

Bombay

Jan 14 To the Secretary. Transmits copy of a by 4th Feby 1775
ppw 1st 12

Jan 28 From the Chief Secretary. Transmits copy of a Letter from the Captain of His Majesty's Ship Albion suggesting the expediency of detaining the French and Fleet at the Bengal Roads (Bairat) until the 15th March

Jan 29 From Ditto. His new copy except of
Mol's Secretary to Monsieur's Letter of the
24th January with a copy of the same
by psw

Sept 27 From Dr. Edwards. Copy of a letter from the R. at
Buxora stating the expediency of conciliating
the Court and people of Bagdad and Buxora by
Loans of Money and Presents and notifying the
appropriation by him of Rs 25,000. with that over
also communicating the sentiments of the Govt.
of Bombay on that subject

Sept 27 From Dr. Edwards. Copy of a letter from the
President at Madras respecting the transmission
of the Expedient consideration by the R. of
Buxora and its consequences to the
Bardar during the Persian War

Sept 27 From Dr. Edwards. Copy of a letter from the
President at Madras describing the necessity of his
journey to Bagdad and copy of the Reply
to the Persian War

Conc. No.

5th Feby 1775

TRIAL
OF
Maha Rajah NUNDOOMAR, Bahader,
FOR
FORGERY.

Date is

JUNE 8th, 1775.

At a Court of Oyer and Terminer, and Goal-delivery, holden in and for the
Town of Calcutta, and Factory of Fort William, in Bengal, and the Limits
thereof, and the Factories subordinate thereto, on the Third Day of
June, 1775,

Before the Hon. Sir ELIJAH IMPEY, Knight, Chief Justice,
ROBERT CHAMBERS,
STEPHEN CESAR LEMAISTRE, Esqrs. Justices,
And JOHN HYDE,

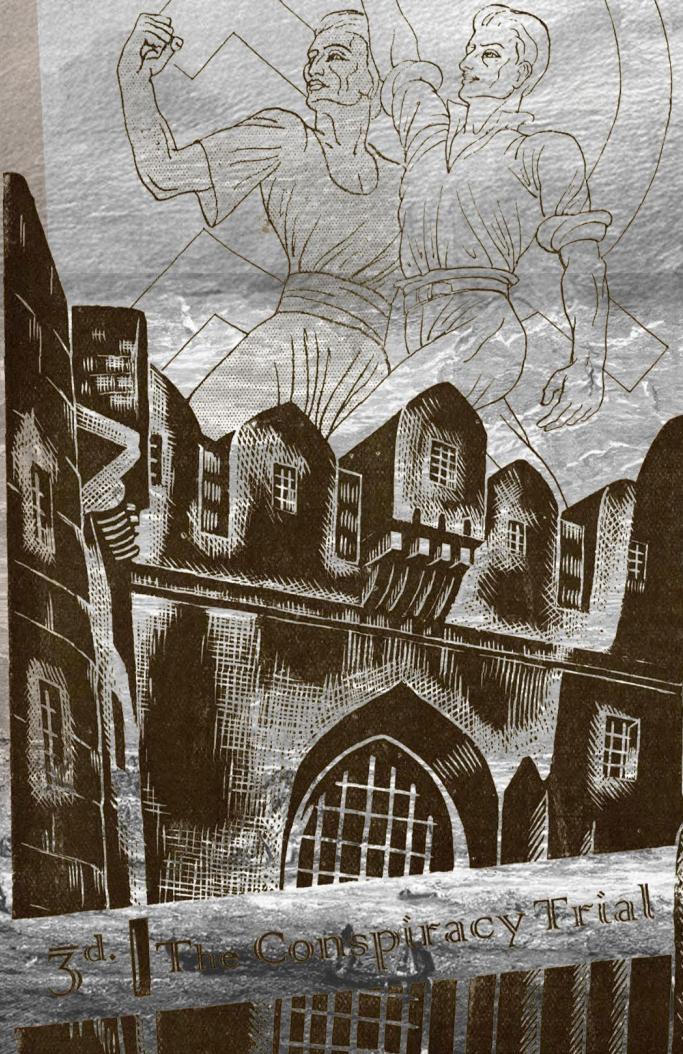
The KING, vers. Maha Rajah NUNDOOMAR,

THE Prisoner being called to the bar, and arraigned, and the indictment read, his Counsel tendered a plea to the jurisdiction of the Court, but the Chief Justice pointing out an objection thereto, which went both to the matter of fact and the law contained therein, and desiring the Counsel to consider if he could amend it, and take time for so doing, he, after having considered the objection, thought proper to withdraw the plea whereupon the Prisoner pleaded, Not Guilty. And being asked to whom he

