

THE
ARYANISATION OF INDIA

BY

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A few opinions on Prof. N. K. Dutt's The Aryaniation of India.

EXTRACTS—

Prof. E. Washburn Hopkins, Yale University, U. S. A.—“I have read with great pleasure and profit your **very admirable** Aryaniation of India, a copy of which you were good enough to send me last autumn. The chapter on chronology is **by far the best presentation of the subject** that I have seen, and your appendix on Dr. A. C. Das's book is in itself **a most valuable contribution to sane scientific history**. The whole book is in my opinion **a most excellent study and a great credit to Hindu scholarship.**” (20.2.1926).

Prof. H. Jacobi, Bonn University, Germany.—“It is **very well written** and gives **all essential information** on the interesting and difficult problem. You state **fairly** and **exactly** disputed points and decide them with **sound judgment**. I make no doubt that your countrymen will welcome your book as **a trustworthy guide** in a field of research beset with so many difficulties.” (10.10.1925).

Prof. Sten Konow, Oslo, Norway—

“I have read it with the utmost interest, and I **congratulate you on your achievement**. Your views are **sound** and your way of arguing **scholarlike**. I differ from you in details, but I am quite convinced that your main line of argument is **unassailable.**” (21.1.1926).

Prof. A. Hillebrandt, Breslau University, Germany—

“The subject has been treated by you in a manner which will not fail to attract the attention of the reader, the more so as **no other work**,—as far as I know—**exists that treats this theme in its full extension.**” (19.10.1925).

Prof. E. Rapson, Cambridge University, England—

“The book is **well written** and **well informed.**” (1.10.1925)

Dr. L. D. Barnett, British Museum, England—

“It seems to me a **thoughtful and sensible survey** of the facts, and on several important points I am pleased to find that your views agree with mine.” (5.10.1925).

Prof. A. B. Keith, Edinburgh University, Scotland—“It is decidedly advantageous to have a statement of the issues regarding the Aryan invasion **set forth clearly and effectively**, and I am glad to note that you have exercised **a sober and independent judgment** on the various issues. While the theories of Dr. Das and Mr. Pargiter are doubtless unacceptable, it is interesting to have their defects exposed in your Appendices, because statements left uncontradicted are apt to mislead those who are not expert at the outset of their studies and to lead them into false paths of investigation.” (2.10.1925).

Prof. J. Jolly, Warzburg University, Germany—“Your **valuable work** on the Aryanisation of India has been duly received and it seems to be **very useful**, as it contains a **critical examination** of all the various theories concerning the immigration of the Aryans into India. The nature of Aryan colonisation and of the Dravidian element of Indian culture has been **carefully analysed**. The political history of the country has been traced back to the Vedas. The **copious Index** shows **what a large field has been covered by your researches** as contained in this volume.” (6.10.1925).

Prof. M. Winternitz, Prague University, Czechoslovakia—

“I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness in sending me your **interesting book** on the Aryanisation of India. I agree with you on most points, especially in your criticisms of Dr. Das's Rigvedic India and of Mr. Pargiter's theories in the Appendix. Of course, there is still much in these questions that must remain doubtful.” (20.10.1925)

Prof. M. Bloomfield, Johns Hopkins University, U.S.A.
—“Fine book.”

The Honourable Dr. D. F. Malan, Minister of the Interior and Education, Union of South Africa—

“The Minister wishes to thank you for bringing to his notice most interesting information on a topic about which comparatively very little is known at present. He feels sure that your book will create great interest and will be widely read even in South Africa.” (14.5.27)

H. E. Stapleton, Esq., Offg. Director of Public Instruction, Bengal—

“...your extremely interesting and well-written book ‘The Aryans in India.’ I only wish more officers in the Department would devote their leisure to producing both scholarly and readable books such as yours is.” (29.9.26)

Principal A. C. Woolner, Dean of the University of the Panjab—

“It seems to me a clear and moderate statement of the main problems and a quite possible narrative.” (26.4.27)

Dr. G. N. Chakravarti, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lucknow—

“It bears marks of scholarship and research.” (11.9.26)

S. Sultan Ahmed, Esq., Vice-Chancellor, Patna University—

“It contains thoughtful and critical examination of various theories regarding the immigration of the Aryans into India. I cannot help congratulating you upon the manner in which you have treated your subject and the scholarlike manner in which you have pressed your points and the sober manner in which you have criticised the various theories from which you have differed. The book is exceedingly interesting and I am sure it will be useful to scholars as well as students.” (18.9.26)

E. F. Oaten, Esq., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal—

“It is satisfactory to note that the college staff made two **valuable contributions to learning**. Principal Ramsbotham's Studies in the Land Revenue History of Bengal, 1769-87 and Professor N. K. Dutt's Aryanisation of India are clear evidence that scholarship can flourish in a mofussil college as well as in Calcutta.” (Report on Public Instruction in Bengal, 1925-26)

Director of Public Instruction, Madras—

“The Director desires to bring the book 'Aryanisation of India' by Professor N. K. Dutt, Hugly College, to the notice of the Principals of First Grade Arts Colleges and to state that it is deserving of a place in the college libraries.” (Dis. No. 1052/27 dated 12th March 1927)

Director of Public Instruction, Central Provinces—

“Sanctioned for use as a Prize and Library book.” (Order No. 488, Nagpur, the 24th January 1927)

