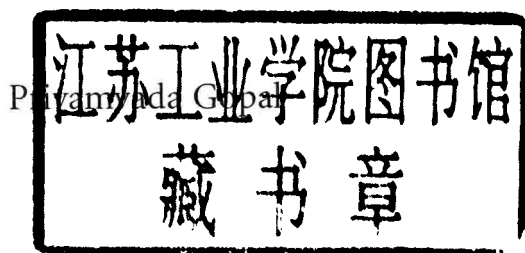


OXFORD STUDIES IN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURES
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THE INDIAN ENGLISH NOVEL

Nation, History, and Narration



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INDIAN TIMELINE

Key anglophone novels and
related works

Year	Historical event
1757	Battle of Plassey which gives the victorious British East India Company control of the Diwani of Bengal by 1765. The Bengali poet Nabin Chandra Sen proclaims 'a night of eternal gloom for India'.
1760–84	Years of plunder and war with various rulers ensue, giving the Company control of large portions of the land over time. Vast sums are drained from Bengal, 'not to know peace again until it had been bled white', as some contemporary British historians put it.
1784	The India Act brings the East India Company under Crown control.
1793	Permanent Settlement fixes land revenue and creates landlordism, depriving cultivators of customary rights.
1800	Establishment of Fort William College, and Serampore Mission and Press.
1813	Charter Act ends Company, monopoly on trade with India, and Crown control of territorial acquisitions. Debates begin on educational policy in India.

(Contd.)

INDIAN TIMELINE

Year	Historical event	Key anglophone novels and related works
1815	Establishment of Bombay Education Society for English education.	
1817	Hindu College established in Calcutta to provide an English education to upper-caste Hindu elites.	Rammohan Roy, <i>A Defence of Hindoo Theism</i> .
1828	Brahmo Samaj founded.	Henry Derozio, <i>The Fakeer of Jungheera</i> (long poem). <i>Calcutta Literary Gazette</i> started by Derozio.
1829	Sati prohibited.	
1833	Macaulay, Minute on Indian Education and Ben- tinn, Education Act. English is made language of instruction in government schools and colleges.	K. C. Dutt, <i>A Journal of Forty Eight Hours of the Year 1945</i> .
1845		S. C. Dutt, <i>The Republic of Orissa: A Page from the Annals of the Twentieth Century</i> .
1849	Bethune School for Girls founded in Calcutta.	
1855	Santal uprising and brutal suppression with 25,000 killed.	
1857	First War of Independence, known by the British as the 'Sepoy Mutiny'. Establishment of Univer- sities of Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay.	
1858	India Act transfers power from East India Com- pany to Crown. Last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, deported to Rangoon.	<i>Indian Field</i> magazine founded.

1859	Revolt of indigo growers against planter exploitation.	
1860	Dinabandhu Mitra, <i>Nildarpan</i> (Bengali, <i>In the Mirror of Indigo</i>). English translation proscribed.	
1863	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, <i>Rajmohan's Wife</i> , serialized in <i>Indian Field</i> .	
1864	Bankim, <i>Durgeshmandini</i> (Bengali).	
1865	Millions die in Orissa Famine.	
1866	Indian Reform Association founded.	
1870	Revolt of 'raiya's' or tenant farmers in Pabna, Bengal.	
1872		
1874		Lal Behari Day, <i>Govinda Samanta or The History of a Bengali Raiyat</i> .
1875	Founding of Arya Samaj; Muhammedan Anglo-Oriental College established in Aligarh.	
1876	Inauguration of Bharat Sabha or Indian Association to promote nationalist awareness.	Toru Dutt, <i>A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields</i> .
1878		Toru Dutt, <i>Bianca, or the Young Spanish Maiden</i> serialized.
1882		Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, <i>Anandamath</i> (Bengali, <i>The Sacred Brotherhood</i>).
1883		S. C. Dutt, <i>The Young Zamindar</i> .

(Contd.)

