

Indian Science and Technology in the Eighteenth Century (1971)

This book (subtitled *Some Contemporary European Accounts*) constituted Shri Dharampal's first major publication. Providing a salient selection of documents dating from the late 18th and early 19th century pertaining to observations on the state of science and technology in early modern India, it contained a foreword by Dr. D.S. Kothari (President of the Indian Science Academy), and an introduction by Dr. William A. Blanpied, a prominent American physicist. Shri Dharampal's own introduction (entitled 'Preface') presents lucid insights into the complex functioning of pre- and early colonial Indian society. The text historically contextualises and discursively analyses early British reports on a vast range of scientific and technical achievements, relating to astronomy, mathematics, medicine, surgery, metallurgy, ice and paper manufacture, mortar making and advanced agricultural practices. This work was well received (with reviews in the TLS [21.01.1972], by Arnold Pacey [*Journal of Appropriate Technology*, 1972, 28], David Pingree [*Journal of Asian Studies* 32/1, 1972, 178-179], P.J. Marshall [*South Asian Review* 1974, 255-256], by the Madras Group [*PPST Bulletin* 2/1, 1982, 45-80], by Ram Swarup ["A Newton among Brahmins", *Times of India*, 19.08.1984], by N. Krishnaswamy [*Bharatiya Vijnana Parampare*, Kannada, Utthana, May 1985, 19-32] just to name a few). Its pioneering research agenda was also discussed in a national seminar on "Science, Technology and Society in 18th century India" (New Delhi, November 1971), sponsored by the Gandhi Peace Foundation and the Gandhian Institute of Studies, with an inaugural address by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan. Moreover, this spearheading work formed the cornerstone for Claude Alvares' PhD research (published as *Homo Faber: Technology and Culture in India, China and the West. 1500 to the Present Day*, Bombay 1979), as well as providing inspiration to the *Patriot & People-Oriented Science and Technology* (PPST) group. The volume was reprinted in 1983 by the Academy of Gandhian Studies, Hyderabad, and in: Dharampal, *Collected Writings*, Other India Press: Mapusa 2000 (reissued 2003 & 2007), vol. I. Recently, the book has been reprinted as part of the *Dharampal Classics Series* and edited by J.K. Bajaj and M.D. Srinivas, Vol. 2, Rashtrottana Sahitya: Bengaluru and Centre for Policy Studies: Chennai, 2021. Translations into Gujarati and Hindi were published in *Dharampal Samagra Lekhan* (11 vols.), edited by Indumati Katdare, Punarutthan Trust, Ahmedabad 2005 and 2007, respectively. Recently, a Tamil translation was published as *Azhagiya nathi, pathinettam nootrandil India winyanamum thozhilnutpamum* by B.R. Mahadevan, Kizhakku pathipagam, Chennai, 2019. The book has been reprinted as part of the *Dharampal Classics Series* and edited by J.K. Bajaj and M.D. Srinivas, Vol. 2, Rashtrottana Sahitya: Bengaluru and Centre for Policy Studies: Chennai, 2021.