



## Revenue and Reform: The Indian Problem in British Politics 1757-1773

*By Professor H. V. Bowen*

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Revenue and Reform offers a reappraisal of British imperial politics in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. It is traditional to regard the 1760s as a time when British politicians were preoccupied with the crises that eventually led to the outbreak of the American War of Independence. In this book, however, it is the Indian problem that is examined. Politicians struggled to come to terms with the East India Company's unexpected acquisition of territory and great wealth in Bengal, and they endeavored to formulate policy related to many new and unfamiliar issues. New light is shed on debate about revenue collection, territorial rights, diplomacy, justice, and administrative reform in order to illustrate the central theme of the book: the gradual and reluctant assumption of responsibility by ministers for the Indian empire.

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"In adopting a global perspective to Britain's late eighteenth century 'imperial problem', the author provides some interesting comparisons of the roles that India and North America played in British politics....Revenue and Reform deals with one of the most important aspects of an imperial policy that was of profound consequence not only to India, but also to eighteenth century Britain and the soon-to-be United States." Journal of Asian History

"...a milestone in imperial history. This new book provides scholars and students of imperial history with an innovative synthesis of British politics and British activity in India in the period from Plassey to the passage of the Regulating Act. Bowen's lively style and excellent presentation have made a complicated story easier to understand as the author skillfully guides us through the maze of India House and the House of Commons." Linda Kerr, Canadian Journal of History

"The research is thorough, the material is presented clearly, and the analysis is persuasive....Those fascinated by the rise and development of the British Raj will find this to be a valuable study." Lynn Zastoupil, Journal of Asian Studies

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