

Study Guide for RAT #2: Colonial & Post-Colonial India

(corresponding to IAR, chapters 5 [49-55], 7 [84-87], 8, 9 [101-3, 108], 12 [137-39], & 14 [167-68, 70]; consult also maps [p.90, 112] & timeline [p.172-73])

Topics, Readings, & Terms	Important Details	Related Primary Sources
<p>1. British Colonization & Indian Independence (IAR, 84-91, 137-39, 167-68, 70)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">look for:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plassey "Indian Mutiny" Muslim League</p>	<p>(a) gradual spread of British influence (18th-19th CE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in contrast to disinterest in 16th-17th Portuguese & Dutch traders, 18th CE regional Indian rulers increasingly draw on British (& initially French) soldiers & munitions as Mughal power wanes • battle of Plassey • subsequent spread of British influence to most of Indian subcontinent, with establishment of new economic & administrative networks; little British interest in Christian mission & Indian culture. • "Indian Mutiny" <p>(b) Indian independence & partition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-India Congress & Muslim League • factions split as British withdraw: partition of India, Pakistan, & Bangladesh, leading to mass exodus with thousands of deaths. • Indian nation remains secular, but agitation for a Hindu state persists to the present day in widespread nationalist movements. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Required:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">selection from <i>The Financial Expert</i> (MOO, 348-66)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Optional:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"BJP Vision Document" (http://www.bjp.org/Press/mar_3104a.htm)</p>
<p>2. Modern Hindu Reform Movements, "Hindu-ism," & the Western "Discovery" of Buddhism (IAR, 91-103, 108)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">look for:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ram Mohan Roy Arya Samaj Ramakrishna Mission Theosophists Svetambara satyagraha Ram Rajya</p>	<p>(a) Ram Mohan Roy (1772-1833)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education & career • founder of Brahma Samaj, dedicated to reform of Hindu life through English style schools, influenced by Christian ideals; continuing expansion & missions by successors until end of 19th CE. <p>(b) other promoters of generic "Hindu-ism" & rational Buddhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arya Samaj & Ramakrishna Mission • individual swamis increasingly draw attention from abroad in 20th CE. • Theosophists <p>(c) Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family background, *Svetambara influence, & training • satyagraha & Ram Rajya • leading figure in political push for an independent, secular Indian state, though remained personally committed to Hindu roots. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Optional:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Gandhi's Favorite Hymns" (http://www.mkgandhi.org/g_hymns/hymns.htm)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jain Sources [excerpts] (IAR, 365-67)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Vedanta Monasticism" (http://www.vedanta.org/wiv/monastic/wim.html)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&/OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Teachings of Sri Ramana Maharshi</i>, chapter 12 (IAR, 362-63)</p>

<p>3. Increasing Influence of Shakta Traditions during the Colonial Period (IAR, 53-55, 74-76)</p> <p>look for:</p> <p>Devi Shiva mandala</p>	<p>(a) roots in medieval Hindu Vaishnavite & Shaivite traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hints of female deities being venerated since ancient times (e.g., nature spirits in Buddhist art, battle invocations in epic literature). • <i>Devi Mahatmya</i> (5th CE) <p>• Devis ("goddess") of Vishnu (<i>Lakshmi</i>) & Shiva (<i>Shakti</i>)</p> <p>(b) surge of interest during colonial period, especially in Bengal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th CE writings by Shakta theologians equate Shakti w/ brahman, relating earlier sources like *<i>Devi Mahatmya</i> to detailed invocation of her form in mandala ("circle," geometric diagram of cosmic powers) as a way to speed realize one's identity with her (=Tantric worship). • Bengali poets Ramprasad & Kamalakanta further describe their personal relationship with this Devi. • growing popularity of Durga Puja (fall festival celebrating Rama's victory over demonic forces) not just for kings but common Bengalis. 	<p>Required:</p> <p>"Artistic Depictions of Hindu Goddesses" (on-line PPT)</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>"Bengali Songs to Kali" (RAP, 51-72)</p>
<p>4. Shiva & Shakti in Modern Hindu Storytelling & Iconography (IAR, 49-55)</p> <p>look for:</p> <p>Devi Shiva</p>	<p>(a) widespread association of female & male deities with natural processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • female deities manifesting in snakes, granting immunity from poison; protecting or potentially harming infants & children; supporting or obstructing the ordinary housewife's domestic good fortune. • male deities, often linked to dead ancestors & associated with particular locales, serve as both protectors & potential sources of harm. • popular ritual forms seek to appease such powers with offerings & praise to achieve specific ends. • stories told re: these deities reflect everyday concerns of common folk. <p>(b) literary sources reflect longstanding influence of such popular traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Devi Mahatmya</i> & Devi <p>• Shiva's presence in nature</p>	<p>Required:</p> <p>"Mother Ten's Stories" (RAP, 94-108)</p> <p>(see also introduction to <i>The Financial Expert</i>, MOO, 347)</p>