Chief

would be tried? he answered, by God and his Peers. The Court desired to know whether he had any particular reason for using the word Peers? His Counsel answered, that the Prisoner being a man of the first dignity in this kingdom, thought he should be tried by people of equal rank with himself, agreeable to the law of England, which permits every man to be tried by his Peers. The Court asked, who the Maha Rajah considered as his Peers? His Counsel answered, he must leave that to the Court.

THE PRISONERS'
REPLY



3d. | The Conspiracy Trial

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About British Online Archives

British Online Archives (BOA) is one of the UK's leading academic publishers and online repositories. Hosting over six million records, carefully sourced from private and public archives, such as The National Archives (UK) and British Library, our unique primary source collections cover over 500 years of world history.

They boast extensive documentation from across the globe, providing invaluable source material for students, educators, and researchers working within a range of scholarly disciplines, including history, politics, sociology, and international relations. Our fascinating digital holdings offer insights into global historical events and trends, typically through a British lens. They serve to broaden our understanding of history, and help us to make sense of contemporary social, cultural, economic, and political landscapes.

Our Partners

We work closely with various archives, including:



The National Archives
(UK)



British Library



University College
London



London School
of Economics and
Political Science



The London Archives



Find My Past



National Library of
Scotland



People's History
Museum

Amidst the extensive range of unique primary source collections curated and published by British Online Archives are six titles that focus upon the history of the Indian subcontinent throughout the period 1752 to 1933. Indeed, a key strength of BOA is the sheer quantity and quality of documentation that our digital archive holds relating to territories, such as India, that came under British colonial rule. So as to showcase our India collections, we have produced this brochure—a process that we have very much enjoyed! It provides detailed overviews of the collections, alongside key insights and imagery.

The size, scope, and significance of these collections is impressive, enabling students, educators, and researchers to explore an array of events, trends, and themes within Indian and wider, global history, in remarkable detail. Arguably, the primary sources contained in these comprehensive resources chart the development of contemporary South Asia—from the economic and military encroachment of the once-powerful East India Company during the eighteenth century, through to the consolidation of British rule during the nineteenth century, to the rise of Indian nationalism and the consequent pursuit of independence, a movement that prompted Britain's decision to partition the country in 1947.

A number of our India collections track the influence of British rule upon the cultural and social spheres. For example, you can survey the dissemination of Christianity—more specifically Anglicanism—throughout the subcontinent and neighbouring Sri Lanka as a result of the efforts of Christian missionary organisations, such as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

The back catalogues of newspapers that were published in India during British rule—*The India Gazette*, *The Bengal Hurkaru and Chronicle*, and *The Bengal Times*—likewise document notable cultural, economic, social, and political trends across South Asia. Just as importantly, these publications illustrate how events throughout the globe were interpreted by India's colonial press. It is also worth highlighting how our collection exploring the Meerut Conspiracy Case of the later 1930s not only evidences the distinctive characteristics that Indian politics had acquired by the early twentieth century, but also the various ideological cross-currents and political networks that linked Indian politics with those in Britain and further afield.

We hope that you enjoy exploring this brochure and the fascinating primary source collections that it spotlights.

The East India Company: Laying the Foundations for British Colonial Domination of India, 1752–1744

Explore the Indian papers of Colonel Clive and Brigadier-General Carnac.

