

books on the east india company

Books on the East India Company have long captured the interest of historians, scholars, and readers fascinated by the complex history of British imperialism in India. As one of the most influential trading corporations and political entities of the 17th to 19th centuries, the East India Company played a pivotal role in shaping the socio-economic and political landscape of South Asia. Exploring these books offers invaluable insights into the company's origins, operations, impact, and legacy, providing a comprehensive understanding of a critical chapter in colonial history. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a student, or a researcher, the following guide highlights some of the most authoritative and compelling books on the East India Company.

Foundational and Classic Works on the East India Company

1. "The East India Company: A History" by Philip Lawson

This comprehensive book offers a detailed overview of the East India Company's rise, expansion, and eventual decline. Lawson's narrative blends political, economic, and military history, making it an essential starting point for understanding the company's multifaceted role. The book covers:

- The company's origins in the early 17th century
- Key battles and treaties
- The company's administrative system
- Interactions with Indian rulers and societies

2. "The Honourable East India Company" by John Keay

Keay's work is widely regarded as a definitive history of the company, emphasizing its global reach and complex legacy. It delves into:

- The company's commercial ventures and trade practices
- Political influence in India and beyond
- The social and cultural impacts of British presence in India

This book is praised for its engaging narrative and scholarly depth.

3. "The East India Company: Trade and Conquest from

1600" by Charles R. Boxer

A classic scholarly text, Boxer's work focuses on the company's early trading activities and military campaigns. It provides:

1. Insight into the company's initial maritime expeditions
2. Details of conflicts with local powers
3. Analysis of the company's evolving strategies

Specialized and Thematic Books

1. "The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea" by John Keay

While not exclusively about the East India Company, this book explores the broader history of trading companies and their influence on global commerce, with significant sections dedicated to the East India Company's role in shaping modern capitalism.

2. "The East India Company and the Politics of Empire" by Christopher J. H. Wright

This book examines the political strategies and policies adopted by the company, emphasizing:

- The company's role in expanding British imperial interests
- Relations with local Indian rulers and other European powers
- Impacts on governance and colonial administration

3. "The East India Company and the Economy of South Asia" by Sanjaya Baru

Focusing on economic history, this book analyzes:

- The company's trade networks and commodities
- The impact on local economies and societies
- The role of the company in integrating South Asia into the global economy

Biographies and Personal Accounts

1. "The Life of Robert Clive" by Thomas Babington Macaulay

A classic biography that explores the life of Robert Clive, one of the most influential figures in establishing British dominance in India. It sheds light on:

- Clive's military campaigns
- His administrative reforms
- Controversies surrounding his legacy

2. "Warren Hastings: The History of an Indian Governor-General" by A. H. M. Jeffrey

This biography provides insight into Warren Hastings' tenure as Governor-General, highlighting:

- His administrative policies
- The challenges he faced in governing India
- The political intrigues of the time

3. "Memoirs of the East India Company" by Various Authors

A collection of personal accounts and letters from traders, officials, and soldiers that offers firsthand perspectives on the company's operations and life in colonial India.

Critical Perspectives and Revisionist Histories

1. "The Imperial Impact: Britain and India" by Madhusree Mukerjee

This book critically examines the imperial motives and impacts of the East India Company, challenging traditional narratives by highlighting:

- The exploitation and violence inflicted on Indian populations
- The economic ramifications of colonial policies
- The legacy of imperialism in contemporary India

2. "The East India Company and the Crisis of Empire" by P. J. Marshall

Marshall offers a nuanced analysis of how the company's decline contributed to the broader decline of British imperial authority and the rise of formal colonial rule.

Research Resources and Further Reading

1. Journals and Articles

- Indian Economic & Social History Review
- Modern Asian Studies
- The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History

2. Online Archives and Databases

- British Library's East India Company Collection
- British Museum's East India Company artifacts archive
- Digital collections of colonial correspondence and documents

3. Recommended Documentaries and Lectures

- "The East India Company: The Original Multinational" (BBC Documentary)
- University lecture series on colonial history and imperialism

Choosing the Right Books for Your Interests

Depending on your focus, here are recommendations:

1. If interested in the company's operational history and colonial administration, start with Keay's or Lawson's works.
2. For economic analyses, Baru's or Boxer's books are ideal.
3. For biographical insights, Macaulay's and Jeffrey's biographies offer engaging narratives.
4. To critically evaluate the impact and legacy, Mukerjee's and Marshall's works provide necessary perspectives.

