

October Coup: A Memoir of the struggle for Hyderabad, Mohammed Hyder, Roli Books, New Delhi.

- *Gita Ramaswamy*

An extraordinary book has hit the market. Mohammed Hyder was Collector of Osmanabad (in Hyderabad State) in the difficult times of 1948. Within a year, the Collector was to be jailed in his own prison, but used the time productively, writing his memoirs in jail between July and August 1949. He was also suspended from service later, He lived the rest of his days quietly in Hyderabad, working elsewhere and raising his children. He reviewed this account in 1972, and died the next year. Forty years later, his son, Masood Hyder edited the account and had it published.

Hyder narrates the story of the six months from January to September 1948. While his base was Osmanabad, he had access to the highest political and executive levels of the state. Son-in-law of the Nizam's Inspector General of Police, he also had a ringside view of Hyderabad politics. In June 1947, Mountbatten announced the British plan for transfer of power. What we know as history today is a linear, and sad to say, Hindu account. It goes somewhat like this. The Muslim ruler of a predominantly Hindu country did not want to accede to the Indian Union. He wanted to remain independent and encouraged the razakars as an independent and communal fighting force to subdue recalcitrant Congressmen, patriotic Hindus and armed Communist peasantry. Vexed with the Nizam's obduracy, the Indian Army marched into Hyderabad on September 18, 1948 and the next day, General Edroos of the Hyderabad Army surrendered. Qasim Rizvi, Prime Minister Laik Ali and most of the Muslim elite fled to Pakistan, the armed Communists gradually surrendered. Cut to 2000, Andhra Pradesh is pretty much like any other southern state in India. This account would not have been challenged if not for two issues - the meteoric rise of the MIM in Hyderabad and Telangana, and the separate Telangana demand. The Muslims of Telangana are no longer willing to accept a linear history and the Telangana issue is layered by the demands of SCs, STs, BCs and Muslims.

Hyder's account speaks of more than an attempt by Hyderabad's administration to be even-handed with Muslims and Hindus alike. It raises the issue of the justness of the attacks by Hindu Congressmen on border areas of Hyderabad state, while the Standstill Agreement of the Nizam with GOI was still in force. Hyder's Qasim Rizvi is not the communal demon we would have. Hyder shows that the military administration post Police Action, was clearly partisan - pro-Congress and anti-Muslim. During the height of the disturbances, Hyder had had the properties of a Congress leader and rabblrouser, Phool Chand Gandhi confiscated in Osmanabad. Gandhi later became the minister of education in the new Hyderabad government, and arranged to have Hyder arrested in 1949 in seven cases, most to do with murder. The appendices to the book which consist of a selection of documents from Hyder's High Court appeal and allied cases, while being certainly legalistic, bear witness to the trumped up charges.

Hyder's sensitive and nuanced account left me shaken. I read the book in one straight sitting, barely able to put it down. When I shut the book finally, I had the queer feeling that I was reading a very very different account of a shared life, as written by a friend, a neighbour, someone with whom I had lived for long, but never known the depths of his anguish and passion. The linear account no longer seemed real. My neighbour's account was not only plausible, it was based on a lived reality. He says, 'The relationship between the two sides had deteriorated to the point where it was no longer possible to entertain the Hyderabad point of view or to obtain a fair hearing for those identified with it. What should have been a simple matter of setting the record straight could not be accomplished, because the basis of common values, mutual regard, and ways of communicating that normally sustain notions of fair play and justice had, for the time being, ceased to exist. In its place there had risen a structure of derogatory attitudes, reminiscent of British or French colonial rule. The same systematic bias of separation and contempt that was applied by the West towards colonial India was applied by free India to an intractable Hyderabad.'

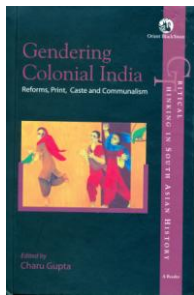
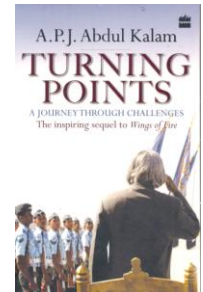
One can certainly have differences with Hyder's account. He views the Communist peasant movement as an 'incursion from Madras Presidency,' but one can excuse him for this, for except for Osmanabad, this city bred elite Muslim gentleman had no first hand knowledge of any other area of Telangana. This is no rabble rouser's account. It is the story of a sensitive and imaginative human being who saw a different reality. A must for every

resident of Hyderabad, for every proponent of Telangana, for every Muslim and Leftist - for whom these issues are vital.

