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Rajnarayan Chandavarkar
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History, Culture and the Indian City

Rajnarayan Chandavarkar's sudden death in 2006 was a massive blow to the study of the history of modern India, and the public tributes that have appeared since have confirmed an unusually sharp sense of loss. Dr Chandavarkar left behind a very substantial collection of unpublished lectures, papers and articles, and these have now been assembled and edited by Jennifer Davis, Gordon Johnson and David Washbrook. The appearance of this collection will be widely welcomed by large numbers of scholars of Indian history, politics and society. The essays centre around three major themes: the city of Bombay, Indian politics and society, and Indian historiography. Each manifests Dr Chandavarkar's hallmark historical powers of imaginative empirical richness, analytic acuity and expository elegance, and the volume as a whole will make both a major contribution to the historiography of modern India, and a worthy memorial to a very considerable scholar.

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Essays by
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To Sumana Chandavarkar who gifted to Raj his
intellectual curiosity, his warmth, his love of
Bombay and so much else besides

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If this book will help ensure that Raj's invaluable contribution to historical study continues, so too will the work of all those he touched. Foremost among these are indeed his many graduate students, spread over the globe and producing important work of their own. Raj held his graduate students with deep affection and they him.

Finally, a special thanks must go to Anil Seal who drew Raj into the study of Indian history and steadfastly supported him throughout his academic career.

JENNIFER DAVIS
DAVE WASHBROOK

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Publisher's note

With one exception, these essays were selected from a very substantial corpus of unpublished, semi-published and unfinished papers left by Dr Chandavarkar at the time of his death. The apparatus of each essay should be internally consistent, but no attempt has been made to impose any sort of uniform style or presentation, and there are inevitable substantive and bibliographic gaps. Each essay remains, we hope, true to the author's original intentions.