

An Anthropologist  
among the Historians  
and Other Essays

BERNARD S. COHN

*With an introduction by*  
Ranjit Guha

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Contents

Introduction by *Ranajit Guha* VII

## I. HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

1. An Anthropologist among the Historians:  
A Field Study 1
2. History and Anthropology: The State of Play 18
3. Anthropology and History in the 1980s:  
Towards a Rapprochement 50

## II. INDIA AS A FIELD OF STUDY

4. Networks and Centres in the Integration of  
Indian Civilization 78
5. The Pasts of an Indian Village 88
6. Regions Subjective and Objective: Their Relation  
to the Study of Modern Indian History and Society 100
7. Notes on the History of the Study of Indian  
Society and Culture 136
8. Is There a New Indian History? Society  
and Social Change Under the Raj 172
9. African Models and Indian Histories 200
10. The Census, Social Structure and Objectification  
in South Asia 224

## III. UNTOUCHABLES

11. The Changing Status of a Depressed Caste	255
12. The Changing Traditions of a Low Caste	284
13. Madhopur Revisited	299
14. Chamar Family in a North Indian Village: A Structural Contingent	308

## IV. THE BRITISH IN BENARES

15. The Initial British Impact on India: A Case Study of the Benares Region	320
16. Structural Change in Indian Rural Society 1596-1885	343
17. The British in Benares: A Nineteenth Century Colonial Society	422
18. From Indian Status to British Contract	463
19. Political Systems in Eighteenth-Century India: The Benares Region	483
20. The Recruitment and Training of British Civil Servants in India	500
21. Some Notes on Law and Change in North India	554
22. Anthropological Notes on Law and Disputes in North India	575

## V. REPRESENTATIONS OF EMPIRE

23. Representing Authority in Victorian India	632
---	-----