

K. N. MALIK, *India and the United Kingdom. Change and Continuity in the 1980s*. London: Sage Publications, 1997. 316 pages, £ 25.00. ISBN 0-8039-9380-3

As Malik points out in his introduction, a book that focuses on Indo-British relations in the 1980s may seem a somewhat odd choice of subject, given that relations with India did not figure highly in British foreign policy during that period. However, first of all Malik provides a much wider analysis of the change in the British-Indian relationship from Indian Independence in 1947 until the 1990s. Secondly, his analysis does not focus only on bilateral foreign policies but also on the wider geopolitical, economic, cultural and demographic changes that influence how Britain and India have come to figure in each other's perceptions. Malik obviously has a wide knowledge of the intricacies of the foreign policies, internal politics and media perceptions in both India and the UK. He provides a well-researched scholarly analysis, especially in regard to the situation of the Indian diaspora in Britain, in a language easily comprehensible to a wide range of readers.

In the first chapter the scene is set and the historical background knowledge provided which is necessary to appreciate how profoundly the Anglo-Indian relationship in the 1980s differs from the situation immediately following Independence. Malik appropriately opens up the historical vista by looking at the global developments that affected the changes in the bilateral relationship so profoundly. With Independence India was to emerge from the colonial cocoon of over two centuries, to establish new links not only with the UK but also, and increasingly more importantly in regard to trade and foreign policies, with Western nations, Eastern block countries as well as the nations of the region and other post-colonial (or colonial) countries all over the world. He highlights the formative influence on both British and Indian foreign policies and trading preferences during the period of the Cold War of the US-China-Pakistan nexus on the one hand, and the links with the Soviet Union and the Non-Aligned Movement on the other. As Malik puts it, India and the UK had 'different threat perceptions' (p. 38). This is true also for the 1980s which saw an intensification of the Cold War when Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher came to power in the US resp. UK, the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan, and a number of Islamic fundamentalist movements emerged at the time of the Iranian 'revolution'.

Although the second chapter, on 'Politico-Strategic Developments' in the 1980s, is sometimes repetitive, it sets the scene for the subsequent discussion of the decisive impact of Sikh militancy within the Indian diaspora in Britain on the formation (or deformation) of mutual Indo-British perceptions. The best, and central, chapter is on "The Indian Diaspora". The economic strength of parts of the Indian diaspora, especially in the retail trade, accountancy and Margaret Thatcher's favourite, shop-keeping, became clear already in the 1970s, and was soon to be followed by an increasing impact in the political, academic and cultural spheres during the 1980s. Malik points out a wide range of issues that marked the Indo-British relationship during that period: the increasing recognition of the Indian diaspora's improving social and economic status; Indian participation in British local politics; the adverse effect of terrorist acts during and following the Amritsar Temple crisis within Brit-

ain on the social status and electoral strength of the Indian diaspora as a whole, and the political polarization of the Indian community; the restrictive Indian foreign investment policy, and the decline of British aid to India. Although there are further interesting chapters ("British Aid to India", "Trade, Investment and Technology Transfer", and "The Role of the Media"), it is basically the evidence presented in the chapter on the Indian diaspora in Britain that explains why Indo-British relations have a very high profile in some respects, even though they are weak in regard to trading, economic and political links. Malik acknowledges the 'thinness' of Indo-British relations in the international sphere, but argues that 'thick' relations still prevail "due to history, language and other informal linkages" (p.234). As Malik ably shows, the role of the Indian diaspora in Britain is pivotal in regard to the latter. He concludes his assessment of the Indo-British relationship on a positive note, pointing out that "cultural interactions at popular points of contact played a vital role in developing binding links in the context of otherwise thin relations" (p.264). However, he is also well aware of an important change: "from an anglophone India to one where US influences are now all pervasive" (p.267). He aptly rounds off his analysis with a final quote from the commemorative issue, "India - The Golden Jubilee", of the British quarterly *Granta*: "Perhaps for the first time, an averagely prosperous western visitor can feel poor here, at least in parts of Delhi and Mumbai. Certainly, he can no longer think himself as an advance party for changing tastes of the west. These have already reached here from California, without stopovers in Europe. America is the model now, slowly, inevitably, the old Anglo-Indian upper class, the anglophone India which had such an attractive gentleness - voice courtesy of the BBC, pipes by Dunhill, politics from the Fabian Society - is retreating towards its pyre. An MBA from Harvard is worth three BAs (Oxon)."

Waltraud Ernst

CHRISTIANE BROSIUS, MELISSA BUTCHER (eds.), *Image Journeys: Audio-visual Media and Cultural Change in India*. New Delhi, Thousand Oaks, London 1999: Sage Publications, 1999. 336 pages, Rs 450.00 (Hb), ISBN 0-7619-9325-8; Rs 250.00 (Pb), ISBN 0-7619-9326-6

Almost ten years ago, India was confronted with tremendous change in its media landscape. In 1991, with the rise of satellite broadcasting, foreign, mostly transnational television channels started to be on the air in the country. This caused a lively national debate: not only about role and content of conventional as well as of newly emerging forms of audio-visual media, but also about the influence of the latter on India's culture and self-understanding. In their volume *Image Journeys: Audio-visual Media and Cultural Change in India*, Melissa Butcher and Christiane Brosius have compiled ten articles which, taken together, try to shed light on the most important of the very diverse aspects which are relevant to these processes and debate. Bringing together authors from academia and media production alike, the book covers topics as broad as media impact, identity formation, political iconography and political action.