

A Brief History of Modern India

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Revised and Enlarged Edition
2023



Editor's Note

Several books have been written by justly famous authors and historians of India's struggle for freedom which is the major strand in any consideration of the history of Modern India. But these volumes are extensive and in-depth studies, and often suffer from an overemphasis on one aspect at the cost of another. The present small effort, however, brings together various aspects of the turbulent period (from the arrival of the Europeans on Indian soil and the establishment of British rule in India to the day India won independence and the years after freedom) in a systematic and succinct manner: major and important details and milestones are effectively discussed while several relevant but little known details are also highlighted.

It is not just the mainstream freedom struggle that has been considered; the disparate efforts—small but significant—of several groups have also been discussed. The political and socio-economic developments that have influenced the growth of modern India have been dealt with in independent chapters.

The endeavour has been to present complex and truly vast material in a brief and easy-to-understand manner, and we hope our readers find the book of use and interest.

There are also chapters on the challenges that a newly independent nation faced in the wake of a brutal partition. The Nehruvian era is also briefly discussed. The chapters on India after Nehru discuss various developments under the governments that came after 1964.

In the Appendices, a survey of personalities associated with various phases of the national movement is given. A section on women freedom fighters has been included. Also included for easy ready reference are some charts relating to modern India and the freedom struggle.

In every revised edition, we incorporate some fresh content. In the present edition too, various modifications have been done. Several more tribal and peasant movements have been included in the chapter on people's resistance against British Rule; the chapters on constitutional developments and workers' movement have been enriched and enlarged; and some more reform movements and personalities associated with the freedom movement have been incorporated.

We appreciate the feedback we have received from our readers. We are especially grateful to our astute readers for suggesting some changes and additions. We have accordingly modified some sections in the various chapters.

Suggestions for improvement are welcome.

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August 2023

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