INDIAN TIMELINE		
Year	Historical event	Key anglophone novels and related works
1885	Founding of the Indian National Congress (INC) in Bombay.	
1889		O. Chandu Menon, <i>Indulekha</i> , based on Disraeli's <i>Henrietta Temple</i> , published in Malayalam.
1895		Krupabai Sathianadhan, <i>Kamala, a story of a Hindu Life</i> , and <i>Saguna, a Story of Native Christian Life</i> .
1897		Fakir Mohan Senapati, <i>Cha Mana Ana Guntha</i> (Oriya, <i>Six Acres and a Half</i>), serialized.
1899	Munda uprising against British in Ranchi.	Mir Hadi Ruswa, <i>Umrao Jan Ada</i> (Urdu).
1900		R. C. Dutt, <i>The Ramayana and the Mahabharata: The Great Epics of Ancient India Condensed into English Verse</i> .
1901		Cornelia Sorabji, <i>Love and Life Behind the Purdah</i> .
1903	Delhi Durbar crowning Edward VII Emperor of India.	T. R. Pillai, <i>Padmini: An Indian Romance</i> ; K. K. Sinha, <i>Sanjogita or The Princess of Aryavarta</i> . Tagore, <i>Chokher Bali</i> ; A. Madhaviah, <i>Thillai Govindan</i> .
1905	Partition of Bengal along communal lines. Swadeshi movement is inaugurated.	Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, <i>Sultana's Dream</i> .
1906	All-India Muslim League founded.	
1908		Sorabji, <i>Between the Twilights</i> .

1909	Morley Minto Reforms introduce separate electorates for Muslims in legislative councils	Tagore, <i>Gitanjali</i> (Bengali, poems); Gandhi, <i>Hind Swaraj</i> (English version).
1910		
1911	Partition of Bengal revoked.	
1913	Nobel Prize for Literature bestowed on Tagore.	
1914	Gadar Revolutionary Party established in USA. European 'Great War'.	Rabindranath Tagore, <i>Ghare Bhaire</i> (Bengali), written and serialized between 1915 and 1916; A. Madhaviah, <i>Clarinda</i> .
1915	Gandhi returns to India; Tagore is knighted and travels to Japan and America to give lectures on 'Nationalism'.	
1917	October revolution in Russia. Gandhi starts Champaran Satyagraha to protest against indigo planter exploitation.	Sarojini Naidu, <i>The Broken Wing</i> (poems); Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, <i>Devdas</i> and <i>Srikanta</i> (Bengali) (serialized).
1919	Gandhi assumes leadership of the INC. Protests against Rowlatt Act; Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in April. Tagore gives up knighthood; Khilafat movement against dismemberment of Turkish empire unites Hindu and Muslim nationalists.	
1921	Non-Cooperation movement launched by Gandhi.	

(Contd.)

INDIAN TIMELINE		
Year	Historical event	Key anglophone novels and related works
1922	Violence at Chauri Chaura police station results in Gandhi calling off Non-Cooperation.	
1923		V. Savarkar, <i>Hindustan</i> (Marathi); Premchand, <i>Nirmala</i> (Hindi).
1924		Premchand, <i>Rangbhumi</i> (Hindi/Urdu).
1925	Formation of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS); Dravidian Self-Respect movement against Brahmin domination launched.	
1926		Sarat Chandra, <i>Pather Dabi</i> (Bengali, <i>The Right of Way</i>).
1927	Second Non-Cooperation movement launched.	K. S. Venkataramani, <i>Murugan, the Tiller</i> .
1930	Second Civil Disobedience movement launched by Gandhi. Famous Dandi March to break Salt Laws.	Premchand, <i>Gaban</i> (Hindi/Urdu).
1932		Publication of <i>Angarey</i> (Urdu, <i>Live Coals</i>). All copies confiscated under Section 298 of the Indian Penal Code.
1934		K.S. Venkataramani, <i>Kandan the Patriot</i> ; Tagore, <i>Char Adhyaya</i> (Bengali, <i>Four Chapters</i>); Cornelia Sorabji, <i>India Calling</i> .
1935	India Act gives limited central government and autonomy to provinces.	Anand, <i>Untouchable</i> ; Narayan, <i>Swami and Friends</i> .

