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CONTENTS

and

Style Guide for Contributors

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THE INDIAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

The *Indian Historical Review* (IHR) addresses research interest in all areas of historical studies, ranging from early times to contemporary history. While its focus is on the Indian subcontinent, it has carried historical writings on other parts of the world as well. Committed to excellence in scholarship and accessibility in style, the *IHR* welcomes articles which deal with recent advancements in the study of history and discussion of method in relation to empirical research. All articles, including those which are commissioned, are independently and confidentially refereed. The *IHR* will aim to promote the work of new scholars in the field. In order to create a forum for discussion, it will be interested in particular in writings which critically respond to articles previously published in this journal. The *IHR* has been published since 1974 by the Indian Council of Historical Research. It is edited by an Editorial Board appointed by the Council. The Council also obtains the advice and support of the journal's Advisory Committee, which consists of the eminent scholars working in the area of Indian historical studies in India and abroad.

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

The *Indian Historical Review* has served the historian's community since 1974. It is perhaps the only journal of its kind in India that has been published continuously for thirty-five years. In those years, significant changes have occurred in the world of academic journals, both on the supply side and demand side. Technological change has posed an inescapable alternative before us: change or perish. The cyber path has already become the main channel of communication among our authors and expert referees and our editorial staff. Printers expect soft copies for easier preparation of camera-ready copies. Many new skills are needed to keep up with progress in the modalities and standards of production, in line with other journals of its kind. These skills are not easily available to organisations in the public sector, given their pay scales and governmental injunctions against creation of new posts as well as better employment opportunities in the private sector. Outsourcing is expensive. I understand that there are also changes on the demand side; for example, many subscribers, particularly institutions in other countries, prefer to subscribe to an electronic version of journals rather than a paper copy for reasons of space-saving and easier access. Moreover, in the last two decades, readership has expanded in many countries that were not significant participants in Indian studies earlier. For all these reasons, the committee appointed by the Indian Council of Historical Research decided to recognise the need for change and took on board SAGE Publications, which has managing arrangements with the *Indian Economic and Social History*

Review, Studies in History, and a large number of academic journals in India. While printing and distribution tasks are assigned to SAGE, the ICHR will continue to be responsible for all editorial functions.

While the ICHR will initiate changes, which the factors outlined above would require, the basics remain the same. We will continue to draw upon the support of distinguished historians who have been regularly contributing their writings. In the last thirty-five years, the *Indian Historical Review* carried writings of historians from all parts of India. To mention some names at random, we have published contributions from D.C. Sircar, S.C. Misra, A.R. Kulkarni, Amal Tripathi, Qeyamuddin Ahmed, M. Athar Ali, R.S. Sharma, Irfan Habib, Romila Thapar, Lalanji Gopal, M.K. Dhavalikar, Purushottam Mehra, Devangana Desai, B.B. Chaudhuri, K.R. Hanumanthan, Iravatham Mahadevan, Sumit Sarkar. And from amongst historians abroad who contributed to IHR one recalls, again at random, E.P. Thompson, Claude Meillasoux, G.M. Bongard-Levin, Walter Hauser, Hermann Kulke, Gerard Fussman, R.A.L.H. Gunawardana, Tatsuro Yamamoto, Herbert S. Giuseppa Flora, David Hardiman and Mario Prayer.

The IHR will continue to be one of the few journals in India with an elaborate system of referral of all contributions to experts. We hope to have continued support and advice from our expert referees.

The IHR will continue to serve a broad range of research interest in Indian history from early times to contemporary history, and in the various specialisations or sub-disciplines which have developed in the area of historical studies. Unlike 1974, when the journal began publication, today we have many specialised journals, for example, in Marine Archaeology, Gender History, Indian Ocean Studies, and the like. The ICHR extends financial support to many of these specialised journals, while the *Indian Historical*

Review will continue to address the whole spectrum of interests which push forward research in Indian history in our times.

The IHR will continue to be available to individual subscribers at a relatively low price. The price of the journal was raised more than ten years ago. The concerned committee of the ICHR Council considered the fact that since the last price revision inflation has raised the cost of production while the average earning of our readers has also gone up, the committee negotiated with the new printer and distributor, SAGE Publications, a new subscription rate which remains fairly low compared to other academic journals with comparable standards of production and quality of writings published. Individual subscribers are urged to subscribe on an annual basis since the purchase of single copies will cost more than the subscription price, till now, due to a shortcoming in the journal's distribution system, many readers used to opt for purchasing a single copy from time to time, instead of subscribing on an annual basis. They need to be alerted that this is now a bad bargain.

Through these continuities and changes we have to negotiate our journal to a new phase of its life.

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research

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