

# Nationalism in India Some unconventional Facts

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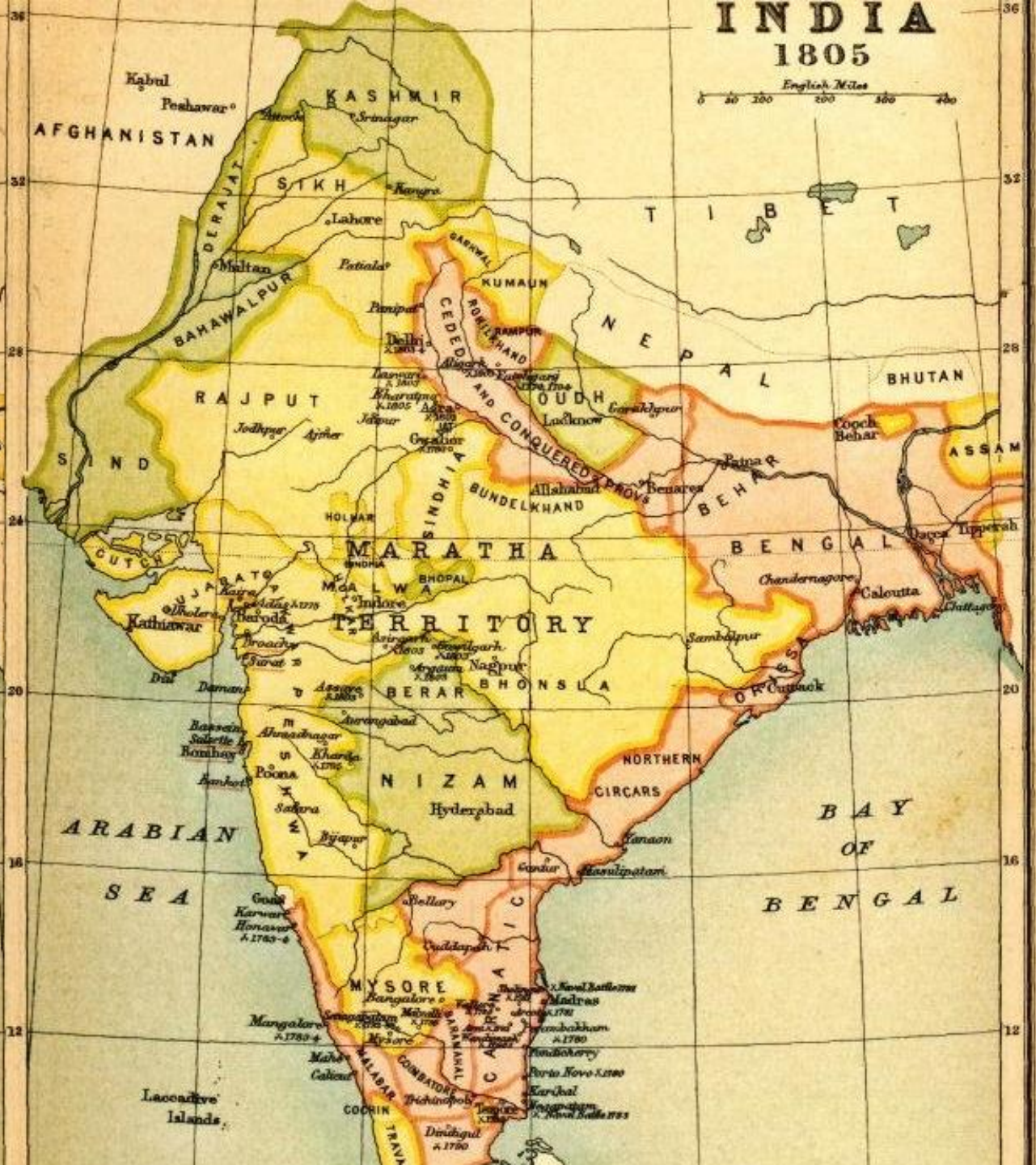
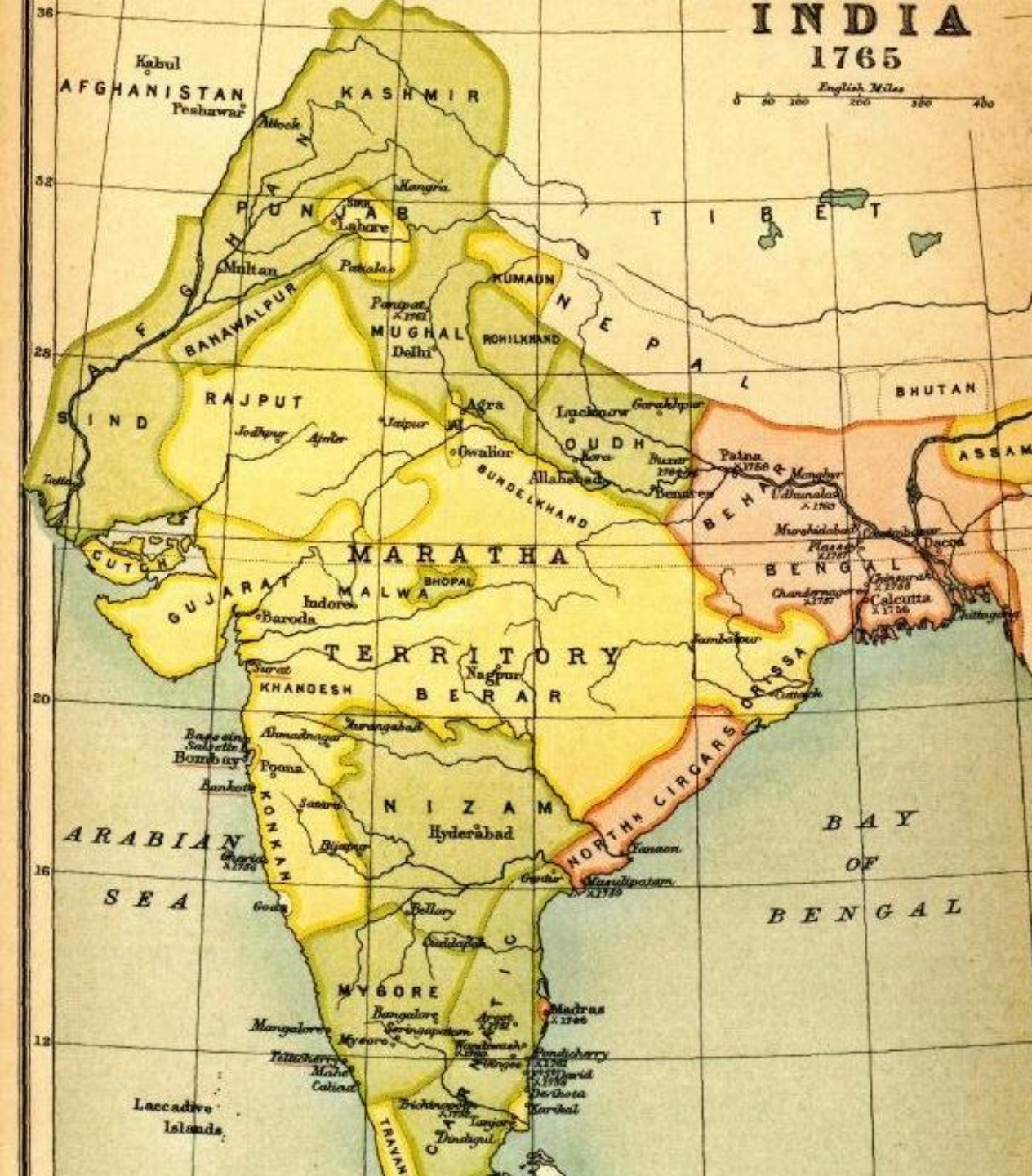