1936	Founding conference of the All-India Progressive Writers Association (PWA)	Jawaharlal Nehru, <i>Autobiography</i> ; Premchand, <i>Godan</i> (Hindi, <i>The Gift of a Cow</i>); Anand, <i>Coolie</i> .
1937	League against Fascism and War established with Tagore as President.	K. Nagaraian, <i>Athawar House</i> ; R. K. Narayan, <i>The Bachelor of Arts</i> ; Anand, <i>Two Leaves and a Bud</i> .
1938	World War II breaks out. Congress governments resign as Government declares India is at war without consultation.	Narayan, <i>The Dark Room</i> ; Raja Rao, <i>Kanthapura</i> . Anand, <i>The Village</i> (first of war trilogy).
1942	Quit India resolution passed by the Congress under Gandhi. All-India Depressed Classes Conference presided over by Dr B. R. Ambedkar.	Narayan, <i>Malgudi Days</i> (short stories); Anand, <i>The Sword and the Sickle</i> (last in war trilogy).
1943	Bengal Famine in which over three million people die by 1944.	K. A. Abbas, <i>Tomorrow is Ours: A Novel of the India of Today</i> .
1944		Iqbalunnisa Hussain, <i>Purdah and Polygamy: Life in an Indian Muslim Household</i> .
1945	World War II ends. Trial of members of the Indian National Army. Widespread protests and demonstrations to demand their release.	Santha Rama Rau, <i>Home to India</i> ; Anand, <i>The Big Heart</i> ; Humayun Kabir, <i>Men and Rivers</i> ; Gopinath Mohanty, <i>Paraja</i> (Oriya); Ismat Chughtai, <i>Terhi Lakir</i> (Urdu, <i>The Crooked Line</i>).
1946	Widespread labour unrest and strikes. Naval ratings revolt; strikes in armed forces. Britain sends Cabinet Mission to India to negotiate terms of transfer of power. Plans for Partition announced; communal riots spread. Gandhi fasts and brings temporary halt to rioting in Noakhali.	Anand, <i>autobiography</i> , <i>Apology for Heroism</i> . Nehru, <i>The Discovery of India</i> ; Narayan, <i>The English Teacher</i> .

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INDIAN TIMELINE

Year	Historical event	Key anglophone novels and related works
1947	Independence and Partition accompanied by widespread violence.	Bhabani Bhattacharya, <i>So Many Hungers</i> .
1948	Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. Telengana peasant uprising led by armed communists commences.	Abbas, <i>I Write as I Feel</i> (autobiography); G. V. Desani, <i>All about H. Hatterr</i> .
1950	India becomes a Republic and adopts Constitution. Zamindari Abolition Acts initiated on a state-by-state basis.	G. V. Desani, <i>Hali</i> (play) performed in London.
1951		Zeenut Futehally, <i>Zohra</i> .
1952	First General Election.	Bhattacharya, <i>He Who Rides a Tiger</i> .
1953		Attia Hosain, <i>Phoenix Fleed</i> (short stories); Anand, <i>Private Life of an Indian Prince</i> .
1954	Establishment of Sahitya Akademi or Academy of Letters with the aim of fostering literary production in all Indian languages including English.	Nayantara Sahgal, <i>Prison and Chocolate Cake</i> (autobiography); P. Renu, <i>Maila Anchal</i> (Hindi); <i>The Soiled Border</i> ; Kamala Markandaya, <i>Nectar in a Sieve</i> .
1955	Hindu Marriage Act changes Hindu matrimonial law towards recognizing autonomy of women; 'Bandung' conference of Afro-Asian nations.	Narayan, <i>Waiting for the Mahatma</i> ; Markandaya, <i>Some Inner Fury</i> ; Abbas, <i>Inquilab: A Novel of the Indian Revolution</i> . Quest, an English literary quarterly, founded.
1956		Khushwant Singh, <i>Train to Pakistan</i> ; Faiz Ahmad Faiz, poetry collection <i>Zindan Nama</i> (Urdu; <i>Prison Chronicles</i>).

1958		Narayan, <i>The Guide</i> ; Sahgal, <i>A Time to be Happy</i> .
1961		Attia Hossain, <i>Sunlight on a Broken Column</i> ; V. S. Naipaul, <i>A House for Mr Biswas</i> .
1962	Indo-Chinese War.	
1963	Death of Nehru in May.	Anita Desai, <i>Cry, the Peacock</i> .
1965	Formation of Shiv Sena in Bombay in 1965. First India-Pakistan War.	
1966	Indira Gandhi becomes Prime Minister for the first time.	
1967	Naxalbari peasant revolt.	Narayan, <i>The Vendor of Sweets</i> .
1971-2	Civil war breaks out in Pakistan; formation of Bangladesh after India enters military conflict.	
1974	Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) calls for 'Total Revolution' against corruption and Indira Gandhi's leadership.	Kiran Nagarkar, <i>Saat Sakkam Trechalis</i> (Marathi, <i>Seven Sixes are Forty Three</i>).
1975	Court finds Indira Gandhi guilty of election malpractice. Emergency imposed in June.	Chaman Nahal, <i>Azadi</i> .
1977	Elections held and Mrs Gandhi is defeated.	Desai, <i>Fire on the Mountain</i> ; Narayan, <i>The Painter of Signs</i> .
1980	Elections held again and Mrs Gandhi returns to power.	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i> ; Shashi Deshpande, <i>The Dark Holds No Terrors</i> ; Desai, <i>Clear Light of Day</i> .
1983		Rushdie, <i>Shame</i> .