New arrivals in English

Autobiography – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Turning points: a journey through challenges/ A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.- New Delhi: Harper Collins, 2012.

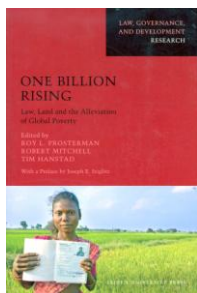
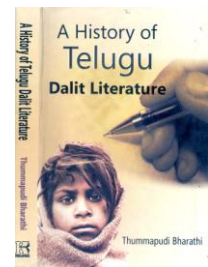


Caste and Communalism

Gendering colonial India: reforms, print, caste and communalism/ ed. by Charu Gupta.- Hyderabad: Orient blackswan, 2012.

Dalit Literature

A history of Telugu Dalit literature/ Thummapudi Bharathi.- Delhi: Kalpaz publications, 2008.

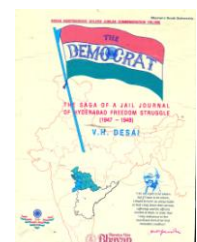


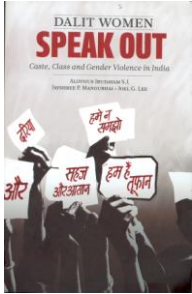
Development

One billion rising: law, land and the alleviation of global poverty/ ed. by Roy L. Prosterman, Robert Mitchell and Tim Hanstad.- [s.l.]:Leiden University Press, 2007.

Freedom struggle in Hyderabad

The democrat: the saga of a jail journal of Hyderabad freedom struggle (1947-1948) / ed. V.H.Desai.- Mumbai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1998.





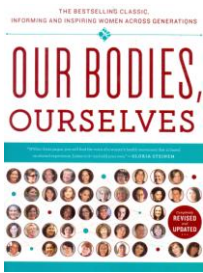
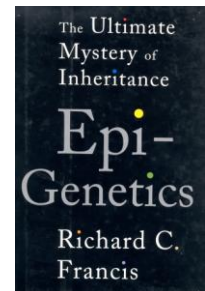
Gender Violence- Dalit Women

Dalit women speakout: caste, class and gender violence in India/ **Aloysius Irudayam S. J. Jayashree P. Mangubhai, Joel G. Le.**- New Delhi: Zubaan,

2011.

Genetic regulation

Epigenetics: the ultimate mystery of inheritance/ **Richard C. Francis.**- New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

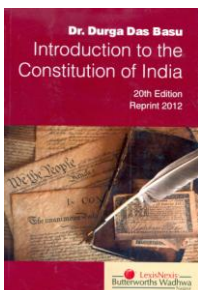
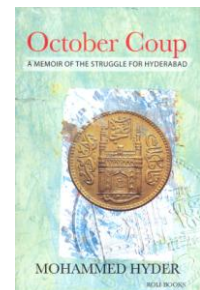


Health

Our bodies ourselves/The Boston Women's Health Book Collective.- New York: Touchstone, 2011.

Hyderabad State

October coup: a memoir of the struggle for Hyderabad/ **Mohammed Hyder.**- New Delhi: The Lotus Collection, 2012.

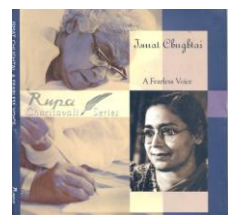


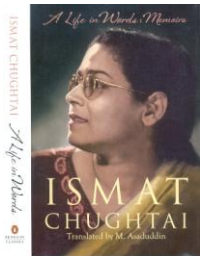
Indian Constitution

Introduction to the constitution of India/ **Durga Das Basu.**- Nagpur: Butterworths Wadhwa, 2012.

Ismat Chughtai - Memoir

Ismat Chughtai: a fearless voice/ **Manjulaa Negi.**- New Delhi: Rupa & co, 2003.

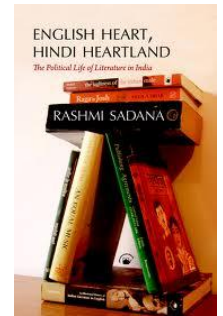




A life in words: memoir/ Ismat Chughtai.- New Delhi: Penguin books, 2012.

Literature - India

English heart, Hindi heartland: the political life of literature in India/ Rashmi Sadana.- Raniket: Permanent black, 2012.

