

India: Some Distortions by Historians, from UK, in Calcutta

March 18,2024

March 17,2024: Delhi: 'India Today' Conclave 2024: extract from **Kalli Poori's** address with Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, as the Key-note Speaker: Ms. Poorie, the Executive Editor of India Today group said about the **30 steps** from the old Parliament House (built in 1930) to the new Parliament (built in 2024, by Modi's Government):

The **30 steps** take you from the
twentieth century, which succeeded in removing colonialism
towards the
21st century, which promises to bring a shining world all over the earth.



The narrative of a bright future can only be woven by those, who have not imbibed a deep-seated inferiority complex wrt the west and whose horizons have not shrunk to the boundaries of the India, as defined by the Historians, of British extraction, who formulated the History of the sub-continent, based on the experience of **East India Company's (EIC's)** Governor General in Calcutta.

The experience of EIC establishments

of Surat (set up in 1619), of Madras (set up in 1639) and of Bombay (given to EIC in 1668 by **Charles II, the King of Great Britain and Ireland** out of the

dowry, received by him, when he married **Catherine of Braganza** in 1961.
(*The queen was the daughter of King John IV of Portugal.*)

was not taken as the input by those, who wrote the first book of History of India for Calcutta University.

The History of India, as formulated by British Historians, and adopted by Indian Universities, bears only a tangential relationship with the History of Indian Culture and Dharma, which was widespread in, at least, the entire Asian continent. To understand and write about Indian Culture and Dharma, one was required to have a huge intellectual canvas, which could understand the intimate and all-encompassing relationship of **Jambu Dweep** (*Indian subcontinent*) with at least the whole of Asia. The British Historians, in Calcutta of 1857, from the small island nation of Great Britain, could only think of using a very small canvas, for writing Indian History. The impossible-task of 'shrinking' the picture of the huge canvas of Indian Culture and Dharma onto their small canvas, these British Historians, followed by 'Irfan Habib-Romila Thapar group', during 70 years till 2010, have introduced in 'India's class-rooms in Schools and Universities', a highly distorted History of India.

Shri **Bhupendra Fumakia**, an eminent engineer, wrote a WhatsApp message on Friday, March 15, 2024 as follows:

The Truth...

800 years or Mughal rule

200 years of British

70 years of काले अंग्रेज

But I don't blame them. They had an opportunity, they grabbed it

Problem is with

1. Intellectual Hindus

2. Ostrich Hindus

3. All is well type Hindus

4. Secular Hindu

5. Convent educated Hindus.

The above message of Shri **Bhupendra Fumakia**, highly intelligent though he is, is based on some untruths in the distorted history, which he had studied during his teens in his School.

Dr. Akshai Aggarwal responded as follows

The Truth... ONLY 120 years of Mughal Rule, and, not 800 years of Mughal rule: The truth is that Mughal rule was nominally established on Nov 5, 1556 when **Samrat Vikramaditya Hemchandra** was defeated in Panipat, through an unfortunate incident of an arrow, directly injuring Vikramaditya. The Mughal imperial structure, however, is dated to 1600, to the rule of Babur's grandson, **Akbar**. This imperial structure lasted until 1720, until shortly after the death of the last major emperor, Aurangzeb, during whose reign the empire also achieved its maximum geographical extent.

Reduced subsequently to the region in and around Old Delhi by 1760, the empire was formally dissolved by the British Raj after the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

During the reign of Muhammad Shah (reigned 1719–1748), vast tracts of central India passed from Mughal to Maratha hands.

Emperor Nader Shah, the Shah of Iran, easily defeated the Mughals at the **Battle of Karnal** and **on March 22, 1739**, Nader Shah led his Persian army into the center of Delhi. The **sack of Delhi** by his soldiers marked the **final death blow to Mughal power and prestige**. Nader Shah snatched famous jewels like the Koh-i-Noor diamond from the Mughal King. Many of the Mughal empire's elites, then, sought to control their affairs and broke away to form independent kingdoms.

For the entire period from 1192 (*the year of Battle of Tarain when Prithviraj Chauhan was defeated.*), Hindus continued to fight. Shri **Fumakia** mentions 800 years of Mughal rule. Probably he means Muslim rule, after the defeat of Prithvi Raj Chauhan in 1192 AD.

BACKGROUND: In 1192, India had many small kingdoms, involved in wars with one another. In the North West, the most powerful ones were the **Chalukya dynasty in Gujarat**, the **Solanki dynasty of Jaichandra in Kanauj** and the **Rajput Chahamanas of Prithviraj Chauhan based out of Ajmer and Delhi**.

The Kingdoms had **no information about the political developments in Central Asia**. No one in India knew that Ghurids of Afghanistan had been blocked from enlarging their

empire in all other directions and the only way for enlarging their possessions was to move into India. Ghurids had been nibbling away territories like Multan, in the North West of India. **Any sagacious observer would have interpreted it as a step by Ghurids for capturing a larger part of India.**

Jaichandra had invited the **Ghurid Sultan of Afghanistan to defeat Prithviraj Chauhan**, since he felt insulted, when Prithviraj Chauhan spirited away **Samyogita**, the daughter of Jaichandra from her **Swayamvar** (*one type of marriage ceremony, used by Kings in India*) and married her.)

