

**Colonialism as Civilizing Mission**

Cultural Ideology in British India

*Edited by Harald Fischer-Tiné and Michael Mann***Pub Date:** March 2004**Binding:** Hardback**Price:** £50 / \$85**ISBN:** 9781843310914**Category:** HISTORY / Asia / General**BISAC code:** HIS003000**BIC code:** HBTQ**Extent:** 362 pages**Size:** 234 x 156mm / 9.2 x 6.1**Rights Held:** World**Description**

A fresh examination of the ideology, programmes, expressions and consequences of the British 'civilizing mission' in South Asia.

'What is intellectually stimulating is the variety that this volume offers - the ways in which individual essays bring into light a new body of archival sources as well as the manner in which each essay offers a specific geographical-cultural episode of a larger pan-Indian narrative around the colonial "civilizing mission."' —*Srirupa Prasad, Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*

Ranging from studies on sport and national education and pulp fiction to infanticide, psychiatric therapy and religion, these essays on the various forms, expressions and consequences of the British 'civilizing mission' in South Asia shed light on a topic that even today continues to be an important factor in South Asian politics.

Readership: These essays provide a fresh analysis for students of British imperialism as well as readers interested in South Asian history or the post-colonial era.

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'Torchbearers Upon the Path of Progress': Britain's Ideology of a 'Moral and Material Progress' in India. An Introductory Essay; PART I: TRIAL AND ERROR: 1. Dealing with Oriental Despotism: British Jurisdiction in Bengal, 1772-93; 2. 'A Race of Monters': South India and the British 'Civilizing Mission' in the Later Eighteenth Century; 3. Between Non-Interference in Matters of Religion and the Civilizing Mission: The Prohibition of Suttee in 1829; PART II: ORDERING AND MODERNIZING: 4. 'The Bridge-Builders': Some Notes on Railways, Pilgrimage and the British 'Civilizing Mission' in Colonial India; 5. Taming the 'Dangerous' Rajput; Family, Marriage and Female Infanticide in Nineteenth-Century Colonial North India; 6. What Is Your 'Caste'? The Classification of Indian Society as Part of the British Civilizing Mission; PART III: BODY AND MIND: 7. Sporting and the 'Civilizing Mission' in India, 8. 'More Important to Civilize Than Subdue'? Lunatic Asylums, Psychiatric Practice and Fantasies of 'the Civilizing Mission' in British India 1858-1900; 9. The Sympathizing Hear and the Healing Hand: Smallpox Prevention and Medical Benevolences in Early Colonial South India; 10. Perceptions of Sanitation and Medicine in Bombay, 1900-1914; PART IV: THE CIVILIZING MISSION INTERNALIZED: 11. National Education, Pulp Fiction and the Contradictions of Colonialism: Perceptions of an Educational Experiment in Early-Twentieth-Century India; 12. In Search of the Indigenus: J C Kumarappa and the Philosophy of 'Gandhian Economics'; 13. The Civilizational Obsessions of Ghulam Jilani Barq; Notes, Index

About the Editors

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