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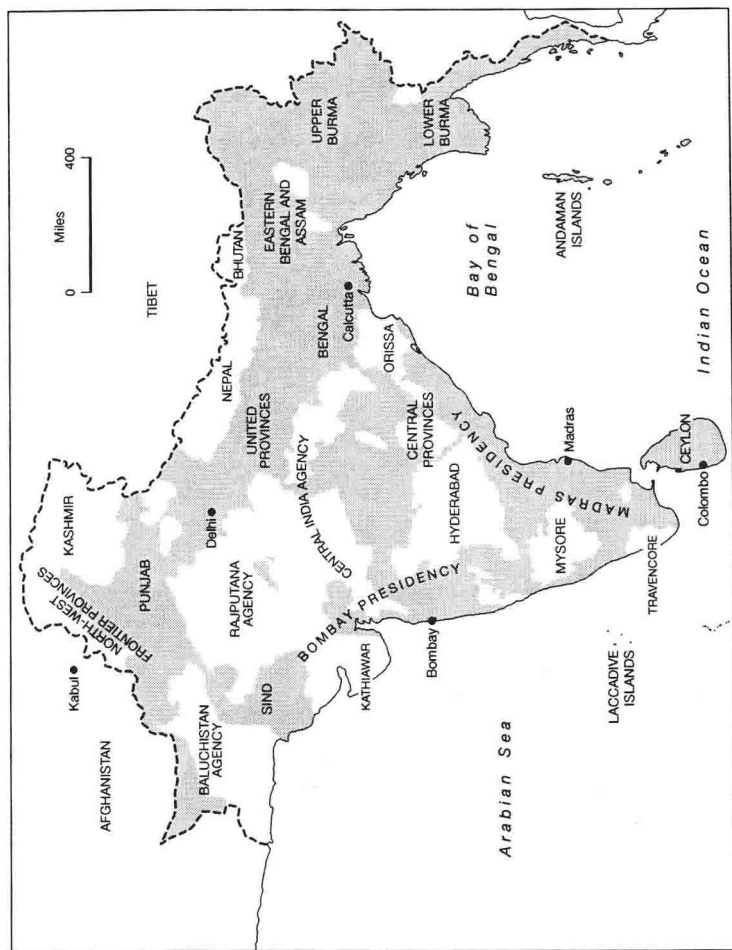
INDIAN TIMELINE

Year	Historical event	Key anglophone novels and related works
1984	Indian army storms Golden Temple in Amritsar to flush out Sikh militants. Indira Gandhi assassinated; anti-Sikh pogroms take place. Mrs Gandhi's son, Rajiv Gandhi, becomes Prime Minister and initiates economic reforms towards a free-market economy. US-owned Union Carbide plant leaks poisonous gas, injures and kills several thousands in Bhopal over the years.	
1985		Sahgal, <i>Rich Like Us</i> .
1986		Amitav Ghosh, <i>The Circle of Reason</i> ; Vikram Seth, <i>The Golden Gate</i> .
1988		Upamanyu Chatterjee, <i>English, August</i> ; Ghosh, <i>The Shadow Lines</i> ; Shashi Deshpande, <i>That Long Silence</i> ; I. Allan Sealy, <i>The Trotter Nama</i> ; Bapsi Sidhwa, <i>Ice-Candy-Man</i> ; Rushdie, <i>The Satanic Verses</i> .
1989		M. G. Vassanji, <i>The Gunny Sack</i> ; Bharati Mukherjee, <i>Jasmine</i> ; Shashi Tharoor, <i>The Great Indian Novel</i> .
1990		Farrukh Dhondy, <i>Bombay Duck</i> ; Rushdie, <i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i> .

