

*British  
Savagery In  
..... India*

*Edited by  
Ram Sharan Vidyarthi*

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## INTRODUCTION

History has been a subject of very great interest to me. When India was passing through the epoch of 1942 August-days I was strikingly reminded of the famous couplet of Wordsworth which he wrote about the French Revolution.

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,  
But to be young was very heaven!"

Inspired by the spirit and the need of the time, I decided to collect the material for editing a book of historical survey on the happenings during and after the Revolutionary days of August '42. But the work could not be taken up due to my detention in the prison as a result of my being a declared and confirmed congressman. Of course, the work of compiling and editing such a history of the Movement was hampered, but the determination for it was further strengthened during my stay in jail.

On my release from the jail in 1943 August, I started it in right earnest. Finding greater facilities for it at Cawnpore, I stayed there, away from my home at Meerut, right upto the middle of May, '44. Somehow as the Government got the clue of my intention and work, my residence was searched at Cawnpore on the 20th March '44 by the C.I.D. Police without getting any trace of the matter which I was suspected to have been compiling. Again when I returned from Cawnpore (on 14th May '44) my house was searched by the C.I.D. at Meerut on 16.5.45 and along with some other books, the typed-manuscript entitled "British Savagery in India" was recovered. I was prosecuted for its possession by the C.I.D. under rule 39 (1) (b) D.I.R. alleging that the matter was "prejudicial" which is almost equivalent to "seditious." The prosecution case was "No particular portion can be pointed out but the cumulative effect of the Manuscript is prejudicial report." The trying Magistrate concurring with this opinion held the manuscript as prejudicial report (which brings into hatred and excites disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India) and thus held me guilty for having been in its possession and sentenced me to 18 months R.I. under R. 39 (1) (b) D.I.R. on 24.1.45.

While in the District Jail, Meerut I read in Hindustan Times dated 17.6.45 an extract of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's speech which he delivered on his release from Almora District Jail on 15th June '43, which runs as below :-

"If the British think that by keeping us in Jail for these years they have broken our spirit they are sadly mistaken. I say they are sadly mistaken." Referring to the political

sufferers he said, "I was not concerned with what these men had done, it was a savage thing to seek to make their families suffer for their wrongs. There were savages. They were those who made brazen-faced admissions of their savagery, and those who were enforcing or promulgating this savagery also fell in that category. It showed to what depths of human degradation they had gone, it showed to what they owed their position in this country."

These lines instilled in me a strong feeling to complete the contemplated "historical work" of mine. A British Judge, a part of the British administrative machinery of India considered my imprisonment as its only and adequate reward. But all the time in Jail I was feeling very very restless on my helplessness and the state of grave injustice and lawlessness in the country. Now I feel that the best remedy for me is to place this true tale of India's sufferings in the hands of the public at large for their verdict. If ventilating truth and a historical fact is a crime and sedition, every true historian is guilty of it and in that case how can I dare or desire to plead innocence and escape punishment.

The Judge while delivering his judgment in this very case remarked, "The accused has been convicted before for political offences but has now been enrolled in the local bar and intends to devote himself to the profession. I hope that after his release from prison he will profit by constant practice in the profession realise that before remedy can be effected, it is necessary to understand the facts of the particular case and not to indulge in vague and superficial analogies from other countries and other ages which bear only a slight resemblance to modern conditions." He admits that I was guilty of political offences even before this case. What else can be the political guilt in a slave country like India but patriotism! What of the prison walls! Nothing can shake the faith of the patriots who are determined to fight for and achieve the freedom of their country. To the advice of the British Judge, I can say nothing more than "Physician heal thyself".

I now place the book in the hands of all the readers without any distinction. Let not the foreign readers, without much knowledge of India, or young or inexperienced Indians, inflame their feelings of hatred and disaffection towards the Government of India, and form their cool and considered judgement which is the real intention and request of the author. What is and would be the judgement of the foreigners who know much about India or the aged and experienced Indians about the British Rule in India is not hidden, still a few words, by way of opinion on the present

volume, will eloquently speak their mind, which the author strongly craves.

The severity of the British doings reached its worst and farthest limit during the period of 1942-43. Even the doings perpetrated by the British Government on the Indian people after 1857, during the Punjab Martial Law in 1919, and the Civil Disobedience movement of 1930 and 1932, pale into faint colours as compared to the grim severity of the British doings of 1942-43. To prove this assertion through comparison we have also given a short account of the British doings during the years 1857, 1919, 1930 and 1932. Besides, we have traced fully the development of the events leading to the "Quit India" Move by Gandhi Ji.

Further we have drawn our conclusions which must naturally follow the policy and practice of the British Rule in India. We refrain from offering any comments from our side as the facts given in the following pages narrate eloquently the story of the British doings in India unmitigated from the very beginning of the British Rule in India. It will be seen from the account given in this book that under the British regime the conditions in India and the treatment accorded to the Indians were reminiscent not of the Nazis in Germany but luridly of the darkest ages in the History of Man.

The facts we have compiled are as authentic and as impartial as can be possible under the present circumstances. They are merely illustrative and not exhaustive as it is not possible under the suffocating restrictions imposed by the British Government of India through its agents who are none else but mostly Indians themselves.

Lastly we have appealed to our Indian brethren not to lose heart and carry on their struggle for freedom of their Motherland from the sacking slavery of the British Rule which has emiciated and degraded Indians to the present plight. We have also appealed to the human sense of the people of the world to realise the real situation due to the doings of the British Government in India.

In the end we have appended the relevant letters, statements and speeches by Gandhii Ji besides the A.I.C.C. Resolution of 8th August.



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