

MAJOR JAMES RENNEL'S
'MEMOIR OF A MAP OF HINDOOSTAN OR THE MOGUL'S EMPIRE'
Cartography in the service of the British Empire

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Most Students of Indian geography would be acquainted with the name of James Rennel who produced the first map of India in English, under the title - 'Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan or the Mogul's Empire', yet not many may have had the occasion to see this map published in 1783, in London. This short note is intended to acquaint the readers with the content and quality of the map and the 'Memoir' which contains the map. As a prelude, a short sketch of the biography of James Rennel is given, before observations on the map of Hindoostan are made.

I

Major James Rennel was born on 3rd December 1742 in Chudleigh, Devon, U. K. When he was barely five, he lost his father Captain John Rennel, in 1747, in the battle of Fontenoy. James joined the navy in 1756 at a young age of fourteen and continued there till 1763. During this period, he learnt surveying and even acquired some expertise in hydrography. Subsequently he joined the East India Company as a part of Bengal Engineers and finally became the Surveyor General of Bengal (1764-77).

In 1781, Major Rennel communicated a paper giving an account of the rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra to the Royal Society which afterwards formed an appendix to his Memoir of the Map of Hindoostan. He also wrote a paper for the

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society on the 'Marches of the British Army in Central India' in 1790-91. His major works relating to India include 'A Bengal Atlas' (1779), and the all important 'Memoir of the Map of Hindoostan' (1783) which appeared in three editions, the last being in 1793. The second edition (1788) was considerably enlarged and the third edition (1793) had 604 pages and the map of India in four sheets on a scale larger than the one adopted for earlier editions, i. e. of an inch and a half for a degree. His interest in West Asia resulted in a two volume study of the 'Geography of Herodotus' and a posthumous work 'A Treatise on the Comparative Geography of West Asia' (1831). James Rennel had collected a lot of data about the currents in the Indian and Atlantic Ocean. These observations were presented in a book form (1832) by his daughter after his death.

C. R. Markham in his book 'Major James Rennel and the Rise of Modern Geography' made the following statement - 'James Rennel was the greatest geographer that Great Britain has yet produced. He was not only the greatest, he was the most many-sided devotee of science. He was an explorer, both by sea and by land, a map compiler, a physical geographer, a critical and comparative geographer and a hydrographer'.

He was awarded the Copley medal of the Royal Society in 1791. Major James Rennel died in London in March, 1830.

II

The observations that follow relate to the first edition of the 'Map of Hindoostan' which the author of this note had the occasion to see in an old library.

Before Rennel produced his map two other maps were produced by French surveyors: one called 'New Neptune Orientale' by M. D'Apré's published in 1751 for the sea-coasts and islands and the other called 'Maps of Asia and India' by M. D'Anville published in 1751-52. Having

been anticipated by the French Surveyor D'Anville, Rennel was aptly called the English D'Anville. This could also mean that Rennel's map was an improvement on the earlier maps.

In his preface Rennel acknowledges his sources as many travellers, many marches, like M. Bussy's march, surveyors, travel accounts and expresses gratitude for borrowing heavily from the fore runners of the volume viz. M. Apres 'New Neptune Oriental' (1751) and M. D'Anville's maps of Asia and India published in 1751 and 1752.

The title page of the Memoir - The title page of the memoir is reproduced here verbatim.

MEMOIR OF A MAP OF HINDOOSTAN OR THE MOGUL'S EMPIRE

With an Examination of some Positions in the former
system of INDIAN GEOGRAPHY

And some Illustrations of the Present one
And a complete Index of names of the MAP

by JAMES RENNEL; F. R. S.

Late Major of Engineers and Surveyor General in Bengal

=====

From Samarchand by Oxus, Temir's Throne,
to Agra and Lahor of Great Mogul,
Down to the Golden Chersonese -
And utmost Indian Isle Taprobane
Milton

London
Printed by M. Brown for the Author
And sold by W. Faden, corner of St. Martin's Lane
Charing Cross
MDCCLXXXIII

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAP

The 'Memoir' consists of :

1. Two plates of map each measuring 32"x16", one showing peninsular India and the other northern India,
2. Ninety pages of text divided into sections,
3. Ten pages of Index to the Memoir,
4. Twenty-one pages of index to the map, 5. Half page of addenda,
6. And, another page containing errata.

TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE MAPS

The two sheets each 32"x16" are printed on a thick hand-made paper, sized and glazed. In fact, the entire Memoir appears to be on hand-made paper that has not undergone much decay after a lapse of over two centuries, and retained its strength and toughness. The two sheets divide India horizontally, along an east-west latitude. The map is on a grid of latitudes and longitudes covering 6° to 36° N latitudes and 68° to 99° E longitudes. Each square on the map represents an area of one degree of latitude x one degree of longitude. Each degree distance is divided into six parts, each of ten minutes, the subdivisions shown on the margins.

Though no projections are mentioned the parallels appear as arcs of circle and the longitudes appear straight lines diverging towards equator. The intervals between the longitudes shrink northwards. The maps appears to have been drawn on one or two standard conical projection.

The map carries four units of linear scale: the first being 60 geographical miles to a degree, the second 69½ British miles to a degree, the third 24 common coases (in North India 2 miles make a kos - parenthesis mine) and the fourth and last, Pliny's road miles reduced to horizontal distance. These scales are

followed by an explanation carrying a legend with eight symbols which sequentially represent: 1. Cities and capitals of *subas*, 2. Cities in general, 3. Capitals of *circars* or small provinces, 4. Fortified Palaces, 5. Towns in general, 6. Great roads, 7. Fields of battle, 8. Pagodas.