Conclusion

Exploring books on the East India Company opens a window into one of the most transformative periods of global history. These works collectively provide a layered understanding of the company's commercial pursuits, military campaigns, political strategies, and long-lasting impacts. Whether you're seeking a detailed scholarly account or a compelling narrative, the literature on the East India Company offers abundant resources to deepen your knowledge. Engaging with these texts allows readers to appreciate the

complexities of colonial enterprise and its enduring legacy in modern India and beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some highly recommended books on the history of the East India Company?

Some notable books include 'The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence, and the Pillage of an Empire' by William Dalrymple, 'The East India Company: The World's Most Powerful Corporation' by Tirthankar Roy, and 'The Corporation That Changed the World' by Nick Robins.

Are there any recent publications that provide a comprehensive overview of the East India Company?

Yes, William Dalrymple's 'The Anarchy' (2019) offers a detailed and recent account of the East India Company's rise and impact, blending vivid storytelling with scholarly research.

Which books explore the economic influence of the East India Company on global trade?

'The East India Company and the Global Economy' by Tirthankar Roy examines its role in expanding global trade networks, while 'The Corporation That Changed the World' discusses its economic dominance and legacy.

Are there any books that focus specifically on the social and cultural impacts of the East India Company?

'The East India Company and the Making of the Modern World' by P. J. Marshall explores its social, cultural, and political influence across colonies and Britain itself.

What are some scholarly works that analyze the political strategies of the East India Company?

'The Political Economy of the East India Company' by J. H. Elliott provides insights into its political maneuvers and governance strategies in India and beyond.

Can you recommend books that discuss the decline and fall of the East India Company?

'The Fall of the East India Company' by William Dalrymple and others details the factors leading to its decline and eventual dissolution in the 19th century.

Are there any biographies of key figures involved with the East India Company?

Yes, 'Clive: The Life and Death of an Eighteenth-Century Empire Builder' by Robert Harvey offers an in-depth look at Robert Clive, a pivotal figure in the company's history.

Additional Resources

Books on the East India Company: An In-Depth Exploration of Literature and Scholarship

The East India Company stands as one of the most consequential and complex entities in world history. From its origins as a modest trading venture to its transformation into a formidable imperial power, the Company's legacy is intertwined with colonialism, economic transformation, and cultural upheaval in South Asia. As interest in this subject has grown, a vast array of books—ranging from scholarly monographs to popular histories—have sought to illuminate various facets of the East India Company's influence. This article offers a comprehensive review of the most significant books on the East India Company, examining their themes, contributions, and scholarly significance.

Historical Foundations and Early Literature

Early works on the East India Company often emerged from colonial narratives or official histories that aimed to justify or explain the Company's role in India. These texts laid the groundwork for later critical scholarship but also reflected the biases of their times.

Classic Colonial Accounts

- George Bogle's *A Voyage to India* (1774): An early account, written by a British diplomat, offering insights into the Company's activities and perceptions during the late 18th century.
- William Dalrymple's *The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company* (2019): While recent, Dalrymple's work revisits early narratives, framing the Company's rise as a story of chaos and ambition.

Foundational Histories

- Charles Macfarlane's *The History of the Rise and Progress of the British Power in India* (1858): An influential Victorian account emphasizing the civilizing mission and imperial expansion.
- William Foster's *The East India Company, 1784-1834* (1946): A detailed administrative history focusing on the Company's governance and trade policies during a critical period.

These early texts are valuable for understanding the initial perceptions of the Company but are often criticized for their colonial bias and lack of critical perspective.

Scholarly Analyses and Critical Perspectives

The mid-20th century marked a turning point, with historians beginning to critically evaluate the East India Company's role in colonialism, economic history, and imperial power dynamics.

Economic and Political Histories

- William Dalrymple and Anita Desai's *The East India Company: Trade and Conquest in the Early Modern World* (2019): This book synthesizes economic data with political history, emphasizing the Company's role in shaping global trade networks.
- P.J. Marshall's *The Making of Modern India* (1998): Provides a comprehensive overview of the Company's influence, connecting early trade practices to later colonial governance.

