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978-1-107-08792-7 - The Ironies Of Colonial Governance: Law, Custom, and Justice in Colonial India

James Jaffe

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THE IRONIES OF COLONIAL GOVERNANCE

The Indian village council, or *panchayat*, has long held an iconic place in India. *Ironies of Colonial Governance* traces the history of that ideal and the attempts to adapt it to colonial governance. Beginning with an in-depth analysis of British attempts to introduce a system of panchayat governance during the early nineteenth century, it analyses the legacies of these actions within the structures of later colonial administrations as well as that of the early nationalist movement. Particular attention is paid to the ways in which the ideologies of panchayat governance evolved during this period and to the transnational exchange and circulation of panchayat ideologies.

JAMES JAFFE is Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Fellow at the Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. His current work on transnational legal history has received support from the National Science Foundation, the US-UK Fulbright Commission and the Ford Foundation.

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University of Wisconsin



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In memory of my parents

Laura Bernice Jaffe (1927–2011) and Stanley R. Jaffe (1923–2011)

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is a commonplace in Acknowledgments to assert the collective nature of the undertaking and in my case this is especially appropriate. Before work began on this project, my career had been spent entirely in the field of British history and particularly in the field of the histories of British industrial relations and trade unionism. In fact, this book began as a legal and social history of English arbitration practices during the nineteenth century. However, as that research proceeded, I continually found references, and very numerous ones at that, to the Indian panchayat, which I found both odd and intriguing. As the work evolved, it became apparent not only that the archival and secondary sources on the panchayat were plentiful, historically significant, and underutilized, but also that I would have to learn the vagaries, disputes, and critical issues confronting historians of British imperialism as well as historians of South Asia.

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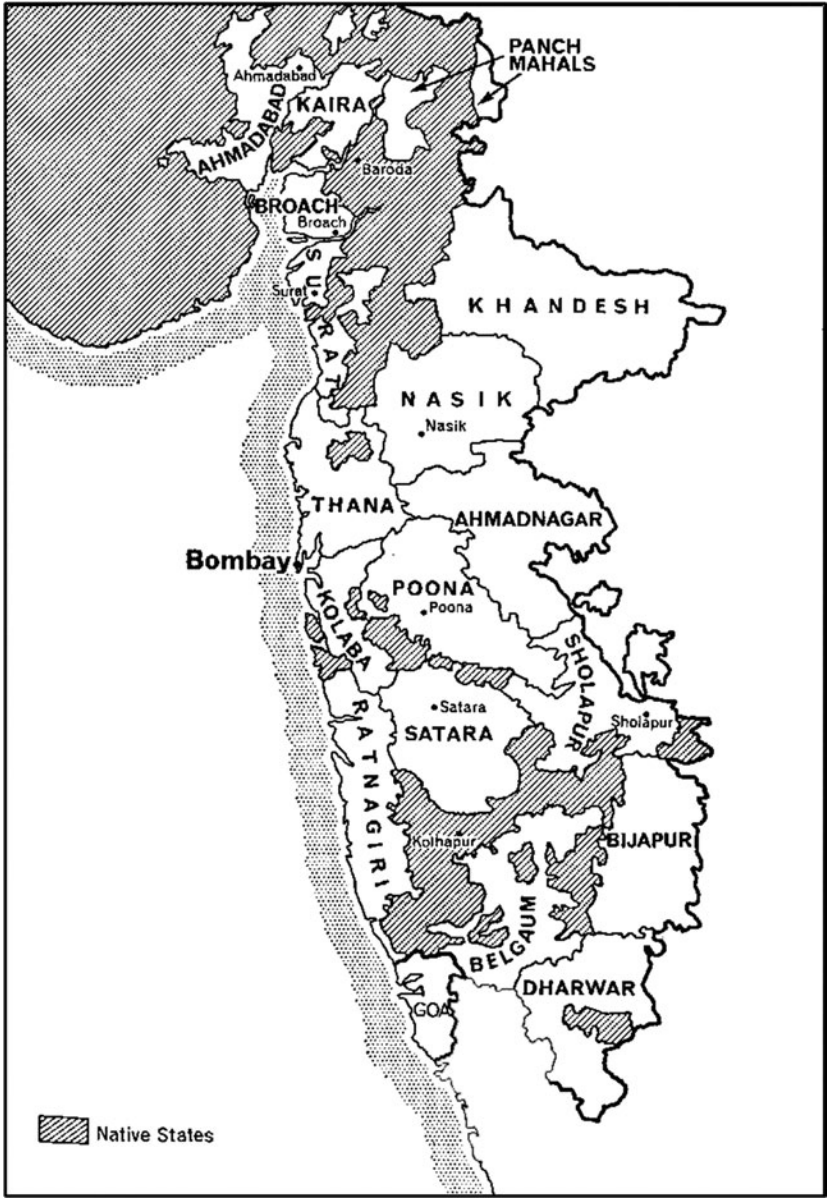
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ABBREVIATIONS

CWMG	<i>Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi</i>
Hansard	<i>Hansard's Parliamentary Debates</i>
IOR	British Library, India Office Records
LHR	<i>Law & History Review</i>
MAS	<i>Modern Asian Studies</i>
MSA, EIC	Maharashtra State Archives, East India Company Papers
NA, CAB	National Archives, Cabinet Papers
ODNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
PP	Parliamentary Papers



Map 1 Map of Bombay Presidency, c. 1840¹

¹ “The Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind), c. 1843.” Reproduced from Anil Seal, *The Emergence of Indian Nationalism: Competition and Collaboration in the Later Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 1965).