Devoid of any contours or any other hypsometric details, the map depicts mountains with the alignment of hills arranged linearly, rivers, towns and cities besides coastlines and islands. But the most important of all, he delineates on the map the territorial possessious of different powers often superimposed on the subahs of Akbar marked after Aine Akbari. With every degree of latitude and longitude traversing through the entire width and length of the map, making roughly a grid of one - inch squares, the map is too crowded with details. It appears, every place, river or any other detail that came to the notice of Rennel found a place on the map. The crowding, no doubt, militates against cortographic elegance, yet the details are strategically important to a nascent colonial power making a bid to capture the subcontinent. To facilitate the reading of the map, Rennel added a twenty page index to the map, besids a few pages of index to the memoir.

He plotted on the map what he thought could be helpful in the strategic maneuvers of the East India Company.

THE TEXT OF THE MEMOIR

Explanation of the Frontispiece - The Memoir carries an engraved frontispiece, which is explained at length by Rennel in one page. The engraved emblem printed at the bottom right of the southern sheet, occupying the space of the Bay of Bengal, is an eight inch diameter framed picture with a shore lined with palm trees, with sailing vessels in the background. The right half has a lion installed

on a pedestal holding a globe with its left forepaw. Standing next to the pedestal that forms the backdrop is a lady dressed in flowing gown, holding a spear and the head covered with a helmet signifying Britannia, and some well built bare torsoed Pundits in a position of supplication. While explaining this emblem, this is what Rennel had to say -

“Britannia receiving in her protection, the sacred books of the Hindoos, presented by the Pundits or Learned Brahmins: in Allusion to the human interposition of the British Legislature in Favour to the Natives of Bengal in the year 1781. Britannia is supported by a Pedestal on which are engraven the victories, by means of which, the British Nation obtained and has hitherto upheld the influence in India: amongst which, the two recent ones of Porto Novo and Sholingur gained by General Coote are particularly pointed out by a sepoy to his comrade.”

On the pedestal are also engraved Trichinopally, Plassey, Pondicherry, Buxar and Vandiwash. At bottom is engraved “HINDOOSTAN - by J. Rennel, F. R. S., 1782”

Explaining the purpose of the map Rennel writes in the preface: “While the theatre of the British wars in Hindoostan was limited to a particular province of it, little curiosity was excited towards the general geography of the country. But now that we are engaged in either war, alliances or negotiations with all the principal powers of Europe, and displayed the BRITISH STANDARDS from the one extreme of it to the other, a Map of Hindoostan, such as will explain the local circumstances of our political connections and the marches of our armies, cannot but be highly interesting to every person whose imagination has been struck by the splendour of our victories or

whose attention is roused by the present critical state of affairs in that quarter of the globe.”

It is obvious that the map Rennel prepared was meant for military campaigns and establishing alliances and settling territorial claims with the princes of India. He, like other Europeans of those days, was already gripped by a colonial ambition, talking of the theatre of British wars, empire, British Standards and the protection of Britannia, as if already anticipating India to be annexed as a part of the British Empire.

WHAT WAS RENNEL'S IDEA OF HINDOOSTAN?

Since the British moved from Madras along the coast to Bengal, having won some wars like that of Trichinopally, the idea of Hindoostan to them was the land between the Ganges and the Indus, from east to west, and from the ‘mountains of Thibet and Tartary’ in the north to the sea on the south. But to Rennel Hindoostan was bounded by the countries of the Deccan, to the extent that the ‘whole peninsula to the south of the line drawn nearly from Balasore to Broach is not reckoned Hindoostan’. It is difficult to explain why Rennel tried to distort the fact. One may, however, surmise. Having tasted some victories in the South, Rennel did not like to link it with the rulers of the North, or those competing powers who supported the idea of ‘Hindustan’ extending till the southern tip of the peninsula.

Though the map is titled as the Map of Hindoostan, Rennel restricts the term Hindoostan to the territory north of the Narmada river.

South of Hindustan, according to Rennel, was the Deccan which was a political and administrative entity consisting of Khandesh, Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golconda and the western part of Berar. This actually meant the