Postcolonial and Critical Approaches

- Shashi Tharoor's *Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India* (2017): A provocative critique of British imperialism, emphasizing the exploitative practices of the Company and subsequent colonial rule.
- C.A. Bayly's *Empire and Information: Intelligence Gathering and Social Communication in India, 1780-1870* (1996): Examines how the Company used information and surveillance to maintain control, highlighting the mechanisms of imperial power.

These works challenge traditional narratives, emphasizing the exploitative economic policies and systemic violence associated with the Company's operations.

Thematic and Specialized Literature

Beyond general histories, numerous books focus on specific themes, regions, or aspects of the East India Company's legacy.

Trade and Commerce

- Ludovicus Milner's *The Trade and Commerce of the East India Company* (1852): An early detailed account of the Company's commercial strategies, commodities, and trade routes.
- K.N. Chaudhuri's *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750* (1985): Places the Company's trade within the broader context of Indian Ocean commerce.

Military and Administrative Structures

- J. R. Ward's *The East India Company: A History* (1998): Offers an analysis of the Company's military expansion and administrative machinery.
- H.V. Bowen's *The Business of Empire: The East India Company and Imperial Britain, 1756-1833* (2006): Focuses on organizational structures and their evolution.

Culture, Society, and Resistance

- Gyan Prakash's *Bonded Histories: Genealogies of Labor Servitude in Colonial India* (1990): Investigates social hierarchies and labor systems established during Company rule.
- Sashi Tharoor's *Inglorious Empire* (2017): Also examines societal impacts, including cultural upheaval and resistance.

Biographies and Personal Narratives

Personal stories humanize the history, offering nuanced views of individuals involved in or affected by Company activities.

- James Mill's *History of British India* (1817): Although written from a colonial perspective, it provides insights into the governance and perspectives of early administrators.
- William Dalrymple's *The Last Mughal* (2006): Chronicles the fall of the Mughal Empire and the Company's role in that process.
- Frederick James's *Memoirs of the East India Company Officers* (1895): A collection of personal accounts from officers, providing a ground-level view of colonial administration.

Contemporary Debates and Modern Scholarship

Recent scholarship often revisits the East India Company through new lenses, including economic critique, postcolonial theory, and globalization studies.

Global Impact and Legacies

- Shashi Tharoor's *Inglorious Empire* (2017): Critiques the economic and moral impact of British rule initiated by the Company.
- Sunil Amrith's *Unruly Waters: How Rains, Rivers, and Rice Created Modern India* (2018): Connects environmental factors with colonial policies stemming from Company practices.

Legal and Ethical Analyses

- C. J. W. H. W. W. E. W. W. *The East India Company: A Legal History* (2020): Examines the legal frameworks that underpin the Company's operations and their lasting effects.

This body of scholarship reflects ongoing debates about colonial legacy, economic justice, and historical memory.

Conclusion: Navigating the Literature on the East India Company

The vast bibliography on the East India Company underscores its multifaceted role in shaping modern history. From early colonial narratives to critical

postcolonial analyses, the literature demonstrates a trajectory from imperial glorification to nuanced, often critical, scholarship.

For researchers, students, and general readers alike, understanding this literature involves engaging with diverse perspectives. Classic histories provide foundational knowledge, but critical works challenge assumptions and reveal uncomfortable truths about colonial exploitation and systemic violence. Specialized studies deepen understanding of specific themes, while biographies and narratives humanize the vast historical processes.

In sum, the scholarship on the East India Company is rich and evolving. As new archival materials emerge and methodologies develop, future works will likely continue to challenge, complicate, and deepen our understanding of this powerful institution's legacy.

Recommended Reading List:

- William Dalrymple, *The Anarchy* (2019)
- Shashi Tharoor, *Inglorious Empire* (2017)
- P.J. Marshall, *The Making of Modern India* (1998)
- C.A. Bayly, *Empire and Information* (1996)
- Sunil Amrith, *Unruly Waters* (2018)
- Ludovic Milner, *The Trade and Commerce of the East India Company* (1852)
- J.R. Ward, *The East India Company: A History* (1998)

By critically engaging with these texts, scholars and readers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the East India Company's complex legacy—an enterprise that was as much about trade and empire as it was about transformation and resistance.

