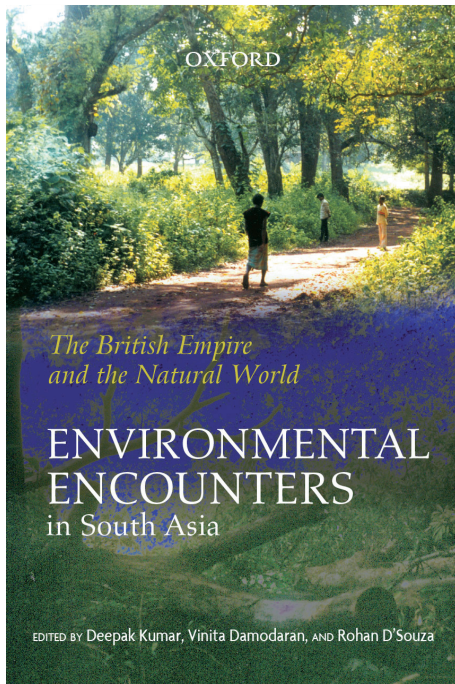


# The British Empire and the Natural World

## Environmental Encounters in South Asia

edited by  
DEEPAK KUMAR • VINITA DAMODARAN • ROHAN D'SOUZA



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### About the Book

The British empire marked an exceptional ecological moment in world history. Between 1600 and 1960, through economic expansion, political strategy, military conquest, and territorial control, it held and linked disparate lands and varied peoples. The environmental encounters of the empire, significantly enough, were multidimensional with, many an ecological legacy still influencing and shaping the modern world. *The British Empire and the Natural World* examines concepts of nature and environmental practices in colonial South Asia.

Focusing on the British empire as a scale and unit of analyses, this volume reconsiders environmental transformations in the nineteenth century and the complex inter-colonial exchanges over environmental ideas, techniques and technologies, and the institutionalization of various environmental imaginings. It explores a range of topics including colonial forestry, plantation economies, irrigation practices, ethnic identities, and environmental strategies of the empire.

This collection underscores the need to debate the British empire as an apt and helpful conceptual template for the writing of global environmental histories. It also reviews several key debates and shifts in recent writings on environmental history in South Asia.

### Contributors

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### Readership

Inspired by the groundbreaking volume *Nature and the Orient*, this book will interest scholars, students and teachers of ecological and environmental history, particularly those concerned with modern India and the British empire.

### About the Editors

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