Aniket Alam

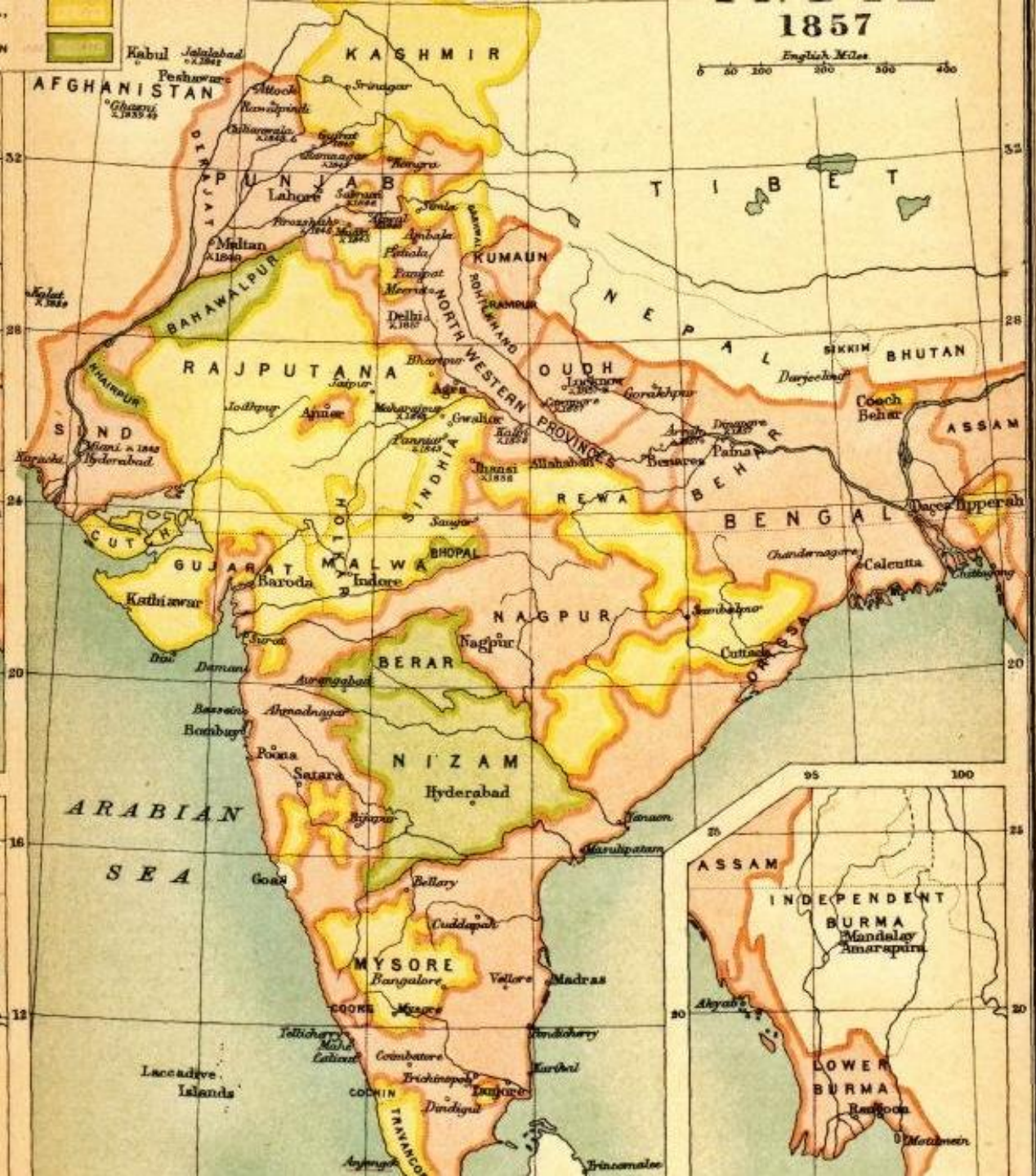
Theories and Practices of Nationalism

HSS444, Monsoon 2020





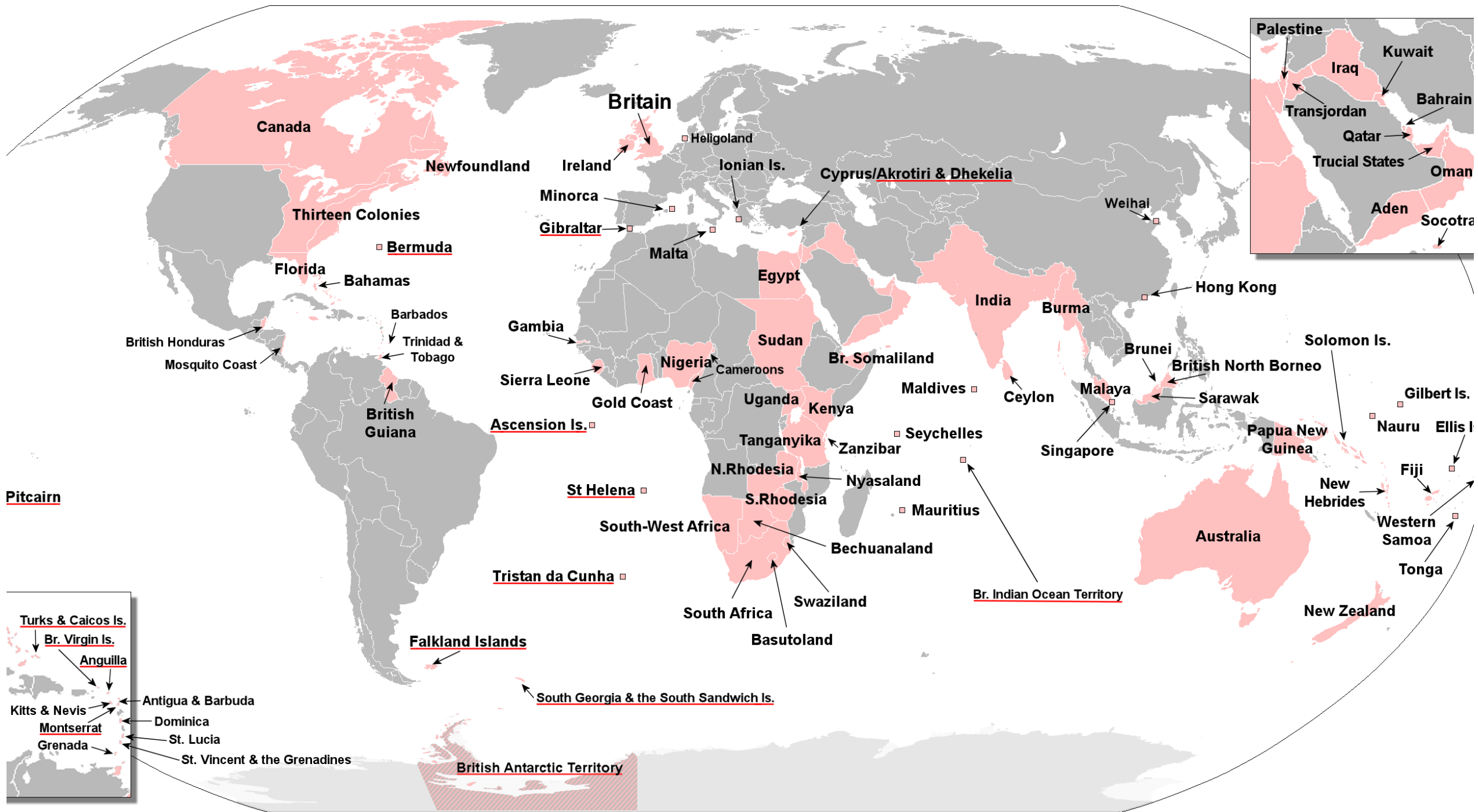












# Laws and Legal Systems

- Uniform legal system over all the territory
- Family, Property and State defined and protected by one code
- Existing family forms re-adjusted within this framework
- New economy emerged within this framework
- New political association and forms emerged within this framework

# Public Health, Sanitation

- State accepted its responsibility of health and sanitation
  - Started with military camps, British civil lines
  - Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Plague, Cholera, Malaria