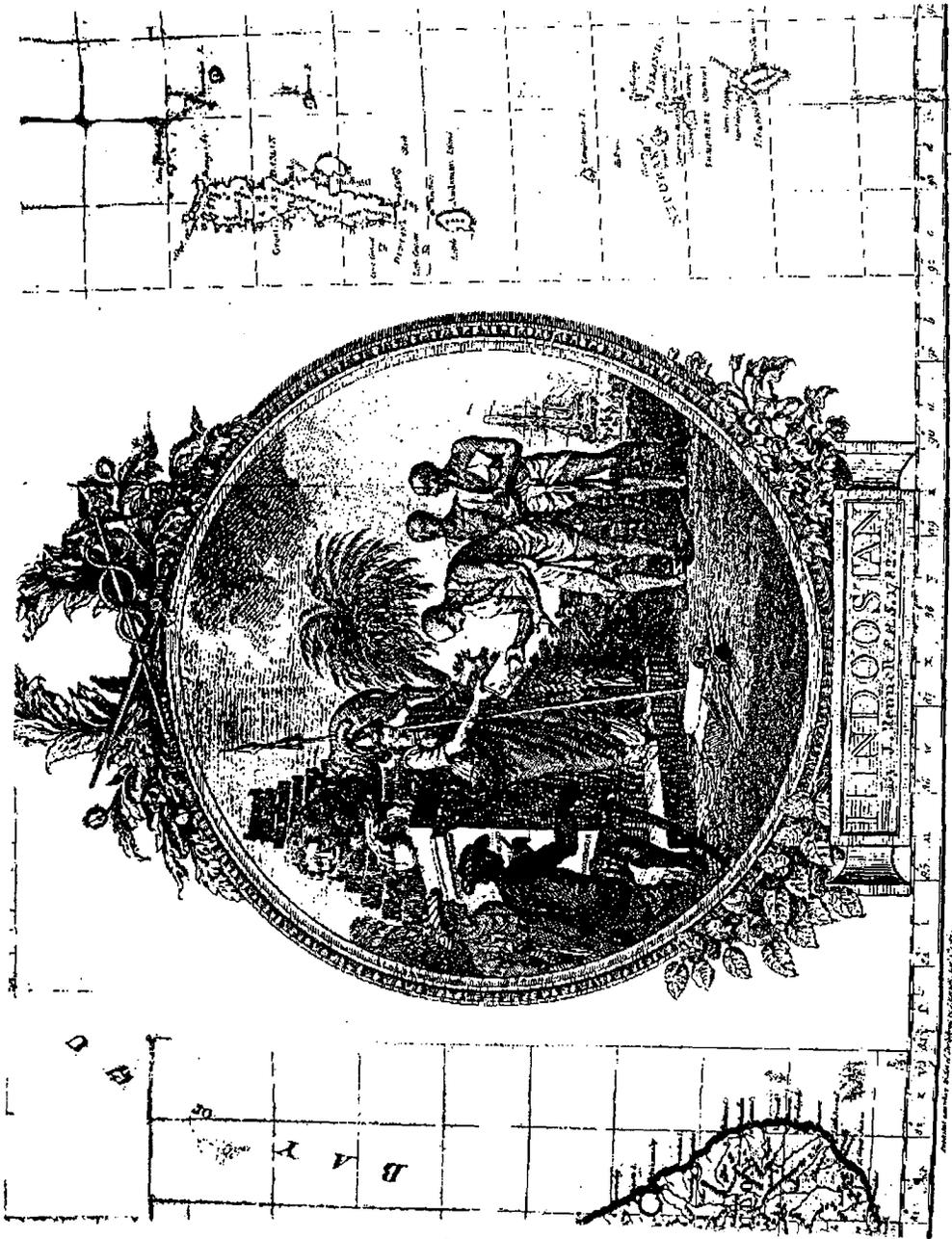


Fig. 1

“Britannia receiving in her protection, the sacred books of the Hindoos, presented by the Pundits or Learned Brahmins: in Allusion to the human interposition of the British Legislature in Favour to the Natives of Bengal in the year 1781. Brittania is supported by a Pedestal on which are engraven the victories, by means of which, the British Nation obtained and has hitherto upheld the influence in India: amongst which, the two recent ones of Porto Novo and Sholingur gained by General Coote are particularly pointed out by a sepoy to his comrade.”

territory of Nizam, and the territories of the Peshwas, the sultan of Bijapur and Ahmednagar and Khandesh and part of territory of the Bhonsales.

South of Deccan, according to him, was Karnatak, the territory lying between Coromandal coast on the east, and the Western Ghats on the west, south of the Gondegama (not identified by the author of this note) and Tungabhadra rivers. This consisted of Bangalore, Mysore, Coimbatore, Cudappah, Arcot, Trichinapally, Madura, Tanjore and Tinnevely.

Thus, Rennel divided India into three major parts viz. the Hindoostan, the Deccan and the Karnatak. The traditional division still lingers in the minds of many historians today who would agree with his definition of the Deccan, but the geographers who think in terms of Deccan peninsula as a larger unit south of the Narmada, extending as far as Kanya Kumari will find it difficult to get reconciled to this view. Nor would Tamilnadu appreciate the idea of being included in Karnatak.

LEVEL OF ACCURACY OF THE MAP

Rennel was critical of the earlier maps and notes that the most accurate of the ancient maps (perhaps he alludes to D'Anville) makes the breadth of India (included between the mouths of the Ganges and the Indus) nearly two degrees and a quarter of longitude narrower than what appears in his map, and at the same time it makes the lower part of the peninsula three quarters of a degree wider than in his map.

Rennel used the results of observations of longitude, at Bombay, Cochin, Madras, Calcutta, Agra and some other places with measured lines, and surveys extended from other places to frame a very good ground work for his map. It must be remembered that by this time the East India Company had

conducted mathematical surveys of some parts of India, besides outlining nearly two thousand miles of sea coast and a chain of islands - well within a span of three decades. The Gangetic plain from Calcutta to Agra, a distance of more than nine hundred miles, with a breadth of about three hundred and fifty miles, was completely surveyed.

Rennel used the account of M. Bussy's marches for the data of the Deccan and to fix the positions of towns like Hyderabad and Aurangabad. Rennel gives the latitudes and longitudes of many places including Calcutta, Madras, Cape Comorin, Madurai and Bombay and compared them with different observations. Surprisingly, he finds Pliny's account of the distances in north India very reliable. Besides the latitudes and longitudes of Delhi, Oude, Jaunpur, Lahore, Multan, and Kabul were already determined by Bengal Survey, and Rennel only compared the distances on the map with those given in Aine Akbari.

For fixing the north-south distance, he took into consideration Mr. Smith's line across the peninsula from Calpy (Kalpi) in U. P. to Bombay on the basis of Colonel Upton's march (1776) who was an ambassador to the Maratha court at Poona. Similarly, he fixed the co-ordinates of places with the help of Montrefor's MS map and the map of Mr. Orme's history of the Transactions of the British Nation in Hindoostan, for Peninsular India, south of Krishna.

The locations of town on the map are relatively accurate, but alignment of rivers is badly distorted, based as these were on oral or written descriptions and previous maps. The alignment of Yamuna at Delhi, or for that matter of Godavari & Krishna is undoubtedly distorted. At the same time, the placement of administrative territories and the alignment of mountain chains were approximately correct

yet not very accurate, except in Bihar and Bengal. But for a map, much of which was compiled from secondary sources, the map was the best available representation of the area.