Containing over 24,000 images, this collection is one of several curated by BOA that document British colonial rule in India. The sources **show how the burgeoning commercial and political power of the East India Company (EIC) developed into British rule of the Indian subcontinent**. Drawing upon the papers of two of its influential personalities, **Colonel Robert Clive and Brigadier-General John Carnac**, the collection offers insights into the ways in which the EIC became increasingly powerful as a result of the weakening of the Mughal empire during the eighteenth century. The collection **covers significant events, such as the “Black Hole of Calcutta” incident that occurred in 1756, the battle of Plassey in 1757, and the British military expedition against the Dutch during 1759**.

Clive joined the EIC in Madras in 1743. He was appointed governor of Fort St David in 1755 and subsequently governor of Bengal. **Amassing great wealth, he was pivotal in establishing British rule**—his victory at Plassey secured Britain a key foothold in India. In 1758, Carnac joined the EIC with the rank of captain and went on to serve as the company's commander-in-chief. **Throughout 1760–1761, he defeated the forces of the Mughal empire.** These were backed by the French. He worked in tandem with Clive—military responsibility passed from one to the other. Together, these figures expanded British influence across India. Thus, this collection surveys a crucial transitional period during which **the balance of power on the subcontinent was reshaped.**

Key Data

Released by BOA: 2009

Coverage Covers: 1752–1744

Volume Count: 18

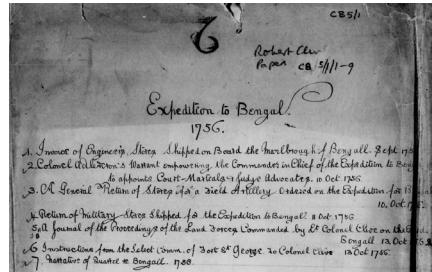
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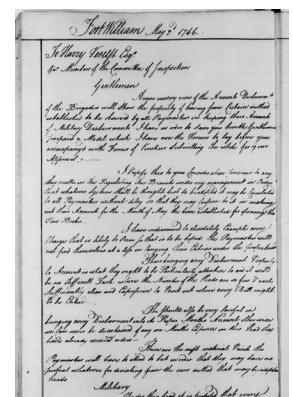
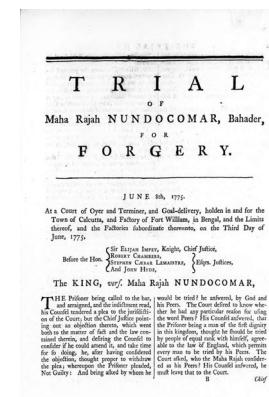
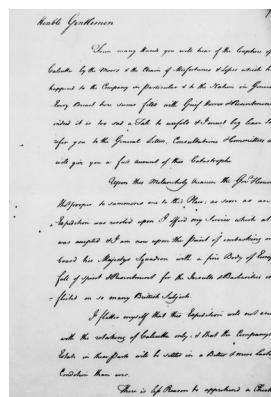


This collection is of the greatest importance to those who wish fully to explore the often controversial events that preceded, accompanied, and followed the establishment of Britain's Indian empire."

(Dr Huw Bowen).



Correspondence details Indian affairs under British rule. It includes letters to native rulers alongside reflections on military campaigns and the administration of Bengal.



Indian and Sri Lankan Records from Colonial Missionaries, 1770–1931

India and Sri Lanka through the eyes of Anglican missionaries.

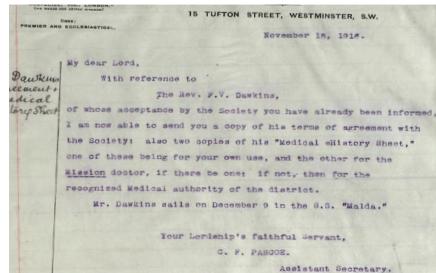
Containing over 84,000 images, *Indian and Sri Lankan Records from Colonial Missionaries, 1770–1931*, was curated in association with the Bodleian Libraries. This collection contains records compiled by the **United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG)**, a UK-based Anglican missionary organisation that operates globally. From the eighteenth to the early twentieth century, the USPG went by the name of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG). The collection contains correspondence, reports, and supplementary materials compiled by its Indian and Sri Lankan branches throughout the period 1770–1931.