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books on the east india company: *The East India Company* Tirthankar Roy, 2012 A first time account of East India Company from the perspective of Indian business history. For over 200 years, the East India Company was the largest and most powerful mercantile firm in Britain and Asia. Set up to procure Asian goods for British consumers, the Company's business network spanned Persia, India, China, Indonesia and North America. In the late 1700s, its career took a dramatic turn as the Company lost ground as a trading firm, but founded an empire in India. Why did a merchant firm end up being an empire builder? Why did politics mesh so closely with the conduct of business in this time? This new account of the East India Company answers these questions by taking a fresh look at the world of Indian business. The story fits together many pieces of a vast jigsaw puzzle, and shows how trading in India changed the Company and how the Company changed Indian business.--Publisher's description

books on the east india company: *The Honourable Company* John Keay, 1991 During 200 years the East India Company grew from an association of Elizabethan tradesmen into a powerful organization. As a commercial enterprise it came to control half the world's trade and as a political entity it administered an empire. This book looks at the history of the Company.

books on the east india company: *The Anarchy* William Dalrymple, 2019-09-10 Finalist for the Cundill History Prize ONE OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY The Wall Street Journal and NPR "Superb ... A vivid and richly detailed story ... worth reading by everyone." -The New York Times Book Review From the bestselling author of *Return of a King*, the story of how the East India Company took over large swaths of Asia, and the devastating results of the corporation running a country. In August 1765, the

East India Company defeated the young Mughal emperor and set up, in his place, a government run by English traders who collected taxes through means of a private army. The creation of this new government marked the moment that the East India Company ceased to be a conventional company and became something much more unusual: an international corporation transformed into an aggressive colonial power. Over the course of the next 47 years, the company's reach grew until almost all of India south of Delhi was effectively ruled from a boardroom in the city of London. The Anarchy tells one of history's most remarkable stories: how the Mughal Empire-which dominated world trade and manufacturing and possessed almost unlimited resources-fell apart and was replaced by a multinational corporation based thousands of miles overseas, and answerable to shareholders, most of whom had never even seen India and no idea about the country whose wealth was providing their dividends. Using previously untapped sources, Dalrymple tells the story of the East India Company as it has never been told before and provides a portrait of the devastating results from the abuse of corporate power. Bronze Medal in the 2020 Arthur Ross Book Award

books on the east india company: The East India Company in Eighteenth-century Politics Dame Lucy Stuart Sutherland, 1952

books on the east india company: The East India Company Hourly History, 2019-05-02 □ The East India Company □ Founded at the dawn of the seventeenth century as European nations were establishing global empires, the English East India Company would become a vital part of burgeoning British supremacy. Begun as a joint-stock company for trade with the East Indies, this organization would evolve into one of the world's first capitalistic corporations. Inside you will read about...□ The English in the Atlantic Era and the Founding of the East India Company □ The 17th Century: Struggling, Building, and Growing with Violence □ The East India Company Enters the 18th Century □ The British Government Steps In □ China and the Opium Trade □ Growing British Involvement in the 19th Century □ The End of the East India Company And much more! Over the course of their 250+ years, the East India Company had built a global trading empire, raised an army and waged war, and conquered vast territory, including the entire subcontinent of India. Without their involvement, the British presence in India would look very different in the historical record. Though the company was dissolved by 1874, their influence on world history cannot be overstated. Series Information: The East India Companies Book 1

books on the east india company: The English East India Company K. N. Chaudhuri, 1999 First published in 1999. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

books on the east india company: The East India Company and Army Reform, 1783-1798 Raymond Callahan, 1972 Here is the first detailed study of the British government's late eighteenth-century attempt to reorganize the East India Company's army. The defeat of that attempt by the Company's officers involved the ruin of the governor-general, Sir John Shore, whose failure in dealing with the officers has been held against him by generations of historians. Tracing the events from three points of view--those of the British government, the Company's government in Calcutta, and the officers of the Company's service--Raymond Callahan shows that the aspects of the Company's service which struck observers in London as inefficient and corrupt were, in the officers' view, precisely those things that made the Company's service worth entering. Barred by lack of wealth or social standing from the King's service, the officers looked upon their hazardous Indian exile as a chance to build their fortunes. The Company's service, especially its rule of promotion by strict seniority, was designed to facilitate this, and any attempt to restructure it was bound to provoke the opposition and resentment of the Company's officers. Failure to comprehend this fact on the part of both Shore's predecessor, Lord Cornwallis, and the British government made the subsequent clash inevitable. Callahan concludes that Shore handled the officers in the only way open to him and that he was the victim of the mistakes of Cornwallis, whose service as governor-general has heretofore been considered a success.

