

SERVING EMPIRE,
SERVING NATION

James Tod and the Rajputs of Rajasthan

JASON FREITAG



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BRILL

Serving Empire, Serving Nation

European Expansion and Indigenous Response

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*James Tod on elephant with companions and escort. Attributed to Chokha. Mewar (Deogarh), 1817.
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By

Jason Freitag



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On the cover: James Tod with Jain scholar Gyanchandra. Attributed to Ghasi. Digital image from William Crooke's edition of the *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan* (1920) courtesy of Giles Tillotson.

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To Karla,
without whom this was not possible,
and to Lizzie and Megan,
possibly my most enthusiastic readers.

Agastya left his chair for the huge district map on the wall behind Srivastav. For the first few minutes nothing made sense. He finally located Madna town. God, the district was huge. The Southern bits seemed heavily forested, that would be a good area to visit. Srivastav's voice penetrated intermittently. "I want to suspend this Supply Officer bugger. That corrupt cement dealer in Pinchri taluka has been passing off bloody sand as cement and this Supply Officer can't haul him up because he's getting his cut too ..." Agastya contemplated the improbable, that soon, in a few months, he would be mouthing similar incomprehensibilities and acting appropriately. Chidambaram touched his elbow with a huge black book. He returned to his chair with the *Madna District Gazetteer*.

"Don't read that now, take it back with you. It's wonderful reading."

Agastya opened it. "It's ancient, sir. It hasn't been updated since 1935."

Srivastav scowled. "Who has the time? Either you work, or you write a history. Those fellows never worked." He picked up his cup. "You'll soon see how the people here drink tea. Always from the saucer, look."

Upamanyu Chatterjee, English August: An Indian Story

... colonial administrators are not paid to read Hegel, and for that matter they do not read much of him, but they do not need a philosopher to tell them that uneasy consciences are caught up in their own contradictions.

Jean Paul Sartre, Preface, Frantz Fanon's The Wretched of the Earth