Borrowing from early sources, and comparing them with the survey results undertaken, at the same time depending on the marches of armies and actual surveys and trigonometric calculations, Rennel produced a map which was quite reliable for peninsular India and the Gangetic plain. The land west of the Gangetic plain was not properly mapped or represented, and he makes no claim of the accuracy of that part.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE OUTLINE MAP

While the outline of the northern part of Hindoostan is relatively vague, the outline of peninsular India and the coasts, both Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal appear reasonably correct. The Bay of Bengal coast is divided into two parts, the part south of the Krishna delta called the Coromandal coast and the northern part mentioned as Northern Circars. What is most intriguing is the absence of any mention of the Arabian Sea in the map. It does not figure anywhere in the area presently known as Arabian Sea, or even elsewhere; and the most revealing of all is the nomenclature of the coast between Bombay and Goa as the PIRATE coast. It is quite likely that this coast was infested with pirates. The southern part of the coast between Mangalore and Trivandrum is correctly mentioned as Malabar coast.

The islands of Great and Little Andamans and Nicobar are well mapped, though not all islands are shown and so is the case with Laccadive and Maldive islands further west.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE MAP IN THE MEMOIR

The text of the Memoir is divided into six sections,

Section I - Sea coasts and Islands - This section quotes the earlier observations supplementing them with the co-ordinates determined after surveying. The Islands of Ceylon and Andaman were already surveyed, and they were briefly described.

Section II - An important section, discusses the Gangetic plain from Agra to Bengal. Perhaps this was the most well known area. This was a surveyed land.

Section III - Describes the tract occupied by the courses of the river Indus and its principal branches. For this section, Rennel refers also to Tavernier's account and Ferishta's description as translated by Dow. An interesting passage refers to Gaggar river called Caggar by Rennel. He writes "I am not perfectly clear concerning the course of the Caggar river (called Kakkar by D'Anville and apparently the ancient Hefidrus) that branch of it which runs by Tanafferai or Tannasar (Thaneswar) as mentioned by Ferishta under the name of 'Surutty'. Another interesting mention is that of Jidger, or river of Mewat (the hilly tract west of Jumna between Delhi and Agra possessed by Jats) which appears by Ferishta's account to rise in the western part of the *Subeh* of Delhi and to run eastward. This is strongly implied in Dow's translation (vol. I p. 327). He says that "Sultan Firoze made a canal of 100 miles from Suttuluz (Seflegi) to Jidger. This was with a view to join the inland navigation of Ganges with Indus." Rennel's comments appear significant. He observes, "I take it for granted that this canal was never completed otherwise we should have heard of it."

The river that ran into Yamuna below Agra in Rennel's time was known as Jago and was described as coming from Agimer (Ajmer). This was the tract least known to Rennel.

Section IV - Describes the tract situated between Krishna river and the land called by

Rennel the countries traversed by the courses of the river Ganges and Indus.

Section V - He gives the co-ordinates and the distances, with the help of Mr. Orme's 'History of the Transactions of the British Nation', of the places in the Indian peninsula south of Krishna river.

Section VI - This last section, gives an account of the countries between Hindoostan and China. According to Rennel, the space between Bengal and China is occupied by the province of Mecklay and other districts, subject to the king of Burma or Ava. Burmah, according to him, borders on Peju to the north and occupies the banks of the river Ava as far as the frontiers of China. The King of Burma, whose capital is Ava (could it have been Rangoon?) is said to possess not only the country of Mecklay in addition to those of Pegu and Burma, but also the whole tract that lies on the north of it, between China, Thibet and Assam.

The most important observation made by Rennel was about the Burmese teak. The British, it is obvious, had noticed the value of teak very early as is clear from his observation: "The country of Burmah produces the best teak (leak) timber".

The footnote about teak is very striking and explains why the British favoured teak for navy after their arrival in India. His comparison of the ships made of teak and oak is very telling. Talking of teak Rennel remarks: "This wood (teak) which may not be improperly styled Indian oak is, for the purposes of ship building in warm climates, of much larger duration than the European oak. Teak ships of forty years old and upward are no uncommon objects in the Indian seas; whilst a European built ship is generally ruined before she has continued there five years."

Assam was little known then to the British, though he mentions the capital 'Ghiringong' sixty

miles East by North of Goalparah. There is also an account of Lassa in Thibet.

DELINEATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE TERRITORIES ON THE MAP