  - Hill Stations, Sanatoria, Hospitals
- State control of water, sewage, disease
  - No water-tight division (pun intended) between Indian and British possible
  - By late 19<sup>th</sup> century, State accepted its universal responsibility
- Political, Budget, Administrative apparatus

# Education

- Debate about Oriental or English education
- 1830s debate clinched
  - General Committee of Public Education (1824)
  - Bentinck and Macaulay
- Colleges opened for Indians
- English education for government jobs, legal practice
- Wood's Dispatch (1854)
  - Calcutta, Bombay, Madras Universities
  - Education Department
  - Emphasis on schools, uniform syllabus, examinations
  - Primary schools vernacular, high schools Anglo-vernacular, higher education English
- Government funding of education

STATE TAKES RESPONSIBILITY; BOTH VIRTUE AND NEED



# Education

- Rapid expansion of public education
  - 3 Universities (1857) to 21 Universities, 500 colleges
  - Thomason College (1847)
  - Medical Colleges in Calcutta and Madras (1835)
  - B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees
- Wide-spread involvement of Indian charity
- Native States invested in education

DESIRE FOR EDUCATION SPREAD WIDE

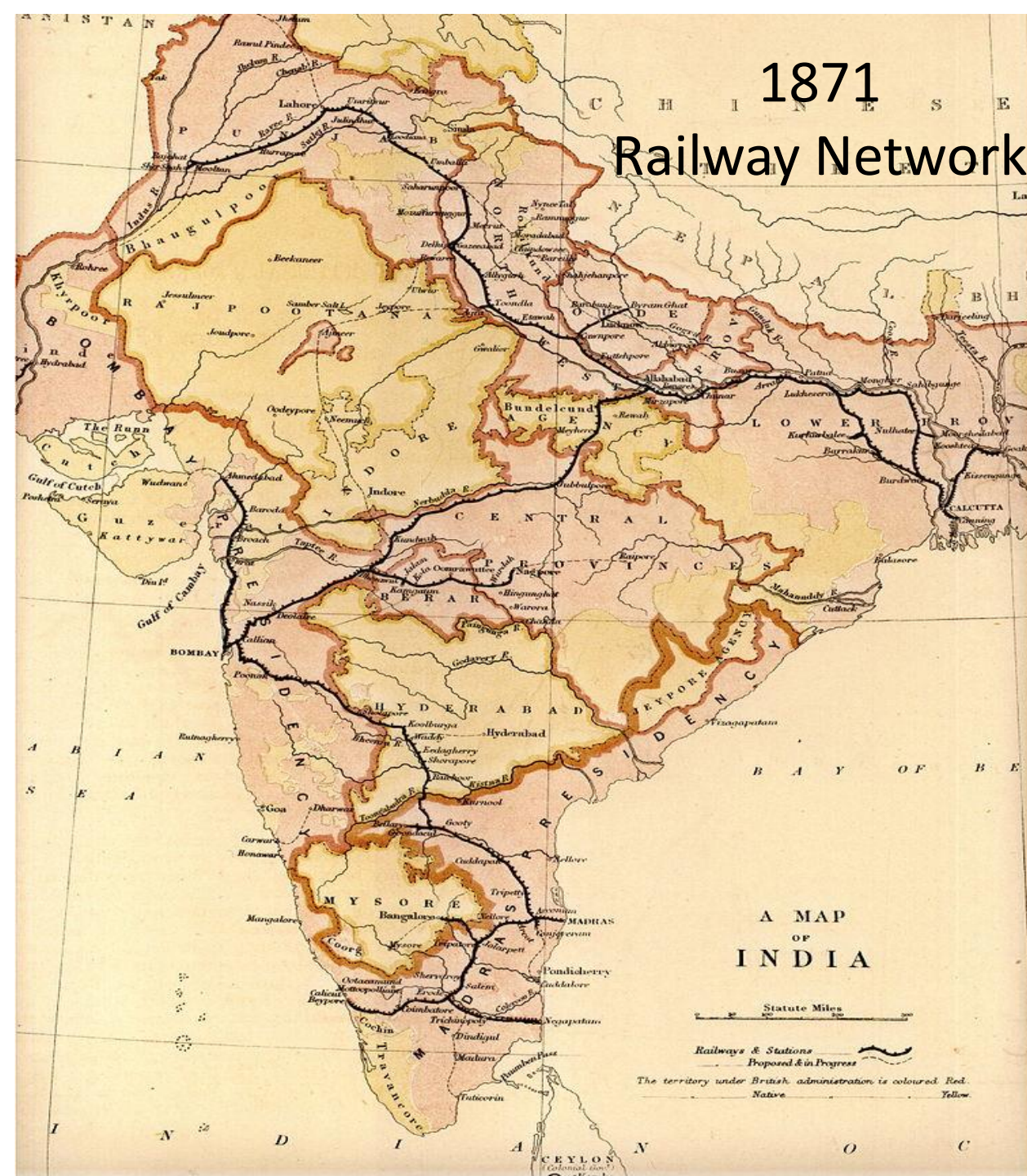
SEEN AS TOOL FOR IMPROVING STATUS AND INCOME

