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## Colonial Justice in British India

*Colonial Justice in British India* describes and examines the lesser-known history of white violence in colonial India. By foregrounding crimes committed by a mostly forgotten cast of European characters – planters, paupers, soldiers, and sailors – Elizabeth Kolsky argues that violence was not an exceptional but an ordinary part of British rule in the subcontinent. Despite the pledge of equality, colonial legislation, and the practices of white judges, juries and police placed most Europeans above the law, literally allowing them to get away with murder. The failure to control these unruly whites revealed how the weight of race and the imperatives of command imbalanced the scales of colonial justice. In a powerful account of this period, Kolsky reveals a new perspective on the British empire in India, highlighting the disquieting violence that invariably accompanied imperial forms of power.

Elizabeth Kolsky is an assistant professor of History at Villanova University. She is co-editor of *Fringes of Empire: People, Power and Places on the Margins of Colonial India* (2009), author of many articles, and contributor to numerous books.

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Glossary

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<i>adalat</i>	court of law
<i>chowkidar</i>	watchman
<i>diwani</i>	right to collect revenues and administer justice on behalf of the Mughal Emperor
<i>diwani adalat</i>	civil court
<i>mofussil</i>	interior of the country
Nizamut Adalat	superior criminal court of Bengal
<i>palanquin</i>	hand-carried covered carriage on poles
<i>punkhawallah</i>	fan-puller
<i>rattan</i>	whip
<i>ryot</i>	peasant
Sadr Diwani Adalat	superior civil court of Bengal
<i>sepoy</i>	soldier
<i>syce</i>	horse groom
<i>thana</i>	police post
<i>zamindar</i>	landholder
<i>zulm</i>	oppression