

Visions of Greater India

“Greater India” was a transimperial, Indocentric research paradigm that informed the colonial recovery of the ancient past in Central and Southeast Asia. Ancient India was postulated as the fount of an expansive classicism – an actor in world history on a par with ancient Greece and Rome. Under the Greater India movement, the scholarly quest for “India in Asia” became tied to anti-colonial, pedagogical, nationalist and Asianist agendas. Yet although it provided a potent anti-colonial imaginary, the movement also bolstered visions of Indian exceptionalism and energized Hindu nationalist ideas of India as a civilizing, colonizing power. Speaking directly to debates that define and divide India today, this is essential reading for those interested in the legacies of Orientalist scholarship and interwar visions of Indian internationalism. This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

YORIM SPOELDER is a postdoctoral fellow at Freie Universität Berlin.

Visions of Greater India

*Transimperial Knowledge and Anti-Colonial
Nationalism, c.1800–1960*

Yorim Spoelder

Freie Universität Berlin



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Note on Spelling

I have refrained from using diacritic marks for Sanskrit concepts and names, except when they have been consistently used by the author cited and resort, whenever possible, to the simplified Romanized version of historical names of both actors and places (e.g. Xuanzang instead of Hsuan-tsang). For the sake of consistency I use the contemporary French rendering, adopted by GIS scholars, of “Angkor Vat” instead of the more common Angkor Wat. Similarly, for the recurring figure of Ashoka I adopt the common contemporary spelling Asoka. Unless otherwise stated, translations of French, Dutch and German sources are mine. For help with the translation of the titles of the Bengali articles with a Greater India theme that appeared in *Prabasi*, I would like to thank Arunima Kundu.

Abbreviations

ABIA	Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology
ASI	Archaeological Survey of India
BEFEO	<i>Bulletin de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient</i>
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BTLV	<i>Bijdrage tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (van Nederlandsch-Indië)</i>
EFEO	L'École française d'Extrême-Orient
EIC	East India Company
GIS	Greater India Society
INA	Indian National Army
IsMEO	Italian Institute for the Middle and Far East
JGIS	<i>Journal of the Greater India Society</i>
KITLV	Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies
MR	<i>The Modern Review</i>
NAI	National Archives of India
NMML	Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
RBA	Rabindra Bhavana Archives
RSS	Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh
VBQ	<i>Visva-Bharati Quarterly</i>