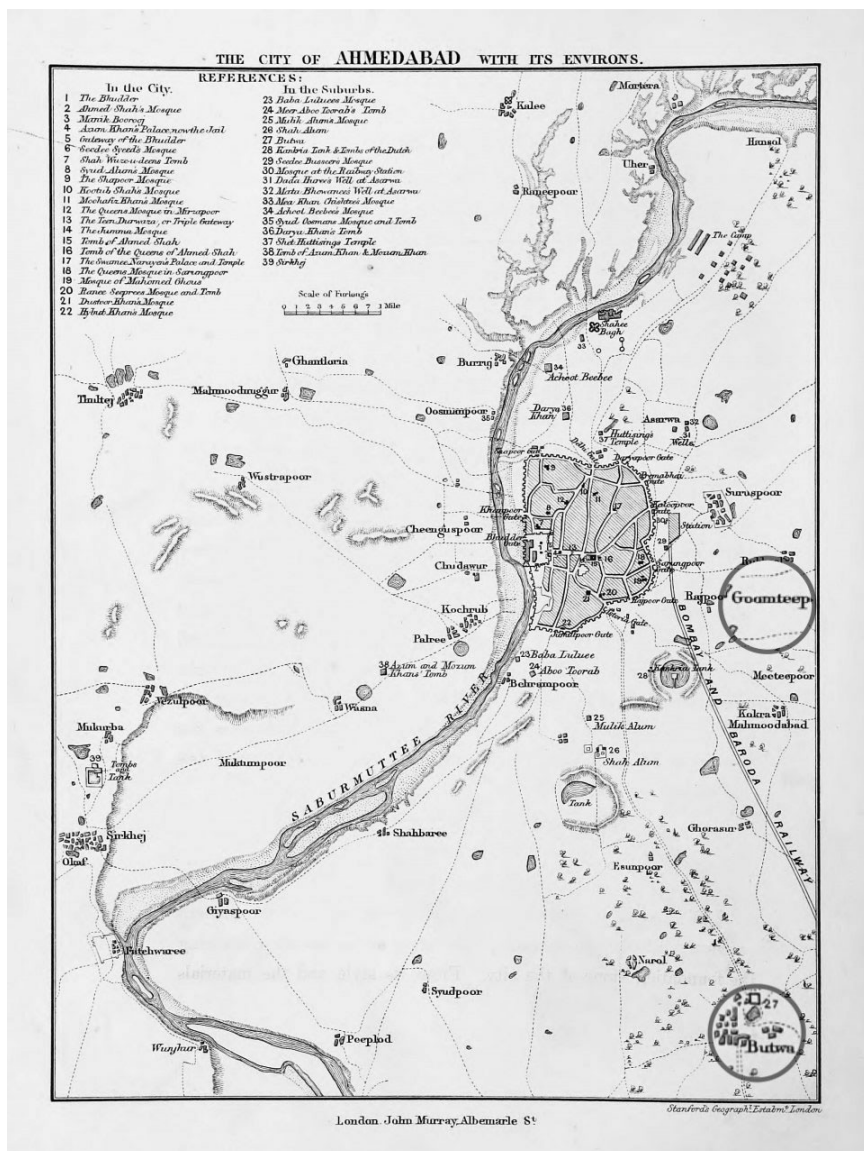


## IN THE SHADOW OF THE MILL

This book traces the socio-spatial transformation of workers' neighbourhoods in Ahmedabad over the course of the twentieth and early-twenty-first centuries—during which the city witnessed dramatic and disturbing transformations. It follows the multiple histories of Ahmedabad's labour landscapes from when the city acquired prominence as an important site of Gandhian political activity and as a key centre of the textile industry, through the decades of industrial collapse and periods of sectarian violence in recent years. Taking the working-class neighbourhood as a scale of social practice, the question of urban change is examined along two axes of investigation: the transformation of local political configurations and forms of political mediation, and the shifts in the social geography of the neighbourhood as reflected in the changing regimes of property.

*In the Shadow of the Mill* combines both archival and ethnographic methods to write a historical ethnography of two workers' neighbourhoods. Many of Ahmedabad's economic, social and political transformations—the decline of large-scale manufacturing, intensification of urban planning, rapid rise of politicised religion and spatial segregation—have mirrored national and global shifts and a study of the city's history presents a way of approaching broader historical processes while engaging with specifically local questions.

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Map of Ahmedabad (1866) showing the location of Gomtipur and Vatva  
 Source: British Library commons.

# IN THE SHADOW OF THE MILL

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Workers' Neighbourhoods in Ahmedabad,  
1920s to 2000s

RUKMINI BARUA



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