It features correspondence left by Revd Christian David, the first Indian ordained into the Anglican priesthood. The sources also include annual diocesan reports from across India and Sri Lanka. The standardised structure and detailed nature of these reports allow for the progress and reach of each mission to be tracked over time. Significantly, the extensive range of primary sources in this fascinating collection allow students, educators, and researchers to survey the spread of Anglicanism throughout South Asia, as well as the (at times hostile) reception that missionaries received. The collection will likewise appeal to those exploring the social history of the British Raj.



The Society began work in 1820 in Bengal and, in 1825, it accepted responsibility from the SPCK for the mission in South India [...] During the next 25 years the Society began work in the rest of India, Burma and Ceylon.

(Isobel Pridmore, former USPG archivist).



The correspondence in this collection covers topics such as the dispatch of doctors to colonies, engagement with followers of other faiths, and the movements of SPG personnel.



Sources detail the SPG's activities across India and Sri Lanka, in areas such as Assam, Bombay, Calcutta, Chota Nagpur, Dornakal, Lahore, Lucknow, and Rangoon.

Key Data

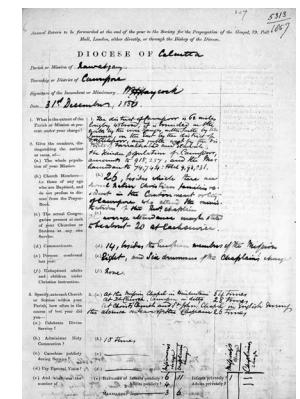
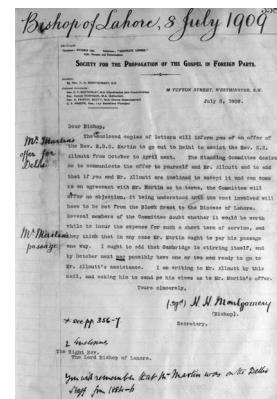
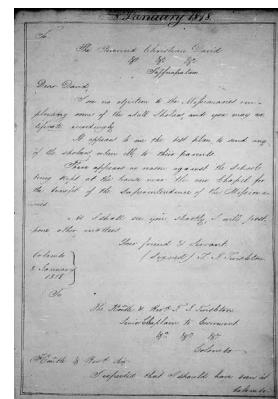
Released by BOA: 2010

Coverage Covers: 1770–1931

Volume Count: 8

Document Count: 197

Image Count: 84,424



World News in Indian Newspapers, 1782–1908

Explore over 125 years of global history as reported by the colonial press in India.

Containing over 110,000 images, *World News in Indian Newspapers, 1782–1908*, brings together numerous editions of three Anglophone newspapers that were published in India during British rule: *The India Gazette* (1782–1788 and 1822–1843); *The Bengal Hurkaru and Chronicle* (1822–1866); and *The Bengal Times* (1876–1908). These appealed to colonial administrators, businessmen, and merchants, all of whom had a keen interest in regional and international trade. Editors and reporters therefore sought to keep readers abreast of notable political, military, economic, scientific, and social trends, as well as the potential economic impact of these upon commodities, stocks, and other investments.

Key events that were covered range from the American Revolution and the Crimean War, to British parliamentary debates on the India Act of 1858. Much coverage was devoted to the industrial and pharmaceutical developments of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Britain, France, India, Ireland, the United States, and China received the most editorial attention, although news from other nations also featured. This collection yields valuable source material for those wishing to explore a range of topics, such as British imperialism, the history of journalism, international relations, as well as the economic and political networks that shaped the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Key Data

Released by BOA: 2020

Coverage Covers: 1782–1908

Volume Count: 3

Document Count: 106

Image Count: 111,913



“World News in Indian Newspapers provides scholars with an unparalleled and comprehensive insight into the nature of British colonial rule in India.”
(Dr Benjamin Holt).



Alongside news on politics and trade, the newspapers surveyed cultural trends. Early editions of *The India Gazette* featured book reviews, poetry columns, and theatre advertisements.



