

RAMESH CHANDRA MAJUMDAR

(PART-2)

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PG DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
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RAMESH CHANDRA MAJUMDAR

- He has the credit to deliver numerous extension or endowment lectures in different academic institutions in India:
- At the University of Calcutta he delivered
 - (A) Adharchand Mukherjee Lectures
 - (B) Kamala Lectures
 - (C) Vidyasagar Lectures
 - (D) G.C. Ghosh Lectures
- At University of Madras he delivered Sir William Meyer Lectures
- At University of Baroda he delivered Maharaja

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Sayaji Rao Gaekward Lectures

- At Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan Bombay he delivered Birla Endowment Lectures
- He also delivered extension lectures at the University of Visva-Bharati, Patna, Jabalpur , the Andhra University at Waltaire, etc., and at other places.
- He had working knowledge of several European languages, including German, French and Dutch. He has left his mark on many fields of research. His doctoral dissertation was on the *Corporate*

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- *Life in Ancient India*, published in 1918. It exhaustively utilized the original materials published till then, as well as secondary ones, written in several European languages, with great sagacity. It showed his mastery over the original sources and firmly established his reputation as a great research scholar. After the publication of his work entitled *Outline of Ancient Indian History and Civilisation in 1927*, he was drawn towards the history and culture of the Indianized states of South –East Asia.

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Dr. Majumdar visited not only the centers of learning in Europe and Egypt, but also covered , during the return trip, several famous historical places of South-East Asia. His major works on South –East Asia published about this time and subsequently refers to Champa(1927), Suvarnadvipa(Vol-1 in 1937; and Vol-2 in 1938) and inscriptions of Kambuja (1953) as

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well as works on South-East Asia have advanced knowledge of the countries he dealt in his works, but there is hardly any doubt that these have served as boon to persons who are not acquainted with French or Dutch.

- His works on Indian history and culture are massive, both in range and depth. His other important works are:

(1) Classical Accounts Of India

(2) History of Ancient Bengal

(3) The Sepoy mutiny and the Revolt of 1857

(4) History of Medieval Bengal

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- *The Vakataka-Gupta Age* , jointly written by him and A.S. Altekar, is a masterpiece of meticulous research. He also collaborated with H.C. Raychaudhuri and K.K. Dutta in the preparation of the standard text entitled *An Advanced History of India* , published in 1946. One of the volumes edited by him, the most outstanding one refers to the *History of Bengal Vol.1*, published by the University of Dacca in 1946, but his monumental work is *History and Culture of the Indian People* in eleven volumes with him as general editor

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- His reputation as a scholar won his world-wide recognition. He presided over the Indian History Congress in 1939, the All India Oriental Conference in 1948 and presided over the Indological Section of the 13th International Congress of Orientalists at Istanbul in 1951. He was made honorary Fellow of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, of Bombay, of the Royal Society of Great Britain and Ireland (London), and of the

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- Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona(1968).
- He became the Vice-President of the International Commission for publishing a History of Mankind (Cultural and Scientific Development), sponsored by UNESCO. In 1969, the University of Calcutta and Jadavpur conferred on him the Honorary D.Litt. degree.

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- In the preface to last volume of *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Majumdar has laid down three principles of history writing. Adhering to below principles while reviewing Indian history would be greatest tribute to the legend.
- “Firstly, that history is no respecter of persons or communities; secondly, that its sole aim is to find out the truth by following the canons commonly accepted as sound by all historians; and thirdly, to express the truth, without fear, envy, malice, passion or prejudice, and irrespective of all

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extraneous considerations, both political and humane". In his search for truth, he had never compromised himself, nor did he distort facts to gain personal advantages in life. He was always a real searcher for truth. The great Greek historian Thucydides had once stated that even truths can be seen in different ways according to the mental attitude and intellectual caliber of the persons concerned. Dr. Majumdar has tried throughout his life to maintain the best traditions of unbiased scholarship. He is considered doyen of history because of his extraordinary original contributions towards Indian history.