Times Literary Supplement, London—

“. . . . he has done to rehabilitate, so far as he can, the orthodox theories of Aryan civilization in India. He rejects Dr. Giles's suggestion of the Aryan home in Mid-Europe and Mr. Tilak's theory of an Arctic home; he will have none of Mr. Pargiter's contention that the Aryans came into India by the mid-Himalayan route; he demolishes Dr. Das's patriotic idea that the Aryans were indigenous in the Punjab, that the Vedic period goes back twenty centuries (?) or more before Christ and that the Dasyus were a more uncivilised section of Aryans Mr. Dutt's most interesting chapters deal with the Dasyus and with the nature of Aryan civilization...and he **distinguishes very clearly** the differences in the Aryan colonizing influence in the Punjab, in the Madhyadesa or Central India, in Eastern India, and in the Deccan. The book is **useful . . . and is well-reasoned.**” (22.4.26)

Prof. Jarl Charpentier, University of Upsala.

**In The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, London,
Jan., 1927—**

“This book of Professor Dutt deals with a problem which ever fascinates us ; partly, perhaps, because in our inmost heart we feel convinced that it can never wholly be solved. Let us say, at once, that Professor Dutt has made a good start, and that his theories seem to us, as a whole, to be quite reasonable. The present writer himself has had reason to suggest that the date of Panini falls about 500 B.C. ; and the much-misused Yavanani argument proves nothing to the contrary. . . .”

Journal de Geneve—

“. . . En présentant son ouvrage. M. N. K. Dutt entend moins se prononcer que fournir la base chronologique et géographique à l’histoire politique de l’Inde aux époques védique et épique. Par la même occasion il sort de la masse littéraire assez confuse le développement de la conquête aryenne. Il reste entendu qu’il ne le rend que conditionnellement puisque, encore un coup. des travaux archéologiques et littéraires sur les anciens Dravidiens font totalement défaut. Avec lui on suit avec facilité la théorie aryenne. l’invasion. sa date. l’expansion dans la péninsule hindoue. la nature de la colonisation. l’établissement des tribus et la formation des royaumes.” (18-4-26)

Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft, Leipzig, 1927—

“Ein fleißiger kompilator, der sogar deutsche Gelehrte wie Feist, Hirt, Ed. Meyer anzuführen weiß, und dem zugut gerechnet werden soll, daß er vor kritikloser Benutzung der Epen als Geschichtsquellen warnt, gegen Pargiter’s auf den Puranas aufgeführtes Hypothesengebäude angeht und seinen phantasievollen Landsmann Abinas Chandra Das abtut, der die ältesten Rigveda Hymnen vorsintflutlicher Weise ins—Miocän verlegt (also noch vor J. G. Andersson’s neuen *Homo primigenius Pekinensis*). Anderwärts fehlt es freilich an Kritik und die neueste Mode, Sumerer und Draviden in einen Topf zu werfen, wird fröhlich mitgemacht. . . .”

The Statesman, Calcutta (29-5-1927)—

The author has tried to present within a short compass a chronological and geographical framework of the political history of India during the Vedic and Pauranic periods and along with it an account of the Aryan conquest. The book is in seven chapters, and in the first one the author has intelligently discussed the comparative philology, mythology, ethnology and sociology of the Aryans. Next he has critically examined the different theories regarding the Aryan invasion, and subsequently dealt with the nature of Aryan colonization. Readers will find the chapter on colonization interesting and the author's research regarding the tribes and kingdoms of Rigveda beginning with Bharat and ending with Santanu will appeal to those who want a glimpse of the early history of India. The development of tribes and kingdoms in India in later days has been traced with skill. In the appendix the author has rather timidly contradicted the theory of the old Pundits, which in recent days has been so enthusiastically preached by Dr. Abinas Chandra Das, that the home of the Aryans has always been in India. Scholars of the West have always repudiated this theory, and it is not too much to say that it has been rejected by antiquarians of all descriptions almost unanimously. It is abundantly clear that the young author has studied the subject thoroughly, and the book will prove to be a most valuable addition to the antiquarian literature of India.

The Englishman, Calcutta (8-8-1927)—

The book under review is a complete thesis—on the history of Aryan immigration into India, the different stages in the diffusion of Aryan culture in the different parts of the country and the political history of India from the Rig-Vedic times to the rise of Buddhism. It is an attempt to construct history out of the Pauranic materials and the author has succeeded in presenting a systematic and connected account of the whole period based on a workable chronological arrangement. He has also proved his ability in clipping or demolishing other theories and in making original contributions.

The chief merit of the book is that it is suitable not only to the most advanced scholars who may gain new light upon many hitherto obscure points but to the ordinary students of ancient Indian history. The attempt to harmonise Vedic tradition with Pauranic in the matter of political history, the tracing of the Mahratta race to Iranian origin, the finding of the dates of the Vedic kings like Purukutsa and Trasadasyu, the observations upon the story of the deluge and the untouchable castes, are some of the contributions to Indian history worth reading. The author's thorough grasp of the subject and his refreshing style have made the book, though full of controversial matter, very delightful reading. The chapter on chronology is particularly interesting and reveals the constructive ability of the author. The author while dealing with such an abstruse subject has not sacrificed clarity and charm and there is no gainsaying the fact that it has been a valuable contribution to learning and a work of great scholarship.