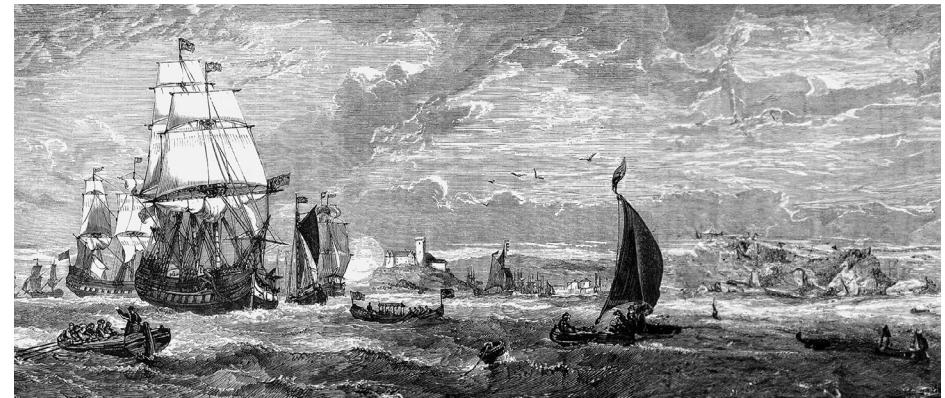
As the Indian independence movement grew, coverage of national affairs increased. After 1897, *The Bengal Times* gradually reduced its focus on international news.

The East India Company: Corrupt Governance and Cruelty in India, 1806–1814

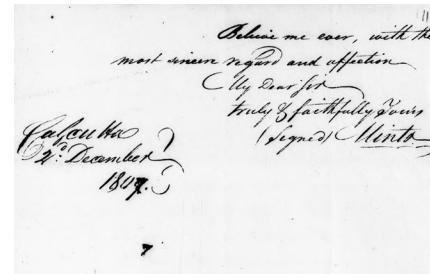
Explore the consolidation of British colonial rule in India.

The first Earl of Minto, Sir Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound, served as the Governor-General of India from 1807 to 1813. Containing over 130,000 images, this collection is drawn from his personal papers during his time as the premier of the East India Company (EIC). These documents contain extensive correspondence with fellow officials, records from the EIC's political and secret departments, and files concerning the earl's time as president of the Board of Control. The collection offers valuable insights into the upper echelons of the EIC during a period when it was consolidating its influence throughout the Indian subcontinent, having established governance of the wealthy region of Bengal during the late eighteenth century.

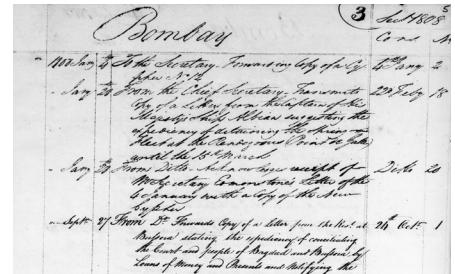
It has long been asserted that the EIC's governance of India during the early nineteenth century was **characterised by corruption, cruelty, and exploitation of the indigenous population**. The EIC extracted revenue and its policies are deemed to have exacerbated poverty, famine, and instability, all of which helped spark the Indian Mutiny of 1857–1858. Following the suppression of this uprising, the EIC's authority in India was seized by Westminster. This collection is a rich resource for students, educators, and researchers wishing to explore the development and influence of the once powerful EIC, as well as the formation of the British empire. It will also appeal to those interested in the broader histories of Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan.



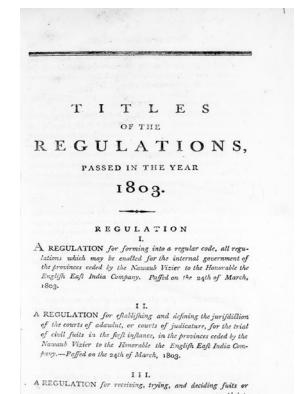
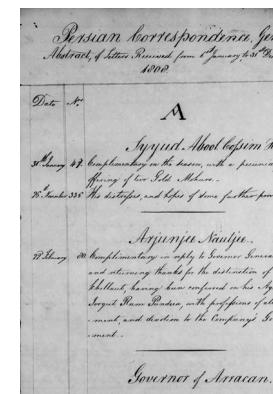
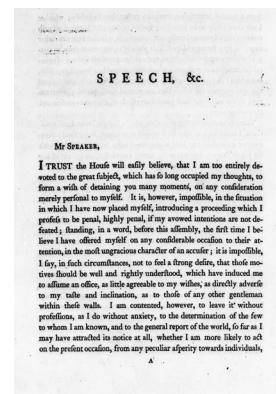
“At its peak, the English East India Company was by far the largest corporation of its kind. It was also larger than several nations.”
(Professor Emily Erickson, Yale University).



