

Topics for Research on India

by Francis Britto

Creation myths in the Indian puranas and Japanese legends

The Indian roots of Japanese Buddhism

The origin and evolution of Mahayana Buddhism

Hindu elements in Mahayana Buddhism

Buddhist values in ancient Tamil epics

How Hinduism absorbed Buddhism

Cultural similarities between Indians and Japanese

Is Tamil the root of Japanese?

How have India and Japan coped with foreigners and foreign influences?

Industrialization Indian style and Japanese style

Japanese feudal system and the Indian caste system

Indian influences on Japanese culture (curry rice, Japanese chess (shogi), Zen, Religious rites, use of Sanskrit) and vice versa

Indian English and Japanese English

English education in India and Japan

The sense of honor and shame in India and Japan

The role of India in Japanese War trials

Indo-Japanese relations since India's independence

Subash Chandra Bose and his encounters with Japan

Indian attitudes toward Japan, and Japanese attitudes toward India

Images of India in Japanese literature (e.g., Endo Shusaku's Fukai Kawa), and images of Japan in Indian literature

Japanese contributions to India (e.g., in rice production, technological knowhow)

Indian gurus (e.g., Rajneesh, Mahesh Yogi, Sai Baba) and their influences in Japan.

Why is curry popular in Japan?

If you like to concentrate on some topics specifically Indian, you might consider the following:

The origin and development of the Gandhara art

The Wisdom literature of India

Indian Software production and its global impact

Indo-Pakistani relations

Indian resilience in the face of crises

Gandhi's agrarian vs. Nehru's industrial philosophies

Indira Gandhi as a politician

Indian integrity and separatist movements

Roots of Indian poverty

Movies in India

Images of India in non-Indian movies and TV programs (e.g., Gandhi, A Passage to India, The City of Joy, The Jewel in the Crown, Fukai Kawa)

Images of India in Indian movies and TV programs (e.g., Salaam Bombay, Mississippi Masala, Pathar Panchali)

Images of India in English or Japanese novels (e.g., *Freedom at Midnight*, *A Suitable Boy*, *The Raj Quartet*, Fukai Kawa)

The future of India— —Can India become an economic superpower?

Software production in India

Indian economic liberalization and consequences

Political stability of India

Role of the mass media in Indian politics

What holds India together?

Indian English

Can Indian English become autonomous?

English writers of India

India as a land of spirituality

Indian gurus and masters (e.g., Sai Baba, Rajneesh (Osho), Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Bal Yogi, Krishnamurthi, Ammachi, Rabindranath Tagore, Aurobindo, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Ramana Maharishi, Tony de Mello, Vinoba Bhave)

Atheism and agnosticism in India

The status of Indian women

Child labor in India

Family planning in India

Caste in contemporary India

Voluntarism in India

Indian taboos and superstitions

Indian prejudices and biases

Indian customs and practices

Indians overseas (e.g., in Canada, U.S.A., U.K., Africa, Singapore, Fiji).

Should India intervene in the civil war in Sri Lanka between the Tamils and the Sinhalese?

The role of Indira Gandhi in the birth of Bangladesh.

The role of spices in Indian life or Indian history.

The ingredients of curry and the origins of Japanese curry.

How did Europeans colonialize India?

Robert Clive and his role in the rise of British power in India.

Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy of nonviolence.

The causes of Sepoy Mutiny

Jalianwala Bagh massacre: why and how it happened.