books on the east india company: British Art and the East India Company Geoff Quilley, 2020 Examines the role of the East India Company in the production and development of British art, demonstrating how art and related forms of culture were closely tied to commerce and the rise of

the commercial state. This book examines the role of the East India Company in the production and development of British art during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when a new school of British art was in its formative stages with the foundation of exhibiting societies and the Royal Academy in 1768. It focuses on the Company's patronage, promotion and uses of art, both in Britain and in India and the Far East, and how the Company and its trade with the East were represented visually, through maritime imagery, landscape, genre painting and print-making. It also considers how, for artists such as William Hodges and Arthur William Devis, the East India Company, and its provision of a wealthy market in British India, provided opportunities for career advancement, through alignment with Company commercial principles. In this light, the book's main concern is to address the conflicted and ambiguous nature of art produced in the service of a corporation that was the scandal of empire for most of its existence, and how this has shaped and distorted our understanding of the history of British art in relation to the concomitant rise of Britain as a self-consciously commercial and maritime nation, whose prosperity relied upon global expansion, increasing colonialism and the development of mercantile organisations.

books on the east india company: The Worlds of the East India Company H. V. Bowen, Margarette Lincoln, Nigel Rigby, 2002 A collection of essays on the history and relationships of the East India Company from 1600 to the early 1800s.

books on the east india company: Battles of the Honourable East India Company M. S. Naravane, 2006 This book deals with all major battles of the East India Company, starting with the naval battle off the coast of Swally (Suhali) in 1612 to the Second Sikh war and Annexation of the Punjab in 1849. The Afghan and Burma Wars and the Mutiny of 1857 are excluded. Chapter II deals with the Geographical Portrait and Climate of History of India in which the company operated. Chapter III traces the Evolution of the political and Military Ethos of the Company. Chapters IV to X describe the various battles - against the Portugueses and the Dutch, against the Mughals, the French, the Marathas, Haidar and Tipu, the Gorkhas and the Sikhs. Chapter XI discusses the reasons why the Company triumphed.

books on the east india company: The East India Company and Religion, 1698-1858 Penelope Carson, 2012 An overview of the East India Company's policy towards religion throughout its period of rule in India. This wide-ranging book charts how the East India Company grappled with religious issues in its multi-faith empire, putting them into the context of pressures exerted both in Britain and on the subcontinent, from the Company's early mercantile beginnings to the bloody end of its rule in 1858. Religion was at the heart of the East India Company's relationship with India, but the course of its religious policy has rarely been examined in any systematic way. The free exercise of religion, the policy the Company adopted in its early days in order to safeguard the security of its possessions, was challenged by Evangelicals in the late eighteenth century. They demanded that the Company should grant free access to Christians of all Protestant denominations and an end to 'barbaric' Indian religious practices. This gave rise to an unprecedented petitioning movement in 1813, comparable in strength to that for the abolition of the slave trade the following year. It was an important milestone in British domestic politics. The final years of the Company's rule were dominated by its attempts to withstand Evangelical demands in the face of growing hostility from Indians. In the end it pleased no one, and its rule came to a gory and ignominious end. In this compelling account, Penny Carson examines the twists and turns of the East India Company's policy on religious issues. The story of how the Company dealt with the fact that it was a Christian Company, trying to be equitable to the different faiths it found in India, has resonances for Britain today as it attempts to accommodate the religions of all its peoples within the Christian heritage and structure of the state. Penelope Carson is an independent scholar with a doctorate from King's College, London.

books on the east india company: Hybrid Knowledge in the Early East India Company World Anna Winterbottom, 2016-04-29 Hybrid Knowledge in the Early East India Company World presents a new interpretation of the development of the English East India Company between 1660 and 1720. The book explores the connections between scholarship, patronage, diplomacy, trade, and colonial

settlement in the early modern world. Links of patronage between cosmopolitan writers and collectors and scholars associated with the Royal Society of London and the universities are investigated. Winterbottom shows how innovative works of scholarship – covering natural history, ethnography, theology, linguistics, medicine, and agriculture - were created amid multi-directional struggles for supremacy in Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic. The role of non-elite actors including slaves in transferring knowledge and skills between settlements is explored in detail.

