

Citizens of Everywhere

This book traces the international careers of a cohort of extraordinary Indian women leaders during the final decades of colonial rule. Working in pursuit of the dual goals of Indian independence and women's rights, the women featured in this book established productive transnational connections to gain influence on the world stage, all against the backdrop of momentous events in India and beyond.

Women played an acknowledged role in the movement for independence in India, both as activists and as symbols of the nation. Their transnational activism is less well known. But as the author demonstrates, interactions with women's organisations, international institutions, and global public opinion did important work in eroding British imperial prestige and the ideological assumptions that sustained it.

This process began during the 1920s, as activists asserted their independence within transnational women's organisations and, more widely, sought to counter demeaning depictions of Indian womanhood in Britain and America. During the interwar period, anti-colonial women made repeated demands for self-representation, including at the League of Nations, where the All-India Women's Conference became the first non-Western women's organisation to gain formal recognition.

Continued women's activism in America during the 1940s and early interventions at the nascent United Nations brought Indian women's voices to global conversations about the future of the post-war world.

By bringing this transnational history to light, *Citizens of Everywhere* offers new perspectives on Indian nationalism. More broadly, the book establishes Indian anti-colonial women as actors in the global histories of women's rights and international movements during the era of decolonisation.

Rosalind Parr is Lecturer in Modern History at the University of St Andrews, UK, where she teaches global and South Asian history.

GLOBAL SOUTH ASIANS

Throughout the modern era, South Asia and South Asians have been entangled with global flows of goods, people and ideas. In the context of these globalised conditions, migrants from the subcontinent of India created some of the world's most extensive and influential transnational networks. While operating within the constraints of imperial systems, they nevertheless made distinctive and important contributions to international trade, global cultures and transnational circuits of knowledge. This series seeks to explore these phenomena, placing labourers, traders, thinkers and activists at the centre of the analysis. Beginning with volumes that seek to radically reappraise indenture, the series will continue with books on the mobility of elite actors, including intellectuals, and their contributions to the global circulation of ideas and the evolution of political practice. It will highlight the creativity and agency of diasporic South Asians and illuminate the crucial role they played in the making of global histories. As such it sets out to challenge popular misconceptions and established scholarly narratives that too often cast South Asians as passive observers.

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Citizens of Everywhere

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Cosmopolitanism, 1920–1952

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For Ida and Beatrice

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Note on Spelling

In the spirit of consistency, I have standardised names for which there are more than one contemporary spelling – Chattopadhyaya instead of Chattopadhyay, Reddy instead of Reddi – unless the name appears in a book title or quotation. For place names, I have followed common usage for the time, for example, Bombay for Mumbai.

Abbreviations

AAWC	All Asian Women's Congress
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
AFL	American Federation of Labor
AICC	All-India Congress Committee
AIWC	All-India Women's Conference
BCIWF	British Committee for Indian Women's Franchise
BCL	British Commonwealth League
BL	British Library
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CWMG	Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
IAW	International Alliance of Women (shortened form of IAWSEC)
IAWSEC	International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship
ICS	Indian Civil Service
ICW	International Council of Women
ILO	International Labour Office
IPR	Institute of Pacific Relations
IWSA	International Woman Suffrage Alliance (later IAWSEC)
LAI	League Against Imperialism
LoN	League of Nations
LSE	London School of Economics
MUA	McMaster University Archive
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NAI	National Archives of India
NCIF	National Committee for Indian Freedom
NCWI	National Council of Women in India
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NLS	National Library of Scotland
NMML	Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
PSB	Pearl S. Buck Archive

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RTC	Round Table Conference
SAADA	South Asian American Digital Archive
SCSW	Sub-Commission on the Status of Women
SPG	Six Point Group
SSA	Sophia Smith Archives
SSG	Sherborne School for Girls
UCC	Uniform Civil Code
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UKPP	UK Parliamentary Papers
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Economic and Social Conference
UNT	University of North Texas
WFL	Women’s Freedom League
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIA	Women’s Indian Association
WIDF	Women’s International Democratic Federation
WIL	Women’s International League (British Branch of WILPF)
WILPF	Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
WL	Women’s Library
YWCA	Young Women’s Christian Association