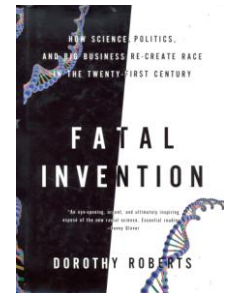


Novel

Masooma: a novel/ Ismat Chughtai/ tr.Tahira Naqvi.- New Delhi: Women Unlimited, 2011.

Race- social aspects

Fatal invention: how science, politics and big business re-create race in the twenty- first century/ Dorothy Roberts.- New York: The New Press, 2011.

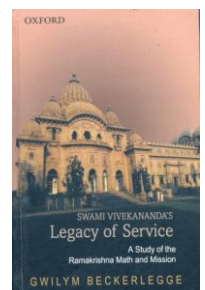


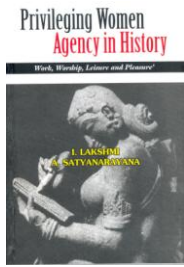
Racism

The nature of race: how scientists think and teach about human difference? Ann Morning .- Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

Ramakrishna Math & Mission

Swami Vivekananda's legacy of service: a study of the Ramakrishna Math and mission/ Gwilym Beckerlegge.- New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006.





Women -work, worship

Privileging women agency in history: work, worship, leisure and pleasure/ I. Lakshmi and A. Satyanarayana.- New Delhi: Research India Press, 2012.

New arrivals in Telugu

Mahilalu - Raajakeeyalu

Raajakeeyaalalo mahilalu/ Shaik Haseena.- [s.l]:[s.n], 2012.

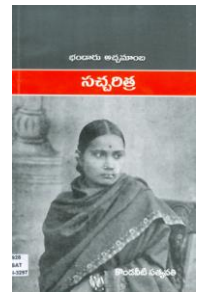


Ambedkar- Biography

Bheemayanam: antaraani thanam anubhavaalu: Bhemrao Ramji Ambedkar nija jeevitha sanghatanalu/ Durgabai Vam[et.al.]- Hyderabad: Hyderabad Book Trust, 2012.

Acchamamba- jeevitha charithra

Bandaaru Acchamamba saccharithra/ Kodaveeti Satyavathi.- Hyderabad: Hyderabad Book Trust, 2012.



Navala

Aparajithudu/ Bibhuthi Bhushan Bandopadhyaya/ tr.by Kathyayani.- Hyderabad: Hyderabad Book Trust, 2012.

Science

Jeeva saasthra vignaanam- samaajam/ Kodavatiganti Rohini
Hyderabad: Hyderabad Book Trust, 2012.



prasad.-



Anuvula sakthi/ Kodavatiganti Rohini Prasad.- Hyderabad: Hyderabad Book
Trust, 2012.

New arrivals in Reports

- Findings from a visit to Bhadrachalam: HPV vaccine "Demonstration project" site in Andhra Pradesh, March 27-30, 2010/ report by **Sarojini,N, Anjali S and Ashalata S.-** [s.l]:[s.n],2010.
- Free treatment in the private sector: myth or reality?: a pilot study of private hospitals in Delhi: a report/ study team: **Preeti Nayak, Ishita Sharma and Radhika Gambhir.-** New Delhi: Sama- Resource Group for women and Health, 2011.
- National consultation on regulation of Drug trials, 26th- 27th September 2011/ report by **Sama- Resource Group for Women and Health.-** New Delhi: Sama, 2012.
- Constructing conceptions: the mapping of assisted reproductive technologies in India/ **Sama- Resource Group for Women and Health.-** New Delhi: Sama, 2010.
- Destined to die: killing the marginalised: status of silicosis in Tribal dominated Alirajpur, Jhabua, Dhar districts of Madhya Pradesh, India 2005- 2012/ report by **Shilpi Kendra.-** [s.l]: Shilpi Kendra, 2012.
- ABC Manual: for animal bites care/ Jan Swasthya Sahyog (English)
- ABC Manual: for animal bites care/ Jan Swasthya Sahyog (Hindi)

New arrivals in Audio visuals

- Animal Bites Care Video (Hindi)/ by Jan Swasthya Sahyog
- Telangana Raitaanga Saayudha Poraatam (1944-51)/ **Bheemreddy Prabhakarreddy** (Telugu)
- Man with a movie camera: cinematic orchestra/ **Dziga Vertov** 1929. (Russian)

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