

Party School, Moscow, which calls for the revival of the policies of "worldly-wise statesman" Count Sergei Witte, for rapid economic growth and war avoidance, anchored on Russia's "good and reliable partner," Germany. Ilyin attacked such balance-of-power approaches as the Congress of Vienna and the "Versailles system." He also praised Witte for having refused to "pull the chestnuts out of the fire" for the British before World War I, and called for "turning back to the traditional foreign policy values of Russia," based today on living in peace with "a united Germany."

From the German side, the conservative daily *Die Welt* returned the compliment, with a feature Sept. 18 promoting the emergence of a new Eurasian economic superpower, along a Berlin-to-Moscow axis, that would incorporate 800 million persons, and become the predominant economic power. With different nuances, such ideas have also been expressed in Paris and Rome.

It is such thinking that the British fear more than anything else. But that book still needs to be written.

Read Nehru to fathom the British Empire

by Marianna Wertz

Glimpses of World History

by Jawaharlal Nehru

Oxford University Press, New York, Delhi, 1989
992 pages, with index, hardbound, \$19.95

An Autobiography

by Jawaharlal Nehru

Oxford University Press, New York, Delhi, 1989
624 pages with index, hardbound, \$18.95;
paperbound \$9.95

The Discovery of India

by Jawaharlal Nehru

Oxford University Press, New York, Delhi, 1989
582 pages, with index, hardbound, \$18.95

In search of a fuller understanding of the non-violent method of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., I was led to the trilogy of Jawaharlal Nehru, written by India's first prime minister during his many prison terms prior to India's independence. The trilogy, comprising over 2,000 pages, was released in 1985 by the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, in a beautiful edition, bearing an introduction by Nehru's only child, Indira Gandhi, the assassinated prime minister of India. Oxford University Press in India issued these three books to commemorate his centenary on Nov. 14, 1989.

Mrs. Gandhi's Foreword, written in 1980, gives the reader a sense of the richness and beauty of the collection, and bears quoting from directly:

"My father's three books—*Glimpses of World History*, *An Autobiography* and *The Discovery of India*—have been my companions through life. It is difficult to be detached about them.

"Indeed *Glimpses* was written for me. It remains the best introduction to the story of man for young and growing people in India and all over the world. The *Autobiography* has been acclaimed as not merely the quest of one individual for freedom, but as an insight into the making of the mind of new India. . . . The *Discovery* delves deep into the sources of India's national personality. Together, these books have moulded a whole generation of Indians and inspired persons from many other countries."

Indira Gandhi, who was a personal friend of Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, was assassinated on Oct. 31, 1984. Her assassination, like Mahatma Gandhi's, Martin Luther King's, and John F. Kennedy's, was an attempt to stop the current of republican nation-builders from creating large industrial republics on this Earth.

The great value of these works lies in Nehru's clear understanding of *who that enemy is*, and his willingness, despite great hardship during his long years of imprisonment, to speak out harshly against his people's oppressors. If you want to understand the British Empire, read Nehru.

Since the United States is presently committed to fighting World War III on behalf of British oil interests, and President Bush is acting like a lapdog of Nanny Thatcher, it is imperative, for our national survival, that Americans take the blindfold off on just how evil the British Empire is. Naturally, we could turn to our own bloody history with the British. But India's liberation struggle, reaching success only half a century ago, has the benefit of including people like Winston Churchill, who exist in the memory of people living today. It was Churchill in January 1930, who said, "Sooner or later you will have to crush Gandhi and the Indian Congress and all they stand for." In December of that year he said, as Nehru quotes him: "The British nation has no intention whatever of relinquishing control of Indian life and progress . . . which, more than all our dominions and dependencies, constitutes the glory and strength of the British Empire."

Discovering India

Nehru wrote *The Discovery of India* while imprisoned at the Ahmadnagar Fort Prison Camp from Aug. 9, 1942 to March 28, 1945—i.e., while World War II was raging in Europe and Africa. Because he was imprisoned as part of a mass movement for Indian independence, he had the fortune of sharing his prison cell with numerous Indian freedom-fighters and scholars. Drawing on their mental resources and whatever books he could obtain, he constructed a universal history of India and its relations to the other major powers in Asia and the West, from the earliest period of the Indus Valley civilization, centuries before Christ, to the period of World War II.

By developing this broad sweep through history, which encompasses scientific, artistic, economic, and cultural achievements, Nehru establishes that the India which the East India Company so brutally raped, beginning in the 17th century, was once an advanced civilization. He breaks through the racist preconception held by most (illiterate) Westerners today, that India is just a backward, illiterate, and impoverished nation. Indeed, as Nehru establishes, India was the leading scientific force in the world, giving so-called “Arabic” numerals and the Sanskrit language, which is the basis for every modern European language today, to a Europe enmired in the Dark Ages.

When *Discovery* was being written, the key problem facing India was to gain independence in the context of Britain’s involvement in World War II. Nehru’s Congress Party was clearly opposed to fascism, and knew that Japan threatened invasion of India. Yet, the question, whether to fight as a *colony of Britain*, knowing that the war would not end that colonial status, was a very difficult one. It forced Nehru to weigh the *fascist* character of the British oppressor against the evil of the Nazis. In the balance, he found no real difference. Indeed, as he said, the Nazis invented nothing new—they just used the methods that Britain had been using in India for over a century.