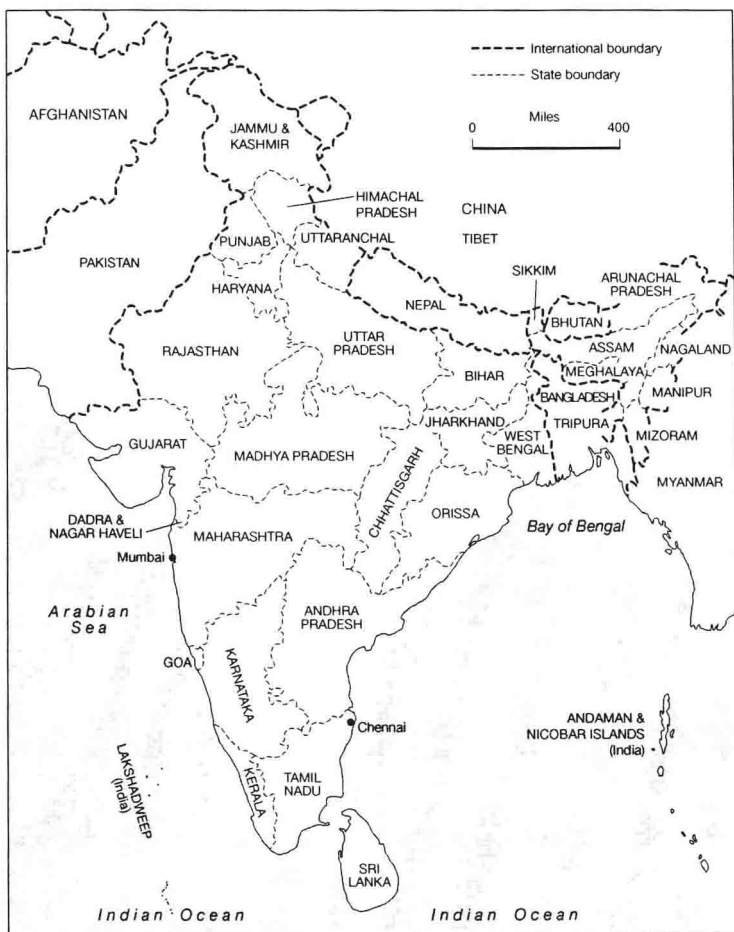
1991	Rajiv Gandhi assassinated by Sri Lankan Tamil militants. New Prime Minister Narasimha Rao undertakes further structural reforms to the economy away from Nehruvian socialism.	Rohinton Mistry, <i>Such a Long Journey</i> ; I. Allan Sealy, <i>Hero</i> .
1992	Babri Mosque torn down by Hindutva militants and hundreds killed in ensuing riots in which Mumbai is badly hit.	Amitav Ghosh, <i>In an Antique Land</i> ; Gita Hariharan, <i>The Thousand Faces of Night</i> .
1993	Several co-ordinated bomb blasts in Mumbai in which many die or are injured. Believed to be masterminded by underworld dons in retaliation for the massacre of hundreds of Muslims in the 1992 riots.	Shama Futehally, <i>Tara Lane</i> ; Vikram Seth, <i>A Suitable Boy</i> ; Amit Chaudhuri, <i>Afternoon Raag</i> .
1994		Tharoor, <i>Show Business</i> ; Rushdie, <i>East, West</i> (short stories).
1995		Nagarkar, <i>Ravan and Eddie</i> ; Mukul Kesavan, <i>Looking Through Glass</i> ; Vikram Chandra, <i>Red Earth on Pouring Rain</i> .
1996	United Front government.	Rohinton Mistry, <i>A Fine Balance</i> ; Ghosh, <i>The Calcutta Chromosome</i> ; Rushdie, <i>The Moor's Last Sigh</i> .
1997	50th anniversary of Independence.	Arundhati Roy, <i>The God of Small Things</i> ; Ardashir Vakil, <i>Beach Boy</i> .
1998	BJP forms coalition government at Centre. Nuclear weapons successfully tested at Pokhran.	Chaudhuri, <i>Freedom Song</i> ; Manju Kapur, <i>Difficult Daughters</i> .
1999	India-Pakistan military clash in Kargil.	Rushdie, <i>The Ground Beneath Her Feet</i> .

(Contd.)

INDIAN TIMELINE		
Year	Historical event	Key anglophone novels and related works
2001		Manil Suri, <i>The Death of Vishnu</i> ; Ghosh, <i>The Glass Palace</i> .
2002	Anti-Muslim pogroms in Gujarat after a train carriage carrying Hindutva activists is apparently deliberately set on fire.	Siddhartha Deb, <i>Point of Return</i> ; Mistry, <i>Family Matters</i> .
2003		Futehally, <i>Reaching Bombay Central</i> ; Vassanji, <i>The In-Between World of Vikram Lall</i> ; David, <i>The Book of Esther</i> ; Hariharan, <i>In Times of Siege</i> . Ghosh, <i>The Hungry Tide</i> .
2004		Rushdie, <i>Shalimar the Clown</i> .
2005		Kiran Desai, <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i> .
2006		Vassanji, <i>The Assassin's Song</i> ; Manju Kapur, <i>Home</i> ;
2007		Vikram Chandra, <i>Sacred Games</i> ; Indra Sinha, <i>Ani-mal's People</i> .
2008		Ghosh, <i>Sea of Poppies</i> .



British India, 1909, from the *Imperial Gazetteer* shaded areas indicate British India and areas administered by the Government of India
 Unshaded areas indicate 'Native States and Territories'



India, 2007, States and Union Territories.