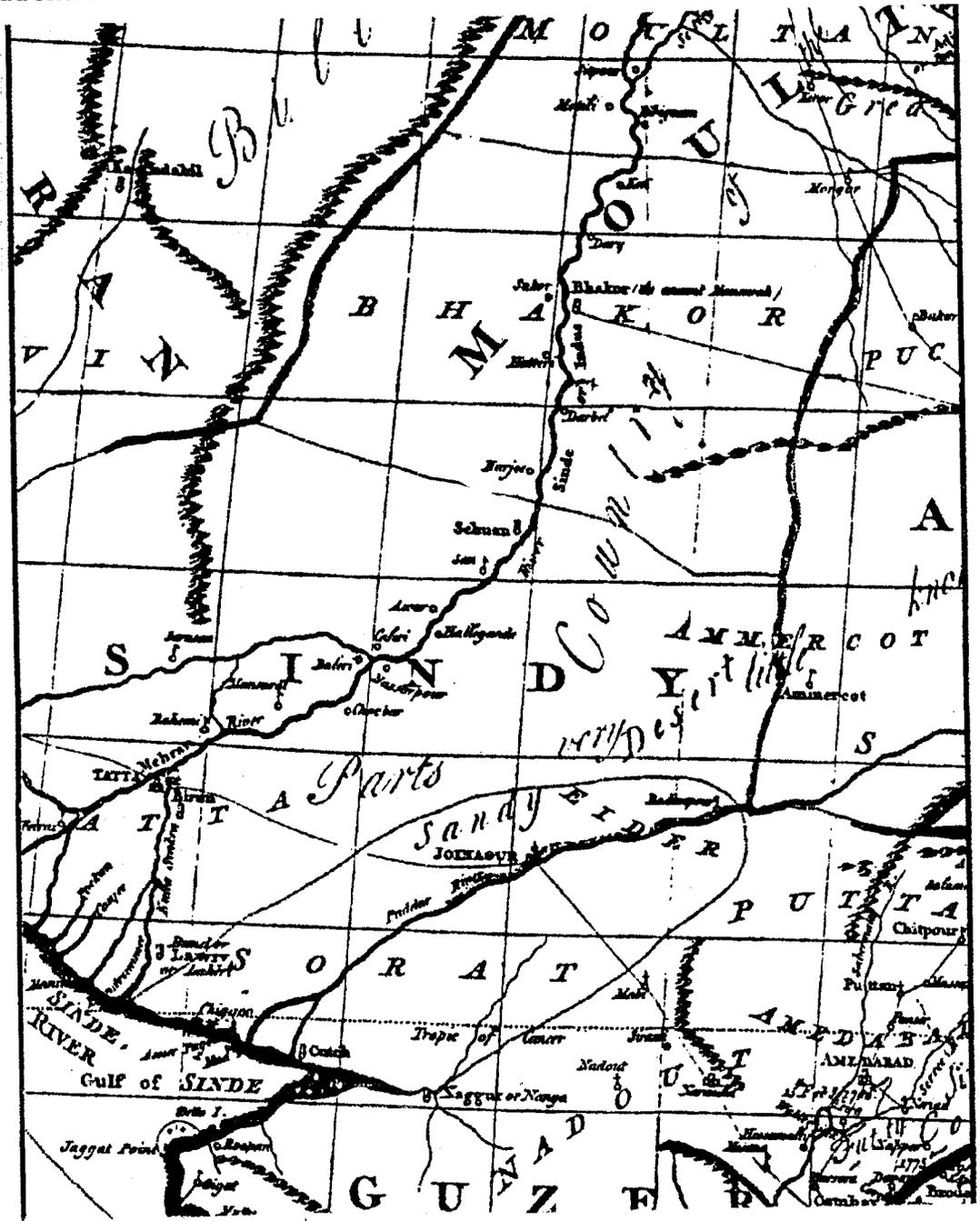
Broadly, he divided India into three parts:

1. Northern India, which coincided roughly with the territory ruled by the Moghul emperor Akbar,
2. The Deccan,
3. The territory south of Tungabhadra.

Northern India was divided by him into the *soubahs* of Akbar as given in 'Aine Akbari'. These were, 1. Lahore, 2. Multan including Sind, 3. Ajmer, 4. Delhi, 5. Agra, 6. Oudh, 7. Allahabad, 8. Bihar, 9. Bengal, 10. Malwa, 11. Gujarat and 12. Kabul, besides, the three lately acquired ones 13. Berar, 14. Khandesh and 15. Ahmednagar. In this he faithfully followed Ayeneh Acbaree (Aine Akbari) of Abdul Fazal.

The Deccan was divided by Rennel into Bahmani states that included the southern *soubahs* of Akbar, viz. Candeish (Kandesh), Berar and Amednagar (Ahmednagar). South of Tungabhadra, he divided the peninsula into two-thirds of the western part, Mysore, and one third eastern part, Karnatic (Karnatak). The western part, he also called the 'country of Hyder Ally', and the land east of Poonah (Poona, Pune) as the country of the PAISHWAH.

The western part of Orissa and the eastern part of the present Madhya Pradesh was inscribed by him on the map as the 'country little known by Europeans'. Likewise different dynasties were mentioned as the rulers of specific areas like the country of Sindia, country of Holkar, the country of Moodajee Boonsla (Bhonsale) and that of Bembajee, the last extending into Orissa.