British Nazis

In *The Discovery of India*, Nehru compares British colonial rule directly to Nazi policy: “Since Hitler emerged from obscurity and became the Führer of Germany, we have heard a great deal about racialism and the Nazi theory of the *Herrenvolk*. That doctrine has been condemned and is today condemned by the leaders of the United Nations. Biologists tell us that racialism is a myth and there is no such thing as a master race. But we in India have known racialism in all its forms ever since the commencement of British rule. The whole ideology of this rule was that of the *Herrenvolk* and the master race, and the structure of government was based upon it. . . . There was no subterfuge about it; it was proclaimed in unambiguous language by those in authority. . . . India as a nation and Indians as individuals were subjected to insult, humiliation, and contemptuous treatment. The En-

glish were an imperial race, we were told, with the God-given right to govern us and keep us in subjection; if we protested we were reminded of the ‘tiger qualities of an imperial race.’ ”

The East India Company, which actually ruled India on behalf of the Crown for more than a century, began to loot India of its wealth and resources as early as the 17th century. Nehru points out that the English word “loot” comes from the Hindustani word to describe the operations of the British East India Company in Bengal.

Then as now, the British looters hid under the mantle of “free trade.” Says Nehru, “It was pure loot. The ‘Pagoda tree’ was shaken again and again till the most terrible famines ravaged Bengal. This process was called trade later on but that made little difference. Government was this so-called trade, and trade was plunder. There are few instances in history of anything like it. And it must be remembered that this lasted, under various names and under different forms, not for a few years but for generations. The outright plunder gradually took the shape of legalized exploitation which, though not so obvious, was in reality worse. The corruption, venality, nepotism, violence, and greed of money of these early generations of British rule in India is something which passes comprehension.”

The famine of 1770, caused by the policies of the British East India Company, killed over a third of the population of Bengal and Bihar.

The objective is depopulation

Nehru notes, a “significant fact which stands out is that those parts of India which have been longest under British rule are the poorest today. Indeed some kind of chart might be drawn up to indicate the close connection between length of British rule and progressive growth of poverty. . . . Bengal, once so rich and flourishing, after 187 years of British rule, accompanied, as we are told, by strenuous attempts on the part of the British to improve its condition and to teach its people the art of self-government, is today, a miserable mass of poverty-stricken, starving, and dying people.”

He describes the progressive “re-ruralization” of India under British rule. “India became progressively ruralized. In every progressive country there has been, during the past century, a shift of population from agriculture to industry; from village to town; in India this process was reversed, as a result of British policy. The figures are instructive and significant. In the middle of the 19th century about 55% of the population is said to have been dependent on agriculture; recently this proportion was estimated to be 74%. . . . This then is the real, the fundamental, cause of the appalling poverty of the Indian people, and it is of comparatively recent origin.”

Fear of any Indian industrial development was carried out to such an extreme by the British rulers of India, Nehru notes, that even when the Western Allies badly needed India

to produce goods for the war effort during World War II, Indian industrialization was prevented. "But as imperative as the needs of the war situation were, the future needs of British industry were always kept in view, and it was considered undesirable to develop any industries in the postwar years. This was no secret policy; public expression was given to it in British journals, and there was continuous reference to it and protests against it in India."

As a result, shipbuilding and locomotive manufacture, both crucial for war mobilization, were prevented from developing in India. An effort mounted by an American automobile manufacturer to launch auto manufacture in India was scotched in infancy. Even medicines, including drugs and vaccines, which could not be gotten from Europe during the war, were hindered by the British from being developed domestically, so as not to compete with Imperial Chemical Industries, the British pharmaceutical giant.

British fear of Indian industrialization even went to the extreme of preventing the manufacture of power alcohol, used to fuel crucial transport equipment and cars. "It was only in the third year of the present war [World War II], after Burma fell and the supplies of oil and petrol were cut off, that the realization came that power alcohol was necessary and must be produced in India."

The following footnote in Nehru's account of the war effort in India is starkly to the point:

"The Calcutta journal *Capital*, of March 9th, 1944, gives the following figures for the index of industrial activity in India.

(1935-36=100)

1938-39:	111.1
1939-40:	114.0
1940-41:	117.3
1941-42:	122.7
1942-43:	108.8
1943-44:	108.9 (approx.)

"These do not include armament production. Thus, after more than four years of war, industrial activity as a whole in India was actually somewhat lower than in the pre-war period."

The famine which swept India in 1943-44, claiming 3 million lives, was British *policy*. "That was the culmination and fulfillment of British rule in India. It was no calamity of nature or play of the elements that brought this famine, nor was it caused by actual war operations and enemy blockade. Every competent observer is agreed that it was a man-made famine which could have been foreseen and avoided."

British policy: Create a lower civilization

Nehru quotes from the historian Montgomery Martin, in testimony given before an Inquiry Committee of the British Parliament in 1840, on the real objectives of British rule: " 'India is as much a manufacturing country as an agricultur-

ist; and he who would seek to reduce her to the position of an agricultural country, seeks to lower her in the scale of civilization.' That is exactly what the British in India sought to do, continuously and persistently, and the measure of their success is the present condition of India, after they have held despotic sway there for a century and a half."

Comparing the fates of India and the United States under British rule, Nehru uses biting sarcasm as he rues India's fate. "The independence of the United States of America is more or less contemporaneous with the loss of freedom by India. Surveying the past century and a half, an Indian looks somewhat wistfully and longingly at the vast progress made by the United States during this period, and compares it with what has been done and what has not been done in his own country. . . . [P]erhaps it is not inconceivable that if Britain had not undertaken this great burden in India and, as she tells us, endeavored for so long to teach us the difficult art of self-government, of which we had been so ignorant, India might not only have been freer and more prosperous, but also far more advanced in science and art and all that makes life worth living."

Before America is "lowered" in the scale of civilization by the looting policy of the British banks and their environmentalist shock troops, we should heed the warnings of a political leader who left his prison cell to lead his nation to victory over just those policies. It can be done again today.

Derivative Assassination: Who Killed Indira Gandhi?

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