



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

SUBJECT CODE: BAL 102

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Lecture-15



Indian Historiography: Orientalist, Utilitarians, Nationalist, Marxist,

In recent decades there have been four main schools of historiography in how historians study India: Cambridge, Nationalist, Marxist, and subaltern. The once common "Orientalist" approach, with its image of a sensuous, inscrutable, and wholly spiritual India, has died out in serious scholarship.

The "Cambridge School", led by Anil Seal, Gordon Johnson, Richard Gordon, and David A. Washbrook, downplays ideology. However, this school of historiography is criticised for western bias or Eurocentrism.

The Nationalist school has focused on Congress, Gandhi, Nehru and high level politics. It highlighted the Mutiny of 1857 as a war of liberation, and Gandhi's 'Quit India' begun in 1942, as defining historical events. This school of historiography has received criticism for Elitism.

The Marxists have focused on studies of economic development, landownership, and class conflict in precolonial India and of deindustrialisation during the colonial period. The Marxists portrayed Gandhi's movement as a device of the bourgeois elite to harness popular, potentially revolutionary forces for its own ends. Again, the Marxists are accused of being "too much" ideologically influenced.

The "subaltern school", was begun in the 1980s by Ranajit Guha and Gyan Prakash. It focuses attention away from the elites and politicians to "history from below", looking at the peasants using folklore, poetry, riddles, proverbs, songs, oral history and methods inspired by anthropology. It focuses on the colonial era before 1947 and typically emphasises caste and downplays class, to the annoyance of the Marxist school.

More recently, Hindu nationalists have created a version of history to support their demands for "Hindutva" ("Hinduness") in Indian society. This school of thought is still in the process of development. In March 2012, Diana L. Eck, professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University, authored in her book "India: A Sacred Geography", that idea of India dates to a much earlier time than the British or the Mughals and it wasn't just a cluster of regional identities and it wasn't ethnic or racial.

MCQ

1. The Archaeology of Knowledge, is book written by

- A. Antonio Gramsci
- B. Michel Foucault
- C. Collingwood
- D. Marwick

2. Inductive method was first proposed by

- A. Francis Bacon
- B. Christian Huygenes

- C. Aristotle
- D. Isaac Newton

3. Who is the author of the book "Doing Local History"

- A. Joe Gould
- B. Donald Ritchie
- C. Carlo Kammen
- D. Alessandro Fortelli

4. An historian reached a broad conclusion of his work is called

- A. Theory
- B. Generalization
- C. Conclusion
- D. Formula

5. The method of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two statements is called

- A. empiricism
- B. inductive method
- C. hypothesis
- D. Syllogism

