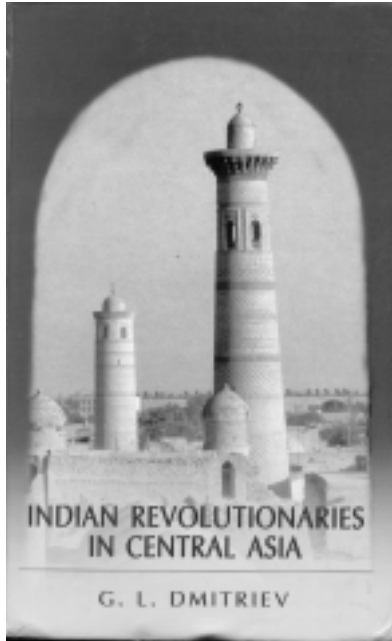


# Indian Revolutionaries in Central Asia



India has a long history of economic, political, and cultural links with Central Asia. Since the sixteenth century there has been a strong Persian community resident in India. While founding one of India's prosperous and learned communities, they fashioned India as a passageway linking Central Asia with the Middle East and Europe. The well-known corridor of Calcutta, Kabul, and Termez to Bukhara was one of the major routes through which Central Asia became acquainted with the new ideas swaying through the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

By Touraj Atabaki

During the First World War, the anti-colonial propaganda of the Axis Powers, which was directly aimed at the British and Russian presence in the Indian Subcontinent and Central Asia, persuaded some Indians to join the other revolutionary movements in the region. With the fall of Tsarist Russia and the Bolshevik takeover, some Indians, fascinated by the egalitarian calls of the Bolsheviks, joined the communist organi-

zations in the former Tsarist Empire.

Dmitriev's *Indian Revolutionaries in Central Asia* is about the time and the records of this group of Indians in Tashkent. It consists of four chapters. In chapter one Dmitriev gives an introductory account of Indians who were living in the region before the Bolshevik period. Next, he examines the activities of this group in Central Asia during the early Soviet period of 1918–1919. Here we find a detailed picture of the Bolsheviks' endeavour to sustain their

power in the region. Chapter three is on the formation of various Indian revolutionary organizations in Central Asia. In the final pages, Dmitriev compares and contrasts the official policy of the Communist International (Comintern) towards the Orient with the local Tashkent-based revolutionaries' perception of the revolutionary perspective of the region.

*Indian Revolutionaries in Central Asia*, which is a translation of an original Russian manuscript, can be recom-

mended for those who seek a better understanding of the early Soviet history as well as the revolutionary movement in the Indian subcontinent. ◀

– Dmitriev, G.L., *Indian Revolutionaries in Central Asia*, Hope India Publications and Greenwich Millennium: Delhi (2002), 134 pp., ISBN 81-7871-006-4.

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