
1977, K.A. Nizami, On History and Historians of Medieval India, 1983 and Kiran Pawar, Sir Jadunath Sarkar: A Profile in Historiography, 1985, have already appeared. These pioneering works have opened up new vistas for a systematic study of the 'history of historians'. However, a study of historiography of medieval Indian economy remains a peripheral feature among these studies.

W.H. Moreland can be relevantly linked with both of the emergent aspects, that is, the growing emphasis on the study of economic history as well as the study of historiography. Of the concept of primacy of economic forces in history, W.H. Moreland was the pioneer, notwithstanding a couple of late nineteenth and early twentieth century works in the field. For the period from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century of Indian history he not only made revenue administration his 'staple of research', and 'the peasant his hero', but also studied different aspects of economy ranging from commerce, coinage, prices, wages, value of money and feudalism to non-agricultural production, famines, Indian poverty and the 'Drain' of India's wealth. It was his outstanding achievement to make an engaging history out of dry statistics. Moreland by his dedicated research for over four decades founded a definite school in the evolution of historiography of medieval Indian economy. Belonging to that set of British civil servants who were 'groping for information' and when 'service in the revenue line made historians' who at times could also use it for the political polemic, that the economic condition of the people during the pre-British period was worse than it was under the British, Moreland went beyond it too, both in his concept, as well as methodology. In the process, Moreland also showed that it was possible to reconstruct the various elements of economic history by a careful study of the source material both in European languages and in Persian and by an application of modern methods of analysis - including the use of statistics. Thus, revenue reports, agricultural statistics, administrative reports and farmans, along with other sources and the use of accurate definition of terms were all woven into lively economic history.
In the words of Irfan Habib, while 'there have been certain additions to our knowledge, his (Moreland's) work still retain their classic character'. To the best of my knowledge no detailed work on Moreland has been carried out so far. Hence, the present thesis is an attempt to study Moreland in order to fully understand the medieval Indian economy and the contemporary scholarship on economic history and historiography. I have organized the Chapters primarily on the basis of the chronology of Moreland's works.

I am thankful to Dr. R.C. Jauhri, Professor, Department of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for suggesting the theme and giving valuable advice at various stages of the research work.

I am sincerely grateful to Dr. Kiran Pawar, Chairperson, Department of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for her illuminating and expert supervision of the thesis.

I am obliged to Prof. Irfan Habib, Chairman, I.C.H.R., Delhi, Dr. Shireen Moosvi, Professor, Centre for Advanced Study, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Dr. S.N. Sinha, Professor Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi for the invaluable discussions I was able to have with them. I am beholden to Prof. Z.U. Malik of Aligarh Muslim University, and Prof. I.P. Gupta, Osmania University, Hyderabad, from whom I received valuable assistance through correspondence. Specific thanks are due to Dr. Surendra Singh, Lecturer, Department of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for helping me with books which were otherwise difficult to obtain.

I was facilitated in my work by the I.C.H.R., Junior Research Fellowship. Thanks are extended to Mr. Tasneem Ahmad, Deputy Director, I.C.H.R. for the help received from him during the visits to the I.C.H.R. Library.

Material for the study was collected from the British Library, London, The National Archives and the various libraries of Delhi : I.C.H.R. Library, Nehru Museum and Library, Central Secretariat Library, Ratan Tata Library, Central Reference Library, University of Delhi, and Indian Council for Cultural Affairs, Maulana Azad Bhawan. I was also facilitated by the National Museum, Calcutta, Department of Economics,
Allahabad University, Allahabad, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, Departmental Library of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Maharshi Dayanand University Library, Rohtak, Panjab University’s Main and Departmental Library, Central State Library and Dwarka Das Library, Chandigarh.

Specific thanks are due to Derek and Anna Withey, London and Rahul Kapoor for providing help during the various stages of the research work.

I am sincerely thankful to my parents, Mrs. and Mr. Harish C. Mehra and my sister, Dr. Vandana Mehra for giving me continuous encouragement and inspiring me to put in my best.

Lastly, I express my gratefulness to Mrs. Darshan Kaur and Ms. Jaswinder Kaur for carefully computerising the script of the thesis.


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