The four types of scales used by Rennel

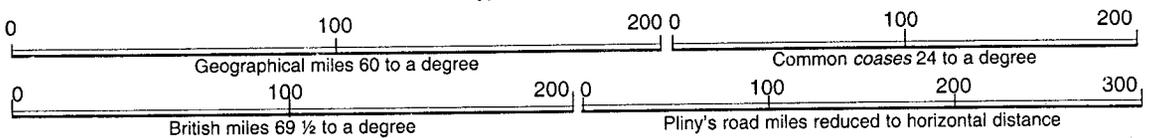


Fig. 2 : Sinde or Indus Delta

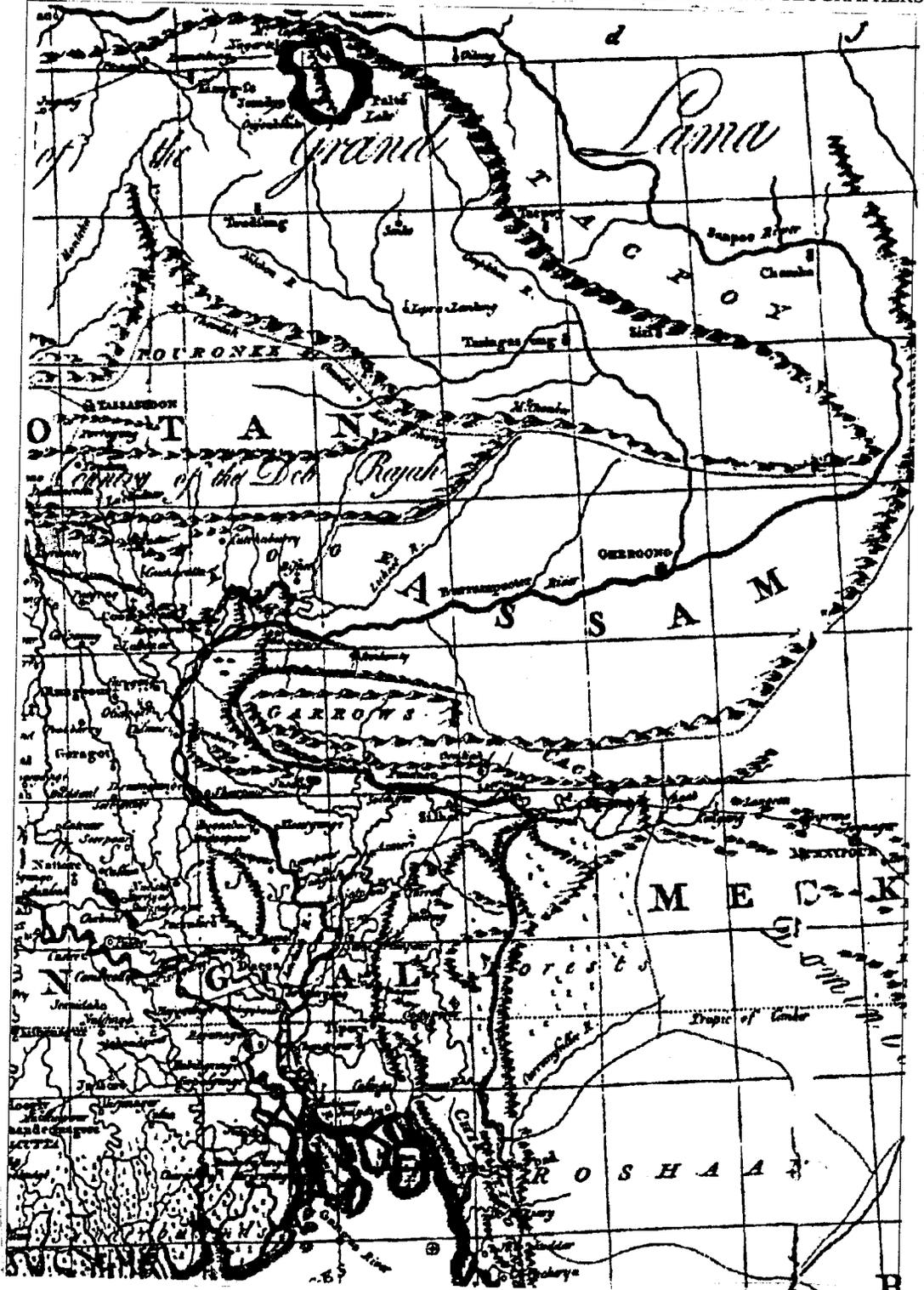


Fig. 3 : Ganges (Ganga) Delta

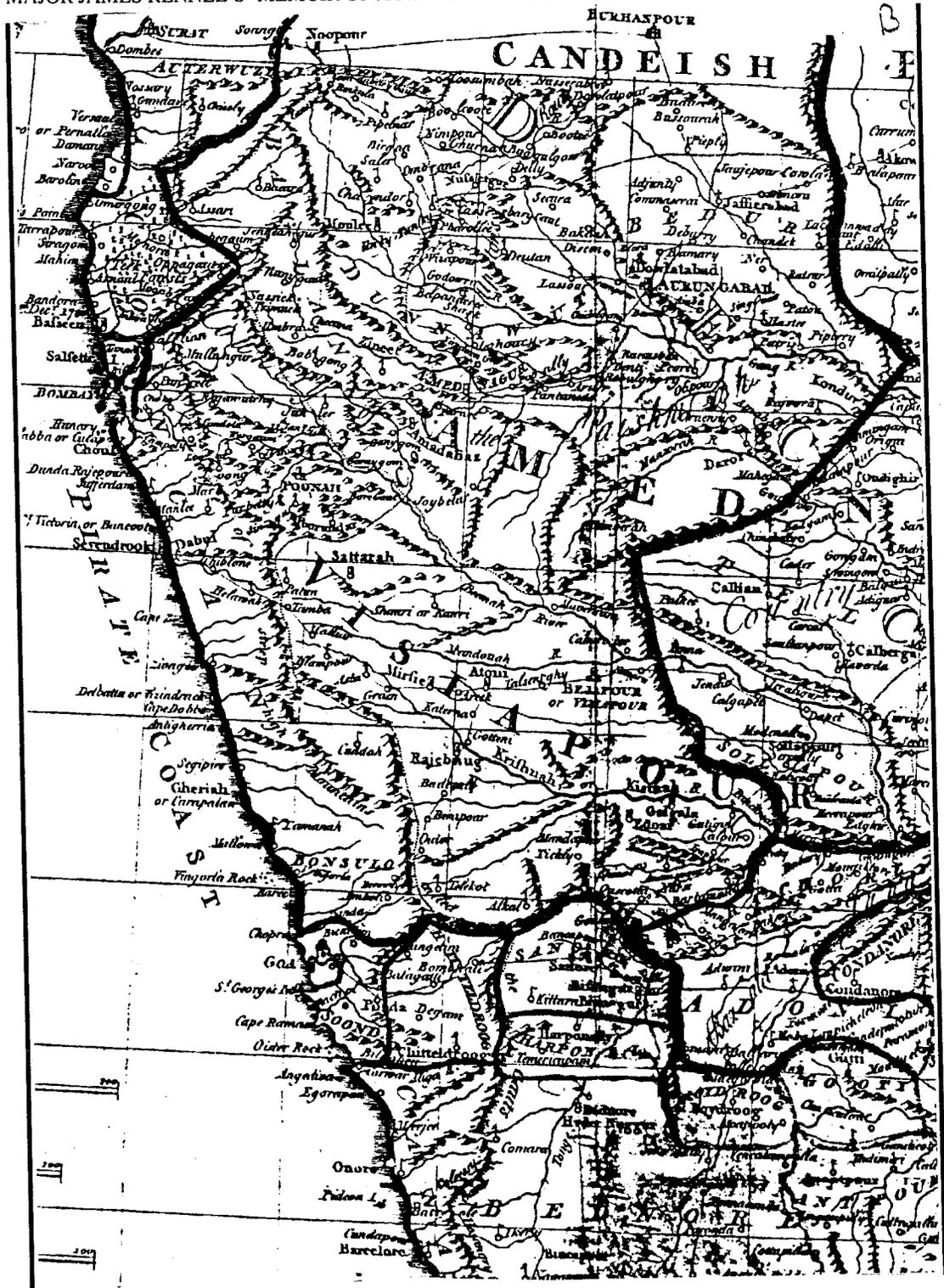


Fig. 4 : Bombay Coast - Ahmednagar & Visapur (Bijapur)

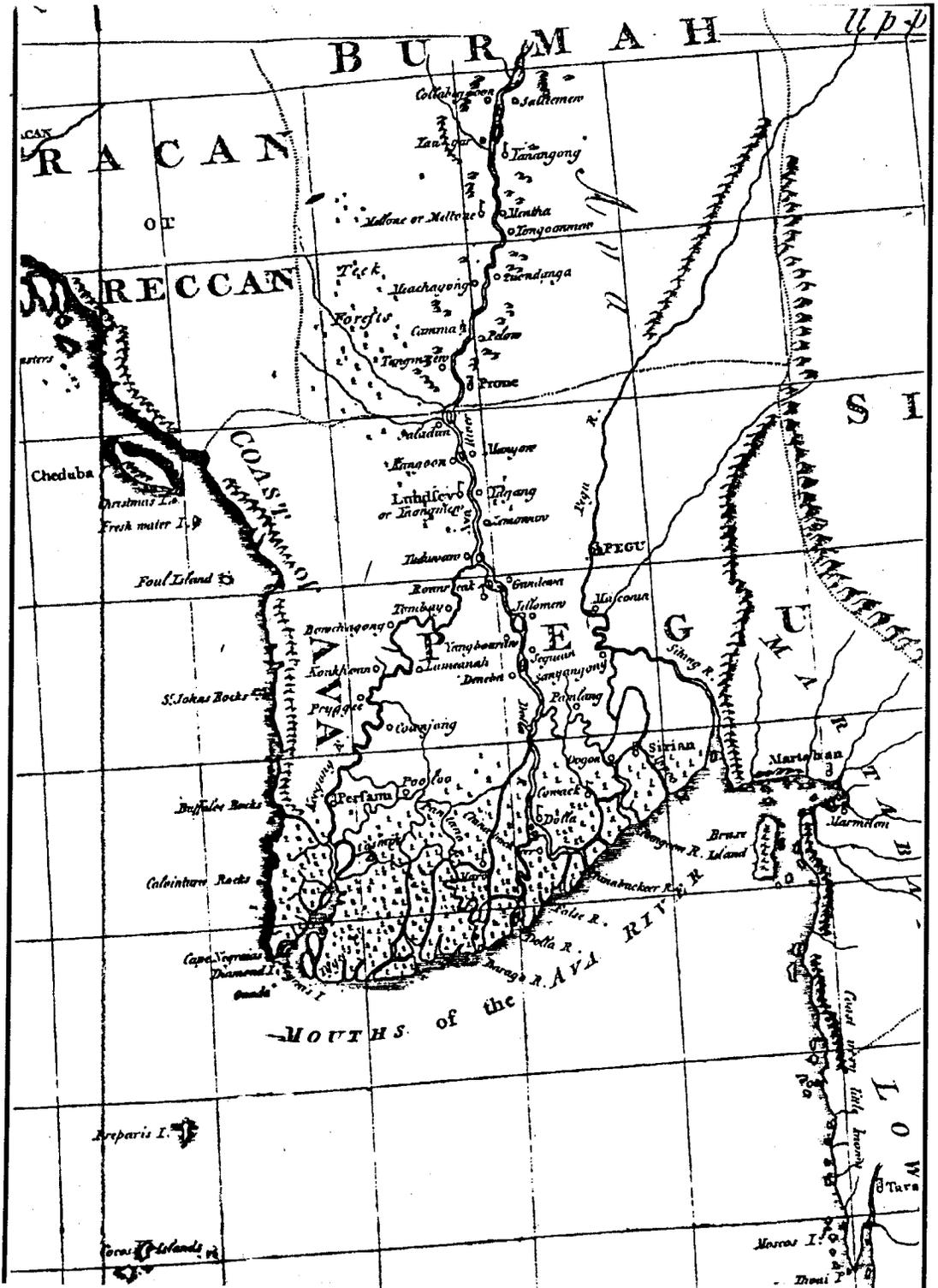


Fig. 5 : Delta of the river Ava (Irrawaddy)



Fig. 6 : Shri Lanka & Kaveri Delta

The area presently known as Rajasthan was hardly known to him and he faithfully inscribed on such areas 'Parts very little known to the Europeans'.

The northern boundary of his map was kept undemarcated, and on the map beyond NAIPAL (Nepal) he wrote 'country of the Grand Lama of Thibet'.

THE COLOUR SCHEME: A KEY TO THE STRATEGIC GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION -

The most significant aspect of Rennel's map is the colour scheme used in demarcating the boundaries of the territories under the control or possession of different powers.

