

INDIAN NEWSPAPER REPORTS,

c1868-1942 from the British Library, London

Part 1: Bengal, 1874-1903

Part 2: Bengal, 1904-1916



Adam Matthew Publications

Highlights

This material will allow researchers to examine crucial questions such as:

- the role of the press in India
- attempts by Government to manipulate press coverage as part of a strategy of imperial control
- press debates over the future of India and politicisation of the media
- protest, reform and movements for independence
- diversity and change in reporting methods over a 50 year period

The Bengal newspaper reports cover 1874-1916. The abstracts and extracts contained in the reports

will provide scholars with an invaluable insight into Indian social and political events, the conditions of the Indian and British population, public opinion, criticisms of the British government and the development of nationalist feelings.

These encompass weekly précis, extracts and reports by local Bengali translators working for the colonial government, from over 60 different Indian newspapers. The typewritten reports cover both Indian language newspapers and English language newspapers owned by the Indians. The material is organised chronologically and divided under various subject headings such as:

- Foreign Politics.
- Home Administration (including the police, the courts, the jails, education, local government, the land and the railways).
- Legislature.
- Native States.
- Prospect of the Crops and Condition of the People.

There is an index for each volume which lists all the newspapers examined, the place of publication, whether they are weekly or monthly and also the dates of all the issues examined. In 1877 John Robinson is listed as the chief government

Bengali translator; in 1880 Rajkrishma Mukhopadhyaya and in 1890 Chunder Nath Bose are active.



The reports contain a wealth of information on subjects as diverse as:

- the postal service
- sale of infants
- prisoners in the jails
- drinking among the Indians
- ignorance of the Bench Magistrates
- the ruin of the zemindar class
- agrarian disturbances
- treatment of Native Princes
- the French and their relations with the British
- appointment of the Registrar of Calcutta University
- the Rajah of Puri and the worship of Juggernath
- the Coolie Act
- strained relations between the zemindars and the raiyats
- complaints against the Calcutta police
- an assault by an European guard on a native

- a description of the Sivaji celebration in Calcutta
- complaints that the British had ruined the chief industries of India
- the oppression of the indigo and tea planters
- the increase in prostitution
- salaries of native doctors

Each weekly report gives a list of both the Indian language newspapers and English language newspapers owned by Indians examined, with their place of publication, whether issued weekly or monthly, the number of subscribers and the date of the issues examined. Some reports give the names of the editors of the newspapers. An extremely wide variety of newspapers was looked at weekly, averaging around 50 every week, ensuring that a wide spectrum of ideas, views and politics was addressed. Examples of newspapers examined are:

- *Bharat Sangskarak*
- *Hindu Hitoishini*
- *Sadharani*
- *Soma Prakash*
- *Urdu Guide*
- *Qasid*
- *Education Gazette*
- *Bharat Mihir*
- *Ananda Bazar Patrika*
- *Navavibhakar*
- *Dacca Gazette*
- *Sudhakar*
- *Dacca Prakash*
- *Sahachar*

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Further parts will cover North Western and United Provinces, Madras and Bombay.

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