

# INDIA

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A CIVILIZATION THE WORLD FAILS TO RECOGNISE



THIS BOOK WILL INSPIRE THE READER TO LOOK AT  
INDIA IN A NEW LIGHT

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**NITIN MEHTA**

India A Civilization The  
World Fails To Recognise

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# India A Civilization The World Fails To Recognise

*By*

Nitin Mehta



## *Introduction*

India...the name conjures up many images. More often than not they are negative images. With a population of 1.2 billion, India is bound to feature prominently in headings such as, ‘the highest number of...happen in India’! There are several reasons for this. Social media and, especially, the print media in Britain have always had a penchant for negative reporting on India. Another reason is that, being a democratic country, it is much easier for journalists to access India and report on it without fear. Reporting on totalitarian countries is much more difficult. The result is that most such countries are off the radar for the British media, except for occasional exposures. India, therefore, pays a price for being a democracy!

There is another group of people who do very well by looking at India’s problems without acknowledging any positives at all. They are writers of fiction with a backdrop of India and Indian society. These books often become bestsellers!

Then there are the social scientists, economists and those euphemistically called ‘secularists’. For the secularists, any expression of India’s heritage, culture and spiritual beliefs is anathema. For the social scientists and economists, most of whom are of Indian heritage and living in Britain, India always falls short of their expectations. Democracy? It is caste based; it is corrupt! They did not play any part in nation building. They left, and became armchair specialists highlighting what they perceive to be India’s failures. It takes a lifetime of commitment and dedication to bring about change in a country as big and diverse as India. If these individuals

were able to acknowledge India's achievements against all odds, then their criticisms would have some credibility. However, they hang on to outdated and redundant ideologies. Their mind sets are incapable of seeing how far India has come. These are the very people the media in Britain turn to for their 'expert' opinions. The irony of all this is that these very people get a hero's welcome from the Indian intelligentsia who mistakenly believe that these individuals have done India proud by becoming Lords and professors in Britain!

The result is that a country that has achieved so much against overwhelming odds soldiers on, and the world fails to acknowledge such an incredible nation. The logistics of organizing an election in such a vast land with a massive population is a miracle in itself. India is an example for so many countries to follow. Violence, strife and civil wars rage in many countries that have a much smaller population and diversity. How does India do it? Anyone who wants to understand India should, first, not just speak but digest the figure of 1.2 billion people! Living in countries with relatively small populations, most people cannot comprehend how 1.2 billion people go about living their lives – hundreds of millions of people, going about their lives as free spirits in a free country. Their zest for life is contagious! This book is a small attempt to set the record straight. It is a no-frills journey tracing India from its beginning to the present. It is a book that will inspire the reader to look at India in a different light.

Nitin Mehta



## Foreword



Nitin's love for India is deeper than most people who live in the country. He has attempted, his entire life, to keep the values of India alive in the country he lives in. Simplicity, unenviousness, compassion, calm, non-violence, patience, an ability to see each living creature as an individual with personality, lack of greed, respect for everyone...these are some of the threads that make India what she is, and Nitin has tried to change the world around him by embodying these features.

This is an important book.

Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, New Delhi, India

Maneka Gandhi is the Indian Union Cabinet Minister for Women & Child Development in the government of PM Narendra Modi. She is also an animal rights activist, an environmentalist and the widow of Indian politician Sanjay Gandhi. She has been a minister in four governments, and has authored a number of books in the areas of etymology, law and animal welfare.







## *About The Author*



Nitin Mehta, MBE, was born in Kisumu, Kenya. He speaks fluent Swahili, Gujarati, Hindi and Punjabi. As soon as he was old enough to understand that, by heritage, he was Indian, he became fascinated with the land of his forefathers. At the age of eight, his parents took him to India. His impressions of India left a mark on him which continues to this day. He travels frequently to India. When he moved to the UK at a young age, Nitin delved deep into the philosophical and spiritual wisdom of India. Nitin is author of following books: Sunil's Kenya Days, Easy Gujarati, A request to the people of India from the vegetarians of the world and Benefits of Vegetarianism to Africa. He has received awards for making a significant contribution to the city of London and an award for services to the community from British government.



## *About The Book*

India... the name conjures up many images. Most of them negative. However there is an amazing, incredible India. While many much more smaller countries are consumed by violence and civil wars, India remains a vibrant and stable democracy. It is an outstanding example of how people can co-exist in the midst of immense diversity. From the earliest astronomers and scientists of this great land to the visionaries of today, Nitin Mehta examines the impact on the modern world and asks the questions we would all like answers to.



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## *The Beginning*

India is the world's oldest and still functioning civilization. Known as the Aryan civilization, it can trace its roots back for hundreds of thousands of years. The Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Aztec and many other civilizations have disappeared with the passing of time. The first sound at the time of creation was the sacred word 'Aum'. It is considered the primordial sound. It acknowledges god, and it encompasses all words and all sounds in human language. Human beings as well as every part of creation are made of five elements. They are earth, water, fire, wind and sky. Associated with these five elements are the five senses, which are hearing, touch, taste, smell and sight.