The **AFTERMATH** of the **DEFEAT** of **CHAUHAN**: In 1194, at the **Battle of Chandawar**, the Ghurids defeated the forces of **Jayachandra, who was killed in action**. Muhammad Ghurid, along with his General **Qutb ud-Din Aibak** in the vanguard, ravaged **Kashi**, desecrating “a thousand temples” and the Buddhist city of **Sarnath**. In 1196, Qutb ud-Din Aibak vanquished **Sulakshanapala**, the ruler of the **Kachchhapaghata dynasty of Gwalior**, capturing Gwalior fort. Also in 1196, Qutb ud-Din Aibak vanquished a coalition of the Rajputs of Ajmer and the **Chalukyas under King Bhima II at Mount Abu**, thereafter sacking **Anhilwara, the capital of Chalukyas of Gujarat**.

The defeat of Prithvi Raj Chauhan was a setback, as stated above. But it was a small area in the North West India, where the setback occurred for a few decades, due to **complete lack of unity and no knowledge of political developments in Afghanistan and Central Asia**.

After Aurangzeb’s death, the new emperor, **Bahādur Shah I** (ruled 1707–12), did not succeed in gaining greater control over the Rajput states of the rajas of Amber (later Jaipur) and Jodhpur. The emperor’s policy of halfhearted conciliation with the Marathas also failed. But he was, successful in conciliating **Chatrasal, the Bundela chief, and Curaman, the Hindu Jat chief**; the latter also joined him in the campaign against the Sikhs.

The Sikh uprisings: Guru Gobind Singh was in Nanded (in today’s Maharashtra), when Jamshed Khan, an Afghan, commissioned by Wazir Khan, the Nawab of Sirhind, stabbed him twice. The Guru was wounded badly.

After the death of the tenth Guru, the Sikhs once again raised the banner of revolt in Punjab under the leadership of **Banda Singh Bahādur**. Practically the entire territory between the Sutlej and the Jamuna rivers, reaching the immediate vicinity

of Delhi, was soon under Sikh control. Prosperous Jat zamindars and peasants responded to **Banda's** egalitarian appeal. They, along with numerous other low-caste poor cultivators, traveled to **Banda's** camp, converted to Sikhism, and took the name Singh as members of the faith. **Banda** also had support among the Khattris, the caste of the Sikh Gurus.

Banda adopted the title of **Sacha Badshah** ("True King"), started a new calendar, and issued coins bearing the names of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, and Guru Gobind. The Himalayan Rajput chiefs, secretly in sympathy with any resistance against the Mughals, also supplied Banda with information, material, and refuge when needed.

The imperial forces under Bahādur Shah captured some important Sikh strongholds but could not crush the movement; they only swept the Sikhs from the plains back into the Himalayan foothills. In 1715, during Farrukh-Siyar's reign (from 1713 to 1719), however, **Banda**, together with hundreds of his followers, was captured by the governor of the Punjab. They were all executed in Delhi. Thus ended the threat of the emergence of an autonomous non-Mughal state in the Punjab in the early 18th century.

But Sikhs went on fighting till Raja Ranjit Singh established a powerful kingdom, with his capital at Lahore.

The Mughals could not recover and had to seek the protection of Marathas (and later of East India Company) to retain the Red Fort. The effective rule of Mughal Kings was reduced to the Red Fort in Delhi. In 1857, the then Mughal King Bahadur Shah Zafar was exiled to Rangoon and the Red Fort was taken over by the British Indian Army. (Reference: <https://www.britannica.com/place/India/The-Sikh-uprisings>)

ONE MAJOR DISTORTION: The History of India was reduced to the History of a small area around Delhi, due the small intellectual canvas of these Historians of Calcutta of 1857. Many other large and better empires in other parts of India were not even mentioned.

As an example, the Vijayanagar empire, a much more prosperous empire, which lasted for nearly double the time of Mughal empire is not even mentioned in Indian text books on History. It was established in 1336 by the brothers Harihara I and

Bukka Raya I of the Sangama dynasty. This empire was at its zenith from 1336-1565. The empire lasted until 1646, although its power greatly declined after the defeat at the Battle of Talikota in 1565.

The Vijayanagara Empire (also called the Karnata Kingdom) was a Hindu empire, whose legacy includes monuments spread over Southern India, including in the ruins of Hampi. Different temple building traditions in South and Central India were merged into the Vijayanagara architecture style. Efficient administration and vigorous overseas trade brought new technologies to the region such as water management systems for irrigation. The empire's patronage enabled fine arts and literature to reach new heights in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Sanskrit with **topics such as astronomy, mathematics, medicine, fiction, musicology, historiography and theater gaining popularity**. The **classical** music of Southern India, **Carnatic music**, evolved into its current form. The Vijayanagara Empire created an epoch in the history of Southern India that transcended regionalism by promoting Hinduism as a unifying factor.



Meenakshi Temple, built by Nayak, a Commander of the Vijayanagar Emperor
The colonettes of the Gadaladeniya Vihara temple, situated in **Sri Lanka**, match Vijayanagara style colonettes.

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vijayanagara_Empire
