

India and world war II: war, armed forces and society, 1939-45

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Abstrak

The Second World War was a defining event in modern world history. India's manpower and financial resources enabled the British Empire in particular and the Allies in general to win against the Axis powers. The Indian troops fought from Hong Kong in the east up to Italy in the west. The present monograph, based on archival data, attempts to highlight the complex interrelationship between Indian armed forces, society, and World War II. This monograph is a corrective to the cultural studies approach of totally neglecting blood and gore. But what is aimed here is not merely a traditional narrative of military history. Rather than merely providing a chronological account of military operations, an attempt has been made to integrate military history with the social and cultural contexts. Tools, ideas, and institutions of violence are fused with the host social fabric and the cultural context. The book is divided into two parts. The first four chapters of the book study the impact of manpower and economic mobilization and internal security on the Indian society, while the last three chapters of the volume deal with the Indian armed forces in combat. The aim is to show the interrelationship between training, technology, and tactics in the battlefields. Wherever possible, soldiers' views of combat and the home front are given. Hence, the monograph is a blend of both history from the top and history from below.