# Railways

- By 1871 major cities were connected
  - Travel by train from Calcutta to Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Lahore
- By 1890s the skeletal grid was in place, entire subcontinent covered
- By 1910s railway network had encompassed
  - Native states
  - Difficult geographies: mountains, rivers, forests

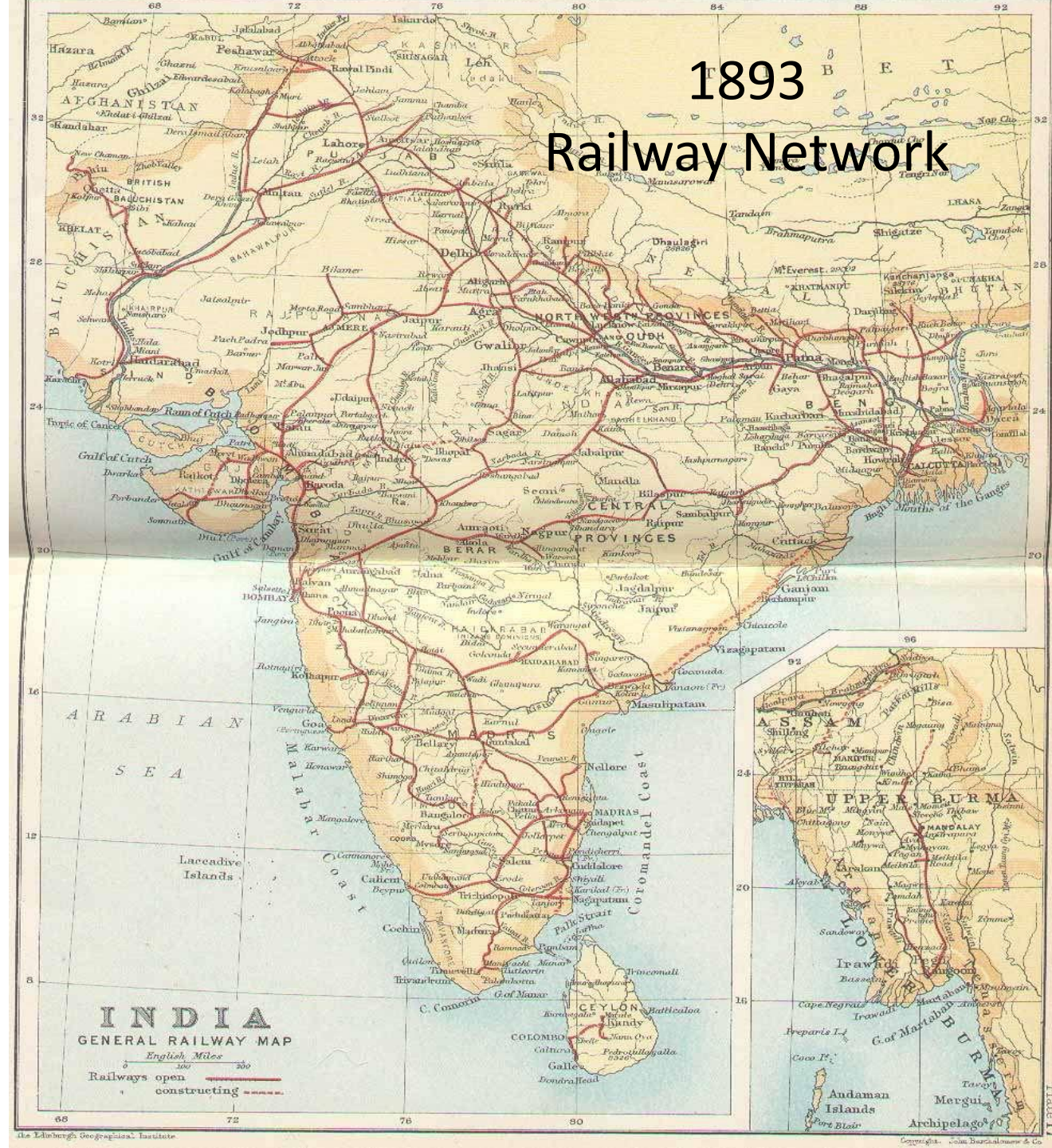


# 1871 Railway Network





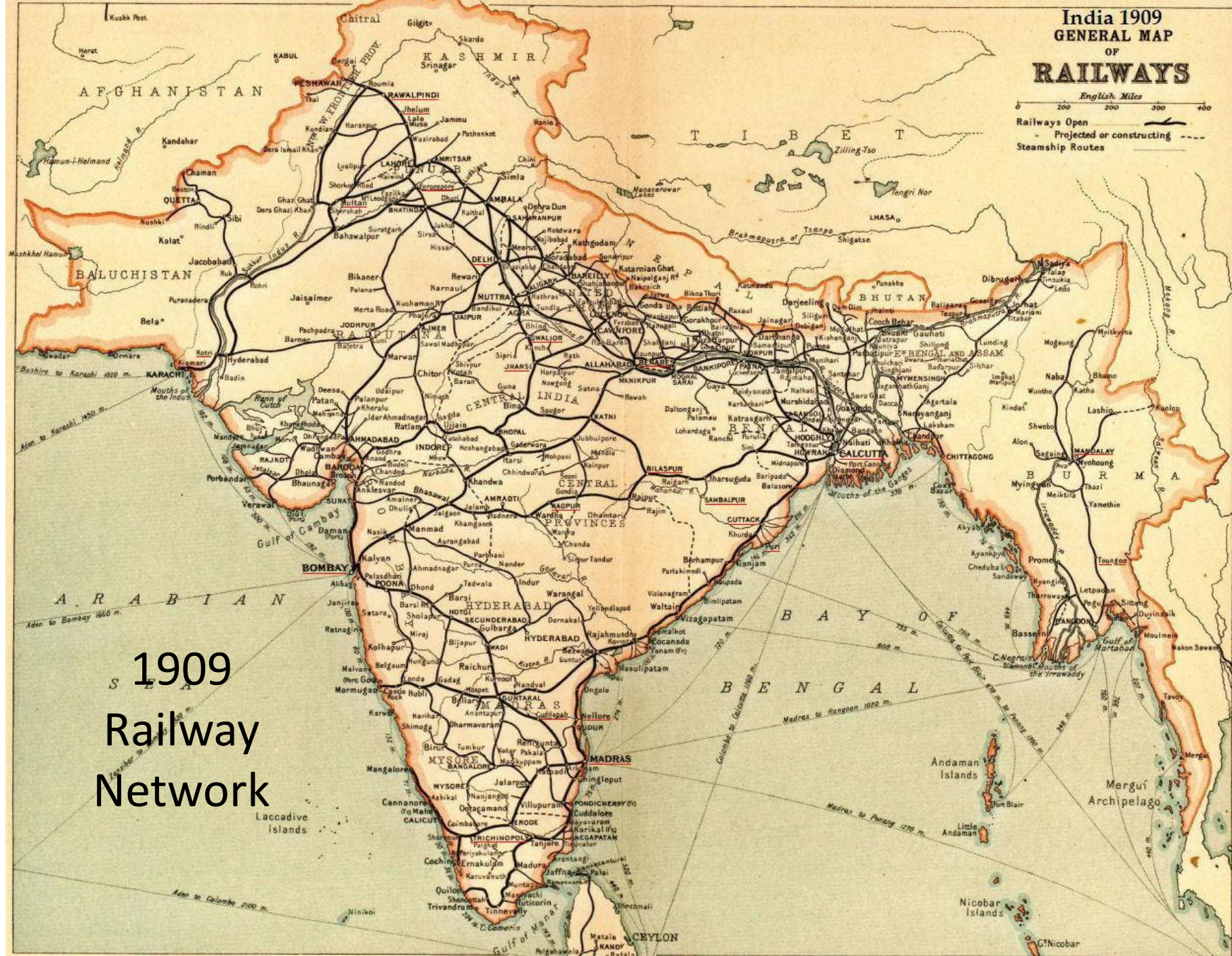
# 1893 Railway Network





India 1909  
GENERAL MAP  
OF  
RAILWAYS

English Miles  
0 100 200 300 400  
Railways Open  
" Projected or constructing  
Steamship Routes