A series of letter books contain the earl's correspondence with the directors of the EIC concerning the company's aims, morale within the army, and trading rights.



The collection contains proceedings of the Governor-General in Council's Secret Department (1808–1813) and letters on relations with France during the Napoleonic Wars.



Key Data

Released by BOA: 2015

Coverage Covers: 1806–1814

Volume Count: 21

Document Count: 268

Image Count: 132,086



The British Raj: Resistance and Reform in India, 1879–1920

Explore colonial rule in India and the consequent rise of nationalism.

Containing over 43,000 images, this collection comprises diaries, letters, and official papers. The sources relate to two viceroys who acted as representatives of the British monarch in India: **Lord George Curzon and the fourth Earl of Minto, Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound**. Curzon served as viceroy from 1899 to 1905. He was succeeded by the earl, who served until 1910. The material relating to Curzon illustrates his reform of the British Raj. Despite this, he remains controversial—critics assert that he prioritised British interests over the demands and needs of the Indian population. Arguably, his most contentious act was the **partition of Bengal in 1905**, a measure that exacerbated religious divisions within the region.

The material relating to the fourth Earl of Minto likewise illustrates his efforts to maintain British influence during his time as viceroy. His tenure was characterised by cautious reform, as he sought to address the rising tide of Indian nationalism whilst maintaining British supremacy. The documents include his personal correspondence and diaries. The collection also includes the diaries of his wife, Lady Mary Caroline Grey. These sources allude to growing anti-British sentiment amongst India's population during the opening decade of the twentieth century and evidence how the viceroy responded.

Key Data

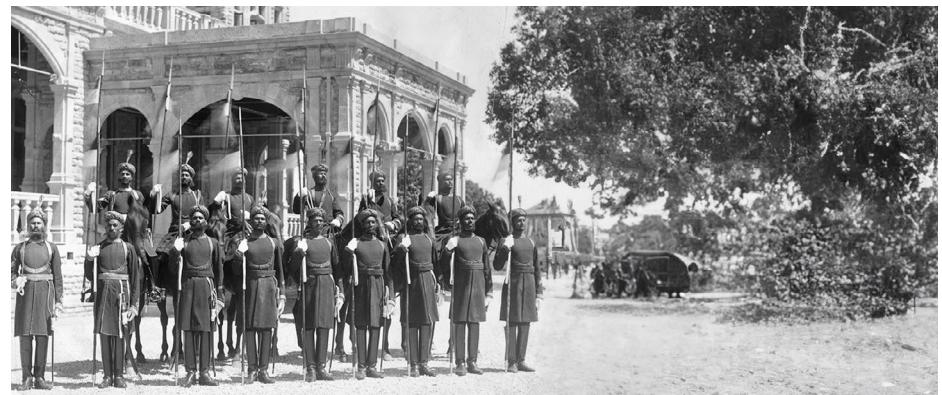
Released by BOA: 2012

Coverage Covers: 1879–1920

Volume Count: 5

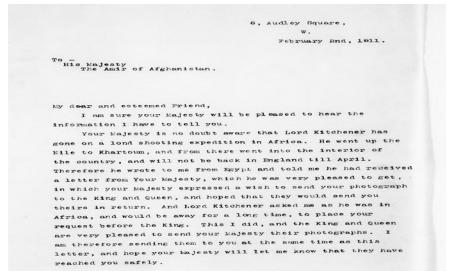
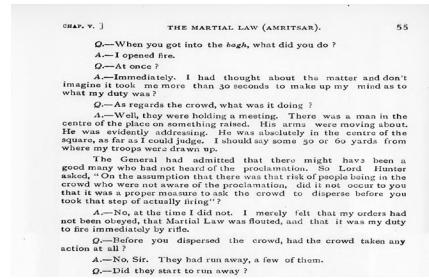
Document Count: 44

