes wants "to offer a range of materials concerning the history of the East India Company during the two and a half centuries of its existence". Indeed, the collection consists of various types of material, printed primary sources, major secondary works and several articles. The first volume contains William Foster's "England's quest of eastern trade", published in 1933. The author focuses especially on the emergence of the East India Company from her different forerunners, mainly the Levant Company. Foster's main emphasis lies on the early voyages to the East and the transformation process from initial explorations to the establishment of regular trading relations. Writing at the zenith of the British Empire as well as in a well founded tradition of British historiography, Foster stresses the hazards the British endured during the first century of exploring eastern seas in search of trading connections and their encounter with Asian cultures.

Volume two consists of Peter Marshall's *Problems of Empire. Britain and India, 1757-1813*, first published in 1968. On roughly 100 pages the author provides his readership with a profound introduction. His main concern is the connection between the British state and its emerging empire in India as well as the decline of the trading activities of the Company. 45 well selected documents illustrate the development of the East India Company and its background in England. They range from "The petition of the City of London against Lord North's Regulating Act, 28 May, 1773", "North's Regulating Act, 1773 (Clauses relating to the organization of the Company, and separately: Clauses relating to the Government of India)", "Fox's First India Bill, 1783", "Pitt's India Act, 1784 (Clauses relating to the organization of the Company and the powers of the Board of Control, and separately: Clauses relating to the Government of India)", to "The Charter Act of 1793", "A Defence of the Company's Monopoly, 1813" and, finally, "The Charter Act of 1813", as well as bibliographical notes on further reading.

Volume three comprises two contemporary works: William Bolts' *Considerations on Indian Affairs* and Harry Verelst's *A View of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal*. Bolts, a Dutchman by birth, was a member of the East India Company in Bengal in the 1750s and 60s. His up-country trading activities with John Johnstone secured him a large fortune. When Robert Clive returned to Bengal for his second term as governor, he dismissed Bolts who became one of the most prominent victims of the governor's "cleaning of the Augean stables". During his employment with the Company Bolts developed a most critical attitude towards the trading activities and political entanglements of the East India Company in Bengal. He uncovered several dubious machinations of the Company's leading personnel, which may have caused the Court of Directors to refuse his rehabilitation and re-employment in the Company's service. Harry Verelst's description of the Company's affairs in Bengal, published in London in 1772, represents his reaction to Bolts' "Considerations". Encouraged by the Court of Directors and with the assistance of two additional writers he issued his "Views" a few months after Bolts' work had been edited. Verelst's main purpose was to defend himself against the accusations made by Bolts. While Bolts' "Considerations" had a greater contemporary audience, Verelst's "Views" are now considered to be a more accurate substantial analysis. The presentation in one volume of these two major contemporary writings about the early days of colonial administration and organisation now gives us a good chance of comparing two opposite views and different attitudes towards good government of the early British possessions in India.

Volume four is a compilation of eleven articles, ranging from D.K. Bassett's "Early English trade and settlement in Asia, 1602-1690", I.B. Watson's "Fortifications and the 'idea' of force in early English East India Company relations with India", articles from A. Das Gupta and P.J. Marshall on the trade relations and private trade before and in the 18th century and the well known dispute between P.J. Marshall and R. Mukherjee on the trade and expansion in North India (Awadh) in the second half of the 18th century. Scholars are provided with a valuable set of articles which will give them a thorough introduction to academic discourse on the character and motivations of the East India Company's involvement in "Indian affairs", a discussion which still goes on, though with a changing bias.

Volume five deals with the problems of military expansion by the British on the Indian subcontinent and in Asia at large. Ten of the most important articles have been collected to give an overview of colonial warfare in India in the 18th century. Peter Marshall's "British expansion in India in the eighteenth century: A historical revision" gives a good introduction to the difficult subject. "The Company's army, 1757-1798" by R. Callahan provides the reader with basic information about army organisation. A still important article is G. Bryant's "Pacification in the early British Raj, 1755-85", pointing out the difficulties of permanent warfare in the countryside, or, to cite the contemporary term, the *mufassil*. It was one thing to occupy the territory, but another to govern it, which, so it seems, was rather impossible in the eighteenth century. Unfortunately articles on collaboration and conflict were not included in this compilation, though they might have given a further insight into the realities of daily British government in Bengal and India.

Finally, volume six consists of C.H. Philips' *The East India Company 1784-1834*, which is, without doubt, still one of the most prominent and important works on the conflict between the different "interests" in the London political arena. The prosopographical study provides great detail about the personal backgrounds of the "acting persons", but, on the whole, Philips' book does not represent current research. The role of the "interests" has been overestimated, partly because Philips treats them as basically homogeneous groups, partly because they seem to have dominated parliamentary and public debates. Lucy Sutherland's study on *The East India Company and eighteenth century politics* would have been a better choice for dealing with the internal problems of the Company and the political circumstances.

On the whole, the compilation of the six volumes is a good approach, offering students a selection of materials on the history of organisation, administration, trade, colonial penetration, warfare abroad and political struggles at home. Of course, it is quite easy for a reviewer to criticise the selection of articles and books. Nevertheless, two major points of critique must be made: First, the "story" of the East India Company seems to be one of permanent success. One hardly finds an article dealing with even part failures of the Company. In this respect British and, more or less surprisingly, Indian historiography on British expansion and colonialism are still treading on the same old paths. Second, the price of the six-volume set is exorbitant. It enables neither private persons nor public institutions to buy the books, though wealthy libraries might do so.

Michael Mann

THEO DAMSTEEGT, *Girirāj Kīśor's Yātrāem: A Hindi Novel Analysed*. (Gonda Indological Studies). Groningen: Egbert Forsten, 1997. XII, 354 pages, Hfl. 110,- ISBN 90-6980-112-4

As a rare phenomenon in the field of Hindi literature, an in-depth literary study of a modern Hindi novel on the basis of Western methods of textual analysis is a most welcome contribution, particularly if it is based on such sound methodology as this book. Theo Damsteegt has chosen the short novel *Yātrāem* 'Journeys' (1971) by Girirāj Kīśor, a well-known and prolific contemporary Hindi writer, with a view to