Rennel's colour scheme chosen may be insignificant but the purpose for which it was applied had nothing to do with geographical details. It was meant to facilitate the policy decision of the East India Company in its campaign to expand its territorial possessions.

He divided the entire known territory into five groups:

1. Consisting of British possessions or those of East India Company - shown by red boundary,
2. Powers in alliance with the Company - yellow boundary
3. Powers at war with the Company - green boundary
4. States tributary to Poonah (Poona) Maharattas (Marathas) - blue boundary
5. Neutral states - shown by purple and orange boundary

He mentioned in the introduction the names of each group of powers, besides plotting them on the maps to avoid confusion.

Territories in each class, according to Rennel, were as follows:

1. British Possessions:

- i. British Possessions - Bengal, Behar with the Zamindary of Benares,
- ii. Broach etc. Purgunnah (Parganas) and Salsette,
- iii. Northern Circars, iv. Jaghire (Jagir) in Carnatic

2. British Allies:

- i. Oude - Azuph Dowlah (Asafuddaulah),
- ii. Carnatic - Mohomed Ally (Mohammad Ali),
- iii. Ahmedabad - Futty Sing (Fateh Singh),
- iv. Rana of Ghod

3. Powers at war with the British:

- i. Poonah Marattas, ii. Hyder Ally - Mysore

4. Tributaries to the Poonah Marathas:

- i. Rajah of Joinagar,
- ii. Rajah of Joudpour,
- iii. Rajah of Oudipour, iv. Rajah of Narwah,
- v. Rajah of Bahadoriah, vi. Part of Boundelkhand, vii. Mohd. Hyat (Bhopallol)

5. Neutral states:

- i. Moodajee Boonslah, the Berar Maharattas,
- ii. Nizamshah,
- iii. Bazalet Jung (Adoni),
- iv. Nudjuff Cawn (Khan) - Agra,
- v. Jats Mewar,
- vi. Sliks (Sikhs) Mooltan and Sind,
- vii. Part of Bundelaund (Bundelkand),
- viii. Nizam Ally, Subah of Deccan,
- ix. Shaw Allam - Delhi,
- x. Zubeda Cawn (Khan) - Delhi,
- xi. Pathan Rohillas - Farukhabad,
- xii. Abjid Singh - Rewan,
- xiii. Abdalli - Candah (Kandhar),
- xiv. Singboom (Singbhum),
- xv. Travancore

This, then, was the division in Rennel's map based on relations with the rulers grouped into five categories.

SOME PECULIAR FEATURES OF THE MEMOIRS

All nouns begin with capitals, unlike today where only proper nouns start with a capital letter. The letter 's' is written as 'f', and one has to get used to it in reading the Memoir. At the end of every page regardless of its being odd or even, the first word of the succeeding page is mentioned on the right hand bottom corner. Rennel closes his account of ninety-nine pages of text by writing at the end 'FINIS'.

CONCLUSIONS

Undoubtedly James Rennel's Map of Hindoostan was the first map of India produced by an accomplished surveyor and was, no doubt, an improvement on the earlier map produced by D'Anville. It was drawn on graticule on a proper projection, plotting a large number of places according to their co-ordinates and fixing the orientation and distances of many others on the basis of military campaigns, marches of the British army and several other sources.

While this accomplishment of James Rennel evokes admiration, the purpose behind making this map is certainly not an exercise in exploration. One would hesitate, therefore, to associate Rennel with the early geographical paradigm of exploration of new lands and their physical and human landscape.

Here was a geographer, as pronounced by Markham, who, like the rest of his compatriots, was fired by the territorial ambition of the East India Company and proved a link in their colonial design of gradually running over and subjugating all the principal ruling powers of

the sub-continent and the final annexation of the entire country in the British Empire.

It is not a question of interpretation, he made it abundantly clear by his design and interpretation of the emblem in which he depicts the victories of the British, engraved on the pedestal on the one hand, and Britannia receiving the sacred books of the Hindoos on the other, a fact which he calls the intervention of the British in favour of the natives of Bengal. This depiction of the surrender of the sacred books by the Pandits to Britannia, personified in a lady, as a mark of intervention of the British in favour of the natives of Bengal was not unintentional. It had a serious intent and was part of a larger design to create a schism in Indian society by whatever means - here cartographic - available, a design that, in subsequent years, after the establishment of the British rule in India grew into a well defined state policy of 'divide and rule'. His division of the country into territories and delineating them according to their relations with the East India Company is like the operation map of a war theatre where the positions of the allies and the enemies are well marked to enable the generals to chalk out their strategy accordingly. On Rennel's map, the position and the possessions of friends, enemies, neutral powers and allies (of the British and their enemies) are clearly delineated, co-ordinates and distances are given and routes are described. This was certainly a prerequisite to the military campaigns that the East India Company launched then and in subsequent years.

In fact, Rennel's map is a historic document that throws light on the alignment or the hostilities of the Indian rulers to the East India Company. It may be mentioned that by 1780 or so, East India Company had neutralised most of the Indian powers with the exception

of the Poona Marattas, obviously the Peshwas, and Hyder Ali of Mysore. The Bahmani states, the Nawabs of Agra, the Sikhs, the Pathans of Ruhelkhand, the Jats of Mewat, the Bhonsales of Berar and even Abdali of Khandar,- all had adopted a neutral stance, each group worried about its own security. Only the Peshwas and Hyder Ali could resist the British, to finally suffer defeat forfeiting their kingdoms.

For geographers, the map holds a great academic interest and gives a glimpse of eighteenth century cartography. One can compare the contemporary map with that prepared by Rennel to appreciate the

difficulties of early map makers. But this map holds far greater significance to the historians of this land and is a documentary evidence of how the powers in India were aligned vis-a-vis the East India Company.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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