Image Count: 43,762

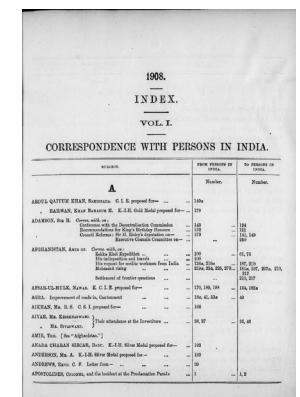
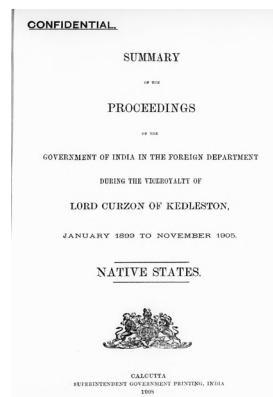


This period [...] illustrates late colonial Indian high politics to dramatic effect, providing researchers with extraordinary insights into the delicate strategies of anti-colonial “agitators”, and colonial governors.”

(Professor William Gould, University of Leeds).



The collection includes an official report on the Amritsar massacre of 1919. It contains 650 witness statements that detail the brutality of the incident.



Indian Communists and Trade Unionists on Trial: The Meerut Conspiracy, 1929–1933

Delve into the saga of the Meerut Conspiracy trial in British India.

The Meerut Conspiracy Case was a controversial legal saga that played out in British India between 1929 and early 1933. It began with the arrest and subsequent trial of twenty-nine trade unionists, including three Englishmen. It was alleged that they had attempted “to deprive the King Emperor of the sovereignty of British India”. They were charged under Section 121A of the Indian Penal Code. Containing over 10,000 images, this collection includes petitions and resolutions in support of the Meerut prisoners and the wider Indian labour movement. It includes papers from Indian police intelligence files, such as surveillance reports, alongside writings by the defendants, including Philip Spratt and Lester Hutchinson, as well as the papers of William Gillies and Benjamin Francis Bradley.

The case was symptomatic of the British government's fear of the spread of communist and socialist ideas. There was a widespread belief that Marxist ideology, propagated amongst workers by trade unionists and the Communist Party of India (CPI), would undermine British rule. Ultimately, twenty-seven trade union leaders were convicted. Rather than curbing communist activism, however, the trial gave the defendants a powerful public platform, helping to strengthen the CPI's position within Indian politics. Drawn from the holdings of the Labour History Archive & Study Centre and the Working Class Movement Library, this collection reveals how the British left responded to one of colonial India's most significant political trials.

Key Data

Released by BOA: 2013

Coverage Covers: 1929–1933

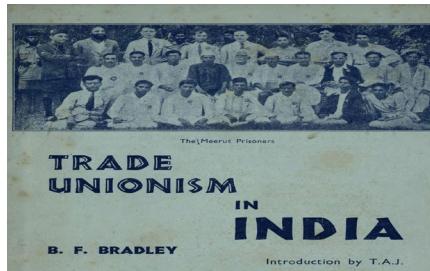
Volume Count: 4

Document Count: 54

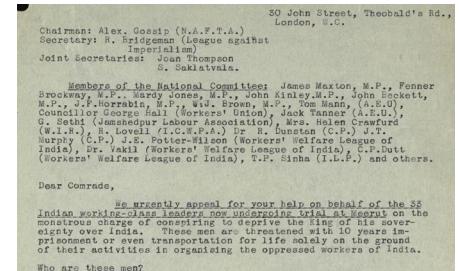
Image Count: 10,193



The Communist Party has been a freely elected governing party in India more times than anywhere else in the world and it remains a mass party in India to this day."
(Professor John Callaghan, University of Salford).



Benjamin Francis Bradley went to India in 1927 to promote militant trade unionism. He was later tried. His papers include a diary, prison letters, and records of the trial and his appeal.



The trial lasted for four years, giving the accused a platform to promote communism. The sources document how the state thus sought to prevent delays in proceedings.