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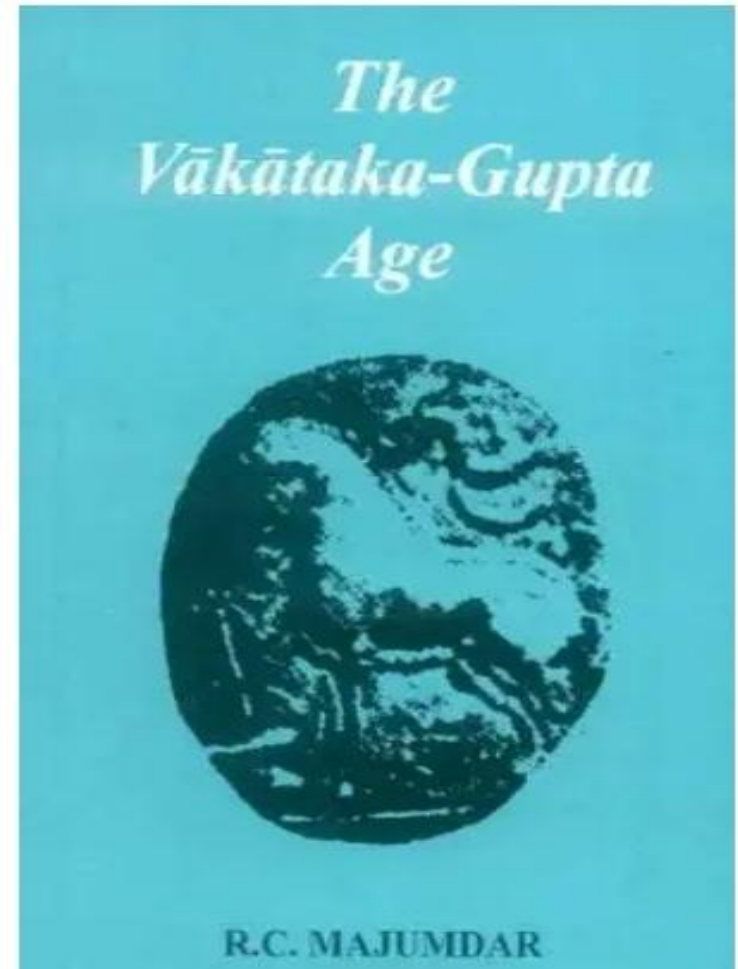
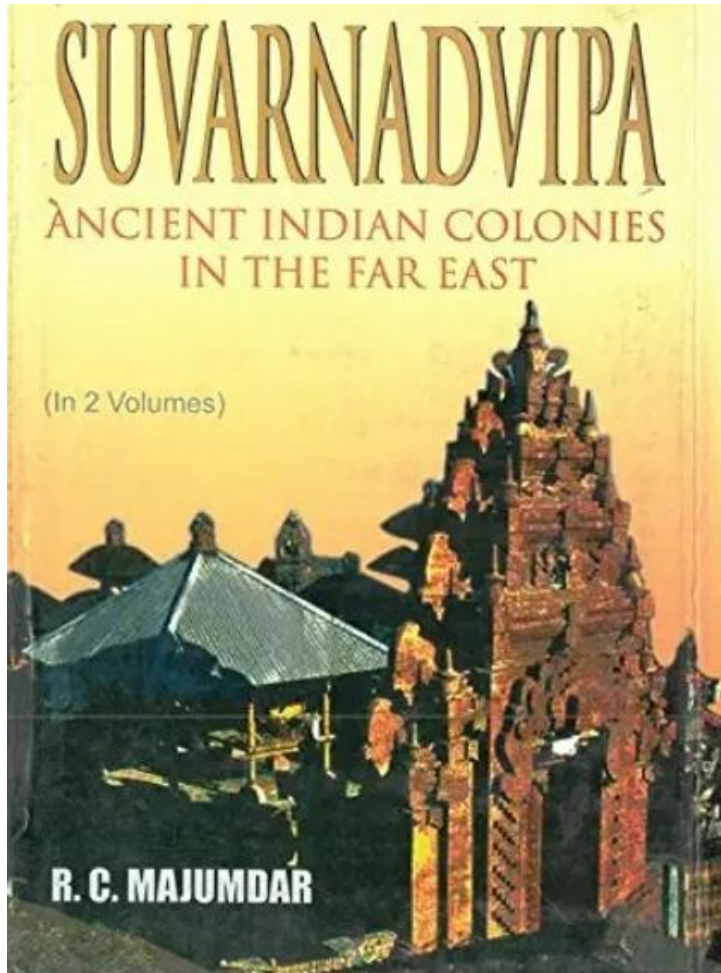
- He was a nonpartisan historian. Even Marxists historians, his ideological opponent, never doubted his assiduousness. Irfan Habib who branded Majumdar a “communal” historian accepts that his “great industry must extract admiration from his worst critics”.

