

Agrarian History of Colonial India

First Half

Unit I : Historiography of Agrarian History.
Some leading interpretations of the nature and process of agrarian change during British rule.

Unit II : Organisation of the pre-colonial rural economy. Examination of the nation of "village self-sufficiency" and "village community" - "core" "peripheral" villages - class structure and social relations in a village - elements of conflict and solidarity in the village community late pre-colonial Indian agrarian economy, a growing economy ?

Unit III : Peasant Community - definitions - peasant as an economic category - stratification among the peasantry in the pre-colonial period.

Unit IV : The colonial rural agrarian structure.
The new land systems and the reshuffling of the upper levels of tenurial hierarchy and debates regarding replacement of the old proprietary groups (with special reference to UP, Maharashtra, Punjab, Bengal and South India).

Unit V : The Tribal dimension. The changing economic and social organisation within the tribal world.

Unit VI : Changing rural landscape and environment : issues concerning forestry and ecological approach to rural change in colonial India.

Unit VII : Explanations of recurring famines and scarcities.

Unit VIII : Major agricultural trends. Co-existence of decline and growth, increasing commercialisation of agriculture - a "forced commercialisation"? - Organisation of cash crop cultivation and its impact on the small peasant economy.

Second Half

Unit IX : The changing rural credit scene as it affected the rural agrarian structure (with particular reference to Bengal, UP, Punjab and Maharashtra) and examination of the nation of social and economic constraints on the powers of money lenders.

Unit X : Price movements and the nature of peasant response to price change.
Impact of the General Depression on the rural economy.