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Vishal Mangalwadi: India Study Guide, 2011

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**VISHAL MANGALWADI: INDIA
STUDY GUIDE, 2011
Steven Alan Samson**

II. THE THESIS

2. THE PREJUDICE

Study Questions

1. What modern prejudice (or superstition) continues to spread? What is the significance of the fact that a Gandhian-type “war for national freedom” never occurred during seven centuries of **Mogul** (Muslim) rule but waited until the **British Raj**? With whom did the **Sepoy** mutineers replace the British in 1857? Who supported the mutineers? What were their grievances? How did the revolt compare with the French and American revolutions? (19-22)
2. What groups opposed the Sepoys for their lack of a vision for political freedom? What is the accepted wisdom about the English attitude about India? Identify a serious deficiency in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (**RSS**) movement, which preaches “Hindutva” (Hinduness) as a philosophy – which Mangalwadi terms “cultural fascism.” The Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**) controlled the Indian parliament between 1998 and 2004. It is the second largest party.

Review

Sepoy Mutiny

RSS

BJP

3. THE THESIS AND ITS URGENCY

Study Questions

1. How does the author distinguish between India’s independence and its freedom? How does the author view **Robert Clive**, who ran the Company Raj, and the **Battle of Plassey** (which are also discussed by David Landes)? Lord Macaulay, the best known “Whig historian,” was among the leading Evangelicals in the 19C. How did Lord Lytton view differ from Macaulay’s? (25-26)
2. What can independence without freedom mean? What does the author mean when he says that India has “sown the wind” for several decades? What did India’s failure to form a government for six months in 1996 show? [Belgium from 2009-2011 has not set a very good example, either]. Why has freedom remained an elusive goal for most places during most of history? Where and when was institutional freedom [a concept developed by Francis Lieber] introduced? (26-28)

3. Among British Humanists, what did the Utilitarians promote? Why was the passion for the poor in early Marxism destroyed? What was the source of the most significant political innovations? What did the Marxist historian Christopher Hill observe about the impact of Puritanism? The Wesleyan Revival and William Wilberforce played a major role in reform. What was the common source of several oppressive ideologies? (28-30)
4. What is notable about John Stuart Mill's *Essay on Liberty*? How can secular humanism, which advocates determinism, defend freedom? What were the fruits of a dynamic faith in Providence? What is significant about the idea of trusteeship? What are the practical implications of God's sovereignty? Freedom is the flip side of what? How does the political implication of theological theism differ from the Hinduness of the BJP? Are the BJP's doctrines consistent with democracy? Why did the Gandhian struggle for independence become necessary? What accounts for the different treatment given Gandhi by the British cabinet and his assassin, Nathuram Godse? (30-33)
5. Adam Smith's moral philosophy of capitalism was a systematized version of the free market economy that spontaneously arose in the context of Reformation religious teachings. Why did capitalism degenerate? What was the impact of Edwin Montagu's resolution of 1917? How does the author characterize the double game played by the Indian Nation Congress? How did controversy of Lord Irwin's initiative poison relations between Indian and British leaders? Why did the latter renege on their promises? (33-36)
6. Who were some of the great 20C political leaders? How did the West lose the ability to produce leaders of its own? Who do young Hindus prefer to read today? What are the spiritual roots of India's freedom, as exemplified by Gandhi and Nehru? Who began the Indian civil service? If India is left to its own secular or spiritual resources, what should be expected? (36-37)
7. What does the author identify as the folly of Mr. Nehru's generation? What was the real misjudgment? How deeply embedded is political corruption? Albert Camus undoubtedly understood Bastiat's concept of legal plunder in the quotation the author cites. Why is dictatorship being advocated for India? What happened during the Emergency of 1975-1977 under Indira Gandhi? (37-41)

Review

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|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Robert Clive | Lord Macaulay | independence vs. freedom |
| Origin of modern freedoms | Utilitarians | Wesleyan Revival |
| William Wilberforce | John Stuart Mill | obligation and duty |
| trusteeship | sovereignty | Sarsanghchalak |
| capitalism | Montagu's resolution | Indian National Congress |
| Congress's double game | Lord Irwin | Dominion Status |
| Mahatma Gandhi | Albert Camus | Emergency |