

## Book Review

Panikos Panayi, **The Germans in India: Elite European Migrants in the British Empire**, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017, ISBN 9781526119339

I was born and raised in a German Lutheran Christian family. My father studied at a German boarding school, so I often heard him talk about German Christian missionaries and their work. Additionally, every October 31st, in commemoration of Reformation Day, my church celebrates Reformation Day, during which I often read passages about Luther's history in a Sunday school programme. This was my first introduction to Germany. After I began my theological studies, I read extensively about German history, the Germans, and German Christian missionaries. As far as I am aware, there are only two publications that give a detailed account of Germans in India. The first one was written by Walter Leifer, *India and the Germans: 500 years of Indo-German Contacts* (Bombay: Shakuntala, 1971), 48 years after the anniversary referred to in the title.

Panikos Panayi's book, *The Germans in India: The Elite European Migrants in the British Empire*, explores the reasons for this migration. According to the author, networks played an essential role. Panayi further examines the everyday lives of Germans in India, exploring the concept of the German community and outlining the interaction between Germans, British, and Indians. He devotes a separate chapter to the impact of the Great War on Germans in India, a feature which got my attention. He illuminates the struggles faced by Germans in India during this period. Within this chapter, he includes a section on Christian brotherhood, shedding light on the difficulties experienced by Christian missionaries. The author drew on limited sources regarding the German Lutheran Mission, which results in some missed quotations. For instance, on page 214, he refers to Carl Paul as the inspector of the Basel Mission in Tiruvallur, but this is inaccurate. Carl Paul was the director of the Leipzig Mission Society and did not work in India, especially not in Tiruvallur.

When I referred to the primary source, Missionary Kannigser was stationed in Tiruvallur and had not been informed by British officials about his deportation. Furthermore, there is no mention of the SMS Emden attack in his 286-page book. I found this surprising, as the attack was one of the main reasons for the deportation of Germans from India. Additionally, the author notes that the period of German rule in India came to an end. He argues

that the Government of India sought to make this situation permanent by attempting to prohibit the entry of further Germans into the country for an additional five years. Following the peace, a policy was enacted to thoroughly cleanse the Empire of all enemy aliens. According to him, the First World War was, therefore, a significant turning point for Germany's position in India. Subsequently, the missionaries worked diligently in various capacities, including as scholars and businesspeople.

The Great War completely altered their position. Partially, I agree with his opinion because as soon as the First World War began, the Germans were not transferred by the British, particularly the missionaries. When the SMS Emden attack occurred, the Germans were suspected of being spies.

Panikos Panayi's research recounts how the war affected the German Christian Missionaries. One discrepancy in his account is that he says that the German Christians' Mission work ended during the First World War. But that is incorrect, for after the war, the German missionaries returned to India. The first German missionary sent to India after the war was Dr Froehlich in 1925. The Leipzig Mission had a firm partnership with the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran church.

The sources for this book are archives from Germany, Britain, India and Switzerland. The materials include personal diaries, mission reports, government orders, and mission journals. It clearly shows the author tried his best to convey the information about the Germans who were living in India.

For those seeking to learn about the historical background of German presence in India, this book is an excellent source, offering scholarly information on the Germans in India. If the author had focused more on cross-checking the German sources, it would be great. Still, I do not understand how he missed the SMS Emden incident, which played a vital role in the deportation of Germans from India, which is one of the historical incidents which happened during the time of the First World War in India. This book also gives a detailed account of Indo-German relations.

Even though the book was published some eight years ago, it remains largely unknown to many. It received very few reviews, and none of them were from an Indian Christian perspective. The finding that I mentioned in this review, concerning the SMS Emden, was not discussed or even noted in any other review. Thus, I have provided this review in order to offer a new perspective and introduce this publication to the world of Christianity. Reading this book will contribute to faculty members and students in the area

of World Christianity gaining an insight into a little-known area of this topic and researchers studying Indo-German and German mission history will find it a helpful resource for their research.

**Jayabalan Murthy**

Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal  
Missionsstraße 9a/b, 42285 Wuppertal, Germany  
jayabalan.murthy@stud.kiho-wuppertal.de

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