

The Insecurity State

In this provocative new work, Mark Condos explores the ‘dark underside’ of the ideologies that sustained British rule in India. Using Punjab as a case study, he argues that India’s colonial overlords were obsessively fearful, and plagued by an unreasoning belief in their own vulnerability as rulers. These enduring anxieties precipitated, and justified, an all too frequent recourse to violence, joined with an insistence on untrammelled power placed in the hands of the executive. Examining how the British colonial experience was shaped by a chronic sense of unease, anxiety, and insecurity, this is a timely intervention in debates about the contested project of colonial state-building, the oppressive and violent practices of colonial rule, the nature of imperial sovereignty, law, and policing and the postcolonial legacies of empire.

Mark Condos obtained both his BA and MA at Queen’s University in Canada. In 2013, he received his PhD from the University of Cambridge, where he worked under the supervision of the late Professor Sir Christopher Bayly. In 2014, Dr Condos was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowship at Queen Mary University of London. His current research examines how different forms of legal and extrajudicial violence were incorporated by the British and French empires in their attempts to police different frontier regions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Insecurity State

*Punjab and the Making of Colonial Power
in British India*

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Queen Mary University of London



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Abbreviations and a Note on Style

BL	British Library (London)
CINC	Commander-in-Chief
DOI	Defence of India (Act)
EIC	East India Company
GG	Governor-General
GOI	Government of India
IOR	India Office Records (British Library)
MOA	Murderous Outrages Act
Mss Eur	European Manuscripts (India Office Records, British Library)
NA	National Archives (Kew, London)
NAI	National Archives of India (New Delhi)
NWF	North-West Frontier
NWFP	North-West Frontier Province
<i>PAR</i>	<i>Punjab Administration Report</i>
PG	Punjab Government
PP	Parliamentary Papers
PSA	Punjab State Archives (Chandigarh)
SSG	Straits Settlements Government

The appearance of italics in this book indicate the titles of major works, the use of non-English words, and those instances where there is a direct quotation from a text where the original author underlined or italicized words to add emphasis. To minimize confusion, I have tried to retain the standard spellings of place names that were used during the historical period covered by this study, as opposed to their modern-day equivalents (e.g. ‘Madras’ instead of ‘Chennai’). The one major exception to this is that I have dropped the additional ‘the’ article when referring to Punjab, except when making direct quotations. This use of ‘Punjab’ as opposed to ‘the Punjab’ is part of a contemporary rhetorical project that seeks to move away from dated, colonial terminology. With regards to the names of individuals and groups, I have used the transcriptions which were most commonly used in the British records consulted.