The sages of India gave the name kalpa to the unimaginable span of time between the beginning and the end of creation. The overall time span is in millions of kalpas. One kalpa is about 4,320,000 years! According to Hindu scriptures, there are four yugas or ages. The first one was Satya Yuga and it had duration of 1,728,000 years. The second, Treta Yuga, was 1,296,000 years. This was the age when Lord Rama appeared. The Ramayana describes the planned cities and a political system in which the subjects have the freedom to hold divergent views. Ravana is described as a highly learned king of Sri Lanka who had, among other things, mastered the art of music to perfection. Incredibly, the story of Ramayana is performed to this day, not only in India but in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and many other countries. The sons of Rama set up kingdoms as far away as Ethiopia. The people of Ethiopia describe themselves as Kush people, which happens to be the name of Lord Rama's son.

The latest discoveries in Ethiopia have found human remains going back 2.8 million years. As every discovery upstages the last one, archaeologists can only play a catch up game! One reason why no human remains have been found going back over 3 million years is because the Aryan people were cremated not buried. This means that whatever discoveries archaeologists make it will never give a complete picture of how long humans have existed on this planet. There are no written records going that far back either because, for a long time, knowledge was passed by word of mouth. People's abilities to memorize and understand were exceptional.

Sanskrit, known as the mother of Indo-European languages, was the spoken language of this civilization. The very word 'man' comes from the word 'manu' who was the first human being according to Hindu scriptures. Vedic grammar and linguistics, as reflected in Panini and other ancient texts, are the most sophisticated in the world. Panini (4th century BCE) was a Sanskrit grammarian who gave the comprehensive and scientific theories of phonetics, phonology and morphology (O'Connor and Robertson, 2000h). The creative genius of India can be seen in language, grammar, metrics, etymology, mantra and other language studies, both scientific and spiritual.

Kālidāsa was a classical Sanskrit writer, widely regarded as the greatest poet and dramatist in the Sanskrit language. He flourished around the 4th and 5th centuries. His most acclaimed work was the story of Shakuntala, a play he wrote from the epic Mahabharata. Germans have had a fascination with Sanskrit for a long time. German philosopher and indologist Friedrich Schlegel, also known as Karl Wilhelm Friedrich, published an epoch-making book, *Über die Sprache und*

Weisheit der Indier (On the Language and Wisdom of India) in 1808. He argued that a people originating from India were the founders of the first European civilizations. Schlegel compared Sanskrit with Latin, Greek, Persian and German, and found many similarities in vocabulary and grammar. By the end of the 19th century, there were more Sanskrit professors in Germany than all other European countries combined. This interest continues and Germany's top 14 universities still teach Sanskrit at present.

I fail to understand why even Hindu historians talk about a civilization going back only 5,000 years. The next age was the Dwapar Yuga. Its duration was 864,000 years. This was the time when Lord Krishna appeared, some 5,000 years ago. The Mahabharat, the longest poem ever written, describes the feud between two dynasties which ends in what can only be described as the real first world war. Armies from many countries took part in this war and something akin to a nuclear explosion took place in this war. The Brahmastra explosion is described as being brighter than 1,000 suns. The survivors lost hair and the nails from their fingers, a clear sign of radiation poisoning. The Mahabharat also describes a highly sophisticated civilization that had achieved excellence in myriad disciplines. Indians had also created and sustained vast and highly advanced networks of canals, along with intricate irrigation, water management and sewage systems. The world's first flush toilets were also used in India over 3,000 years ago. Dwapar Yuga ends with the flooding of the fabled city of Dwarka. Some believe it is the lost city of Atlantis that the Greek philosopher Plato wrote about around 350 BCE.

We are now in the age of Kali Yuga. Its duration is 432,000 years. The Srimad Bhagvatam, also known as



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Nitin Mehta, MBE, was born in Kisumu, Kenya. He speaks fluent Swahili, Gujarati, Hindi and Punjabi. As soon as he was old enough to understand that, by heritage, he was Indian, he became fascinated with the land of his forefathers. At the age of eight, his parents took him to India. His impressions of India left a mark on him which continues to this day. When he moved to the UK at a young age, Nitin delved deep into the philosophical and spiritual wisdom of India.

India and Indian culture has a lot to offer the world and yet it gets very negative media coverage in the Western world. In this book, Nitin is attempting to set the record straight. This book will take the reader from the beginning of Indian civilization to the present day. It will give pride and hope to the Indian diaspora and the people of India. It will also hopefully encourage the international media to be more balanced in its approach to India.

The secret of the immortality of the Indian civilization is Ahimsa, or non-violence, towards all living beings, including animals and insects. It is the Ahimsa of the brave. It is about not harming or exploiting anyone, in any shape or form. It does not mean pacifism or not retaliating against aggression. Ahimsa is about peace and compassion. Long may India keep this sublime ideal alive!



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