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**INDIAN ORIENTALIST HISTORIOGRAPHY**

* **What is ORIENTALIST?**
* An Orientalist is someone from the west who studies the language, culture, history or customs of countries in Eastern Asia.
* **What is HISTORIOGRAPHY?**
* Historiography can simply be defined as History of history. Meaning, it is the study of how history was written, by whom & why it was recorded as such.
* It is a look at how historical events have been re-interpreted by Historians over time & why.
* **HISTORIOGRAPHY (इतिहास-लेखन)**
* इतिहास लेखन से दो चीज़ों का बोध होता है-
* इतिहास के विकास एवं क्रिया- पद्धति का अध्ययन।
* किसी विषय के इतिहास से संबंधित एकत्रित सामग्री।
* जैसे: भारत का इतिहास, जापानी साम्राज्य का इतिहास आदि।
* **What is Orientalist Historiography?**
* In the latter part of the eighteenth century, many European Scholars felt corruption about the civilizations and countries of the East.
* These Scholars who studied the Indian civilizations had respect and admiration for it. They were known as Orientalist.
* The Orientalist studied Indian Culture, civilizations, languages, religious literature and wrote about it in their writings.
* Their Writings were known as Orientalist Historiography.
* **What is the Importance?**
* Historiography is important for a wide range of reasons.
* First, it helps us understand why historical events have been interpreted so differently over time. In other words,historiography helps us examine not only history itself, but also the broader,overlying characteristics that shape the recording of history itself.
* For instance, did a new power come to being and did its historians alter the losers history for generations? Or maybe economic issues caused historians to look at a historical event through a different lens.
* Just as critically, historiography lets us study History with a critical eye. It helps us understand what biases may have shaped the historical record. It ensures we don't blindly trust what we read from historians 10, 100 and 1000 years ago.
* Simultaneously, it ensures we don't fall victim to the same mistakes some previous historians may have made.
* By extension, historiography lets us dig for,and get to, the factual history behind the historical myth,so to speak. It gives us a way to reinterpret the biases of a historian's perspective in a more equitable manner. So long as we remain unbiased in the process,of course.
* Historiography also helps generalist and specialist alike. Think of socioeconomic history,for example.

To a generalist, it's important to get an overall sense of how historians viewed the various social classes and why. Perhaps some Historians thought the poor were poor because of their own doing. Why? Were those part of the privileged class and did they have a clear bias?

* For specialists, the study of History is important for its details. How were socioeconomic factors such as income, census reports and related numbers recorded and by whom? Do they give an accurate representation of one social group's poverty or not? Are the numbers,quite literally, fudged or can they be trusted to reflect accurately the disparity between classes?
* Ultimately, Historiography gives us an appreciation of how factors that shape and alter the recording of History, shape and alter our interpretation of it as a result.
* **ORIENTALISM- A case study of India**

The period of Orientalism can be said to begin from 1773 with Warren Hastings being appointed the Governor General of East India Company and extends upto 1832, when, influenced by liberal and evangelical attitudes, the EIC government made English education compulsory in India and brought the Orientalist phase to a close.

A growing sense of racial and cultural superiority led the British to ignore Indian informants and disregards Oriental Knowledge, this information failure to certain extent became the cause of the Indian Mutiny of 1957.

* **Image Of Indian Orientalism during the British Raj-**

Several editions of Marco Polo's travels described Kashmiris Conjurors who ' bring on changes of weather and produce darkness, and do a number of things so extraordinary that no one without seeing them would believe them. Equally, mysteries seem to have been accounts of men being buried alive and snake charming.

Not only was it assumed that the native population were more credulous than British observer, a View consistent with regular portrayal of superstitious Indians, but Indian juggling was also cited as an example of the deceptive nature of the Indian as 'illustrating the subtle ingenuity of the Hindus, whose national character often exhibits an ability that only wants leading in the right direction to constitute them most useful members of society.

* **CONCLUSION:**

A genuine imposition on India with new technology and intellectual will was justified since India was considered lacking the sense of Self-government and fragmented geo-political entity. Consequently, India, by the instruments of Western Knowledge and Power, was divided in the Oriental History,time and geography.