# Railways

- Massive reduction
  - In costs (compared to bullock cart on roads)
  - In time (ditto)
- Massive increase in network
  - 21 miles in 1853
  - ~70,000 miles in 1947 (1.15 lakh km)
- Government Control, 1920s
  - Private companies were brought under govt control and territory-wide policies instituted



# Railways

## NEW INDIA EMERGED WITH THE RAILWAYS

- Influenced urban growth
- Influenced migration (people movement)
- Social and cultural influences
- Political influences
- Steel Frame?
- Lord Mayo, 1870:

*“it was thought desirable that, if possible, at the earliest possible moment, the whole country should be covered with a network of lines in a uniform system”*

# INDIAN ARMY

- Presidency Armies
- 1895: New Army raised
- 1903 - 09: Herbert Kitchener C-in-C
  - Merged all armies into Indian Army
  - Viceroy Commissioned Indian Officers
    - Authority over Indian troops only
    - Subedar Major = Major, Subedar = Captain, Jemadar = Lieutenant
  - Same organisation and work in peace as in war
  - Brigades, Regiments, Units
  - Kings Commissioned Indian Officers (from 1919)
  - Guard external borders, *HELP* police with internal security
- No *esprit-de-corps* allowed; one regiment should be happy to fire into another if need arises



# Military

“I wish to have a different and rival spirit in different regiments, so that Sikh might fire into Hindoo, Gorkha into either, without any scruple in case of need”

Secretary of State, Charles Wood, 1862

“Next to the grand counterpoise of a sufficient European force comes the counterpoise of natives against natives”

Army Commission, 1879

GUZERAT

MYSORE PUNJAB

GOOJERAT

Erected

IN MEMORY OF  
THE DEVOTED GALLANTRY AND FIDELITY OF  
THE NATIVE OFFICERS AND SEPOYS OF  
THE HON. COY. 13<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION NATIVE INFANTRY  
(GARUD & PULTUN)

WHO FELL DURING THE DEFENCE OF  
LUCKNOW.

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED, BY THE  
SURVIVING EUROPEAN OFFICERS OF THE REGT.,  
IN THE BAILLIE GUARD POST  
WHICH WAS HELD BY THE REGIMENT  
THROUGHOUT THE DEFENCE.

SOOBADAR, DOONYADEVAL PANDEY

" RAJ PERSHAD

" SEUCHURN SING

JEMADAR BHOWANEE BUX C'NOWBE

" KALKA TEWAREE.

9 HAVILDARS, 8 NAICKS,  
5 DRUMMERS, 24 SEPOYS.



# WORLD WAR I

- Million strong army
- Fought in Europe, African Sahara, East Africa, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine...
  - About 75,000 soldiers died
- Recruitment base widened to include other social groups, from new regions
- First proposal to have Indian officer cadre
- Equipment and arms equalled British soldiers



2nd Queen Victoria's Own Rajput Light Infantry in action in Flanders, during the winter of 1914–15

# Military

## WORLD WAR II

- Recruitment went up to 2.5 million
- Indian soldiers fought in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Italy, France, Germany, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Burma, Singapore, Malaysia, etc
  - About 87,000 killed
- Indian officer cadre increased
  - Rose to rank of Colonel
- Largest contribution to the Allied war effort outside Europe





Troops of the Indische  
Legion guarding the  
Atlantic Wall in France  
in March 1944.

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Captured soldiers of the British Indian Army who refused to join the INA were executed by the Japanese



# Military in British India

- Voluntary force
- Regimental Honour, Loyalty
- Ideology of caste and community
  - Martial races
- Paid from Indian Govt revenues
- Civilian control
- Too big to control?