DR.R.C.MAJUMDAR

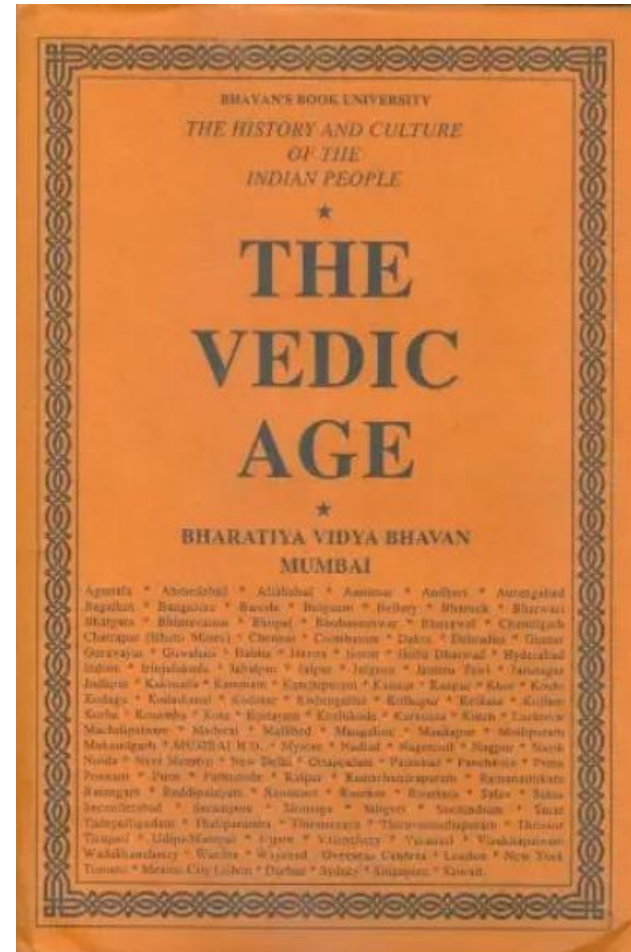
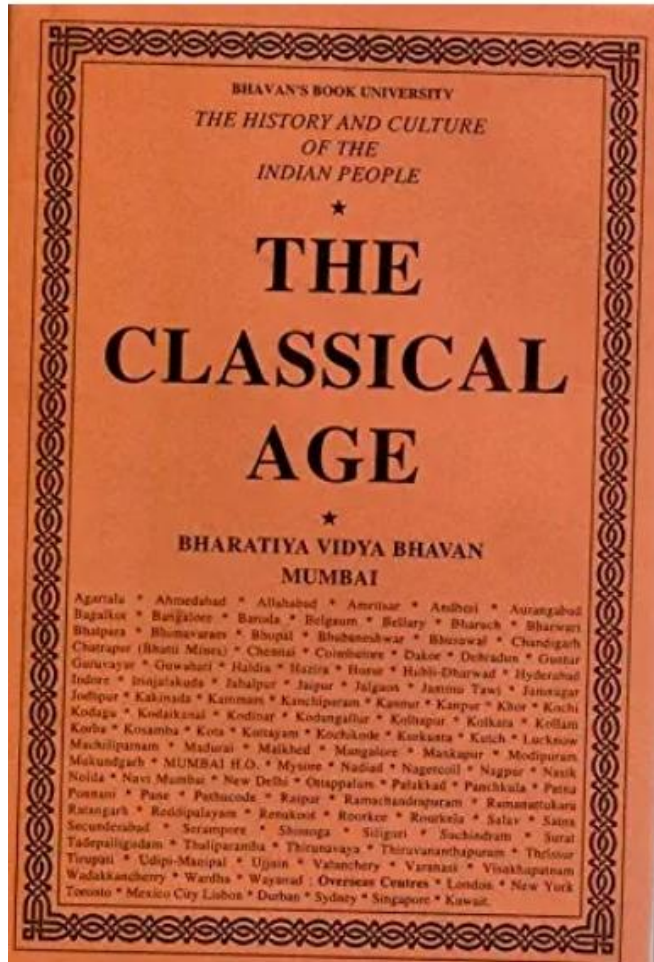
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