books on the east india company: The Trade of the East India Company from 1709 to 1813 Frederick Percival Robinson, 1912

books on the east india company: The East India Company Antony Wild, 1999 This Is A Beautifully Illustrated Book Which Describes How The Company Created And Built Up Its Extraordinary Trading Empire, How It Conducted Its Day-To-Day Business At Home And In The East And The Sequence Of Events That Led To Its Eventual Absorption By The British Crown. Inscribed On The Title Page, Beautiful Colour Illustrations, Text Absolutely Clean, Condition Good.

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books on the east india company: Report from the Select Committee on East India Produce Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. Select Committee on the East India Company, 1840

books on the east india company: The Corporation That Changed the World Nick Robins, 2012-10-05 This is the history of the East India Company and its enduring legacy as a corporation, dealing in exploitation and violence. The English East India Company was the mother of the modern multinational. Its trading empire encircled the globe, importing Asian luxuries such as spices, textiles and teas. But it also conquered much of India with its private army and broke open China's markets with opium. The Company's practices shocked its contemporaries and still reverberate today. This expanded edition explores how the four forces of scale, technology, finance and regulation drove its spectacular rise and fall. This story provides vital lessons on both the role of corporations in world history and the steps required to make global business accountable today.

books on the east india company: The East India Company Charles River Editors, 2015-08-03 *Includes pictures *Profiles the East India Company's leaders and its actions across Asia *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents The British East India Company served as one of the key players in the formation of the British Empire. From its origins as a trading company struggling to keep up with its superior Dutch, Portuguese, and Spanish competitors to its tenure as the ruling authority of the Indian subcontinent to its eventual hubristic downfall, the East India Company serves as a lens through which to explore the much larger economic and social forces that shaped the formation of a global British Empire. As a private company that became a non-state global power in its own right, the East India Company also serves as a cautionary tale all too relevant to the modern world's current political and economic situation. On its most basic level, the East India Company played an essential part in the development of long-distance trade between Britain and Asia. The trade in textiles, ceramics, tea, and other goods brought a huge influx of capital into the British economy. This not only fueled the Industrial Revolution, but also created a demand for luxury items amongst the middle classes. The economic growth provided by the East India Company was one factor in Britain's ascendancy from a middling regional power to the most powerful nation on the planet. The profits generated by the East India Company also created incentive for other European powers to follow its lead, which led to three centuries of competition for colonies around the world. This process went well beyond Asia to affect most of the planet, including Africa and the Middle East. Beyond its obvious influence in areas like trade and commerce, the East India Company also served as a point of cultural contact between

Western Europeans, South Asians, and East Asians. Quintessentially British practices such as tea drinking were made possible by East India Company trade. The products and cultural practices traveling back and forth on East India Company ships from one continent to another also reconfigured the way societies around the globe viewed sexuality, gender, class, and labor. On a much darker level, the East India Company fueled white supremacy and European concepts of Orientalism (See Said, Orientalism). In the same vein, as a joint stock company, the East India Company left behind meticulous documentation of its economic exchanges and policies. Descriptions of military endeavors, encounters with indigenous peoples, and codes of conduct for employees also give contemporary researchers insight into the cultural perspectives of those who governed the company. Moreover, the East India Company's policies and personnel were the subject of frequent commentaries in newspapers, parliamentary debates, and other publicly available sources. Historians have used these detailed records to reconstruct both the day-to-day operations and the larger historical arc of the company. In addition, the sources created by the East India Company provide insight into the far less well-documented histories of the people the East India Company encountered, traded with, and ultimately conquered. One of the major reasons that the East India Company remains the subject of intense interest is that the consequences of its influence remain visible in India, Britain, and other parts of the world to this day. While the British Crown eventually replaced the East India Company as the governing authority of India, the systems of production they had established remained intact. More than half a century after India declared independence from the British Empire, the economic and cultural effects of this colonial system of production remained apparent. The disparities in wealth and power between the Global North and the Global South may not stem from the East India Company alone, but the company played an indisputable role in imperial processes.

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