# Press and Publications

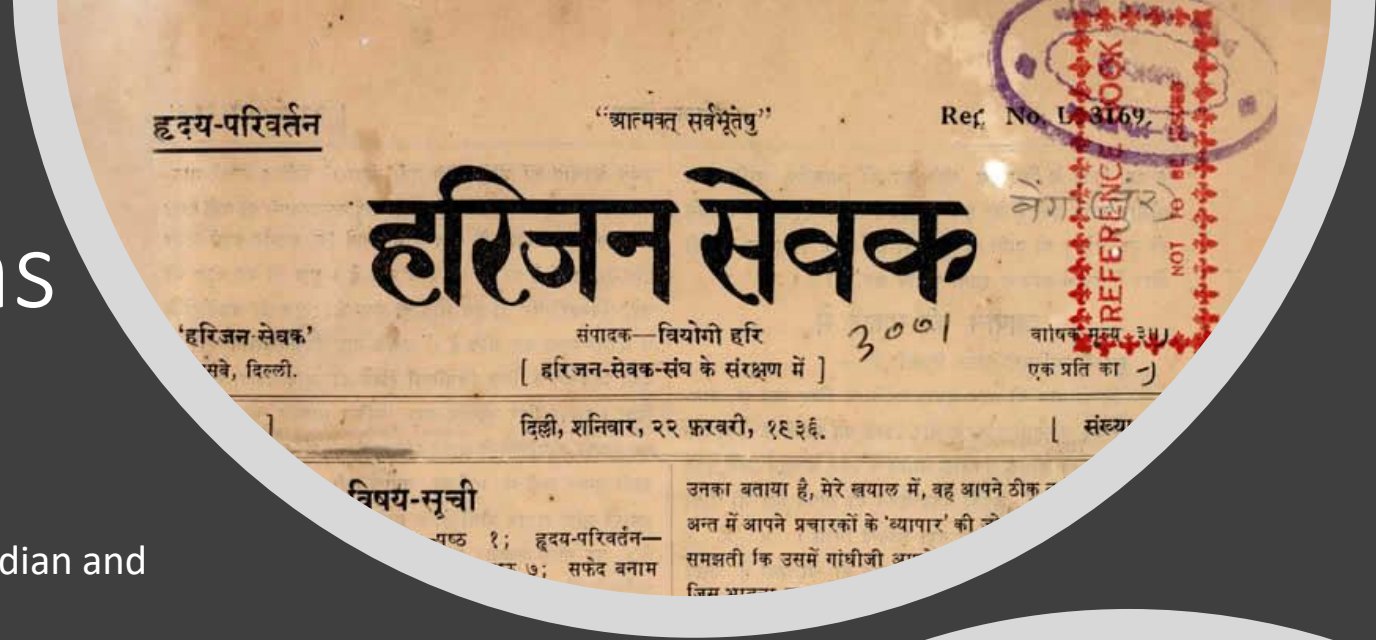
- Printing Press came with missionaries
- Hickey's Bengal Gazette (1780)
- Within a decade more than 15 publications
- Indian language publications
- Printing press in Patna, Banaras, Allahabad, Agra, Delhi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Bombay, Poona, Madras, Travencore
- Vibrant publication eco-system by 1850s





# Press and Publications

- Government control from the beginning
  - Also indicates independence
  - Licensing; Censorship; Distinction between Indian and European
  - Calcutta Journal of J S Buckingham
- Vernacular Press
  - Bombay Samachar, Udant Martand
  - Indian Mirror, Hindu Patriot, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Hindu, Kesari, Bengalee, Huriara, Bengali Public Opinion, Reis and Rayet, Samprokash, Sulabh Samachar, Hitavadi, Induprakash, Swadeshimitran, Advocate of Lucknow, Herald of Bihar...
- 475 publications by 1875
- Vernacular Press Act, 1878
- Newspapers became the primary vehicle for not just news but also political work



# Press and Publications

- Press and Books Registration Act, 1867
- Press Act, 1910
- Press Act, 1931

## BOOKS

- Preferred vehicle for political activity
- Every major political leader/thinker has book(s)
- Library and Library movements



# Press and Publications

## PRINT CAPITALISM

- Benedict Anderson's theory
  - Time
  - Circulation
  - Definition of News
- Interlinkages of press and economy
- Interlinkages of press and politics
- State as platform of print and capitalism

# Census

- Estimations of population, territory, revenue, trade made from Mughal times
- First modern census
  - Allahabad 1824; Banaras 1827; Dacca 1830
- Five yearly returns of population, 1849
  - 1851-52, 1856-57, 1861- 62, and 1866-67
- General Census ordered (1856) for 1861
  - Postponed due to Rebellion of 1857
- Between 1865 – 1869 Census taken in NW Provinces, Oudh, Central Provinces, Berar, Punjab, lower districts of Bengal, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras...



# Census

1871-72

- Non-synchronous; over six months
- House registry
- Some regions left out
- Separate questions for males and females

1881

- Synchronous: 17 February 1881
- First proper Census of entire territory with single schedule of questions
- Demographic, Economic, Social classifications

# Census

1891

- Expanded to Kashmir, Burma, Sikkim
- 100% coverage
- Schedule of questions carried over with some modifications

1901 : 1911 : 1921

- Better collection and classification of data
- Schedule of questions remained similar and comparable



# Census

1931

- Questions on race, caste, tribe and sect asked from all irrespective of religion
- Most extensive record of demographic, economic and social conditions of people
- Remains the template for almost all detailed demographic data for India
- 1941 Census was basic due to war

# Census

- Public Document
- Quantitative values to social, cultural, linguistic identities
- Role in formation of identity
  - Religion, caste, language, sect, etc
- Role in political mobilisation
- Role in self-aware populations



# Data Collection

- Data collection became wide-spread and sophisticated
- Every aspect of economy and social life
- Laws, rules, orders based on data
- Even if secret, data is a public beast
- Act of data collection modifies the thing on which data is being collected
- Trend of homogenising and sharp boundaries

Bharat Mata  
ki Jai

भारत एक खोज  
Bharat Ek Khoj

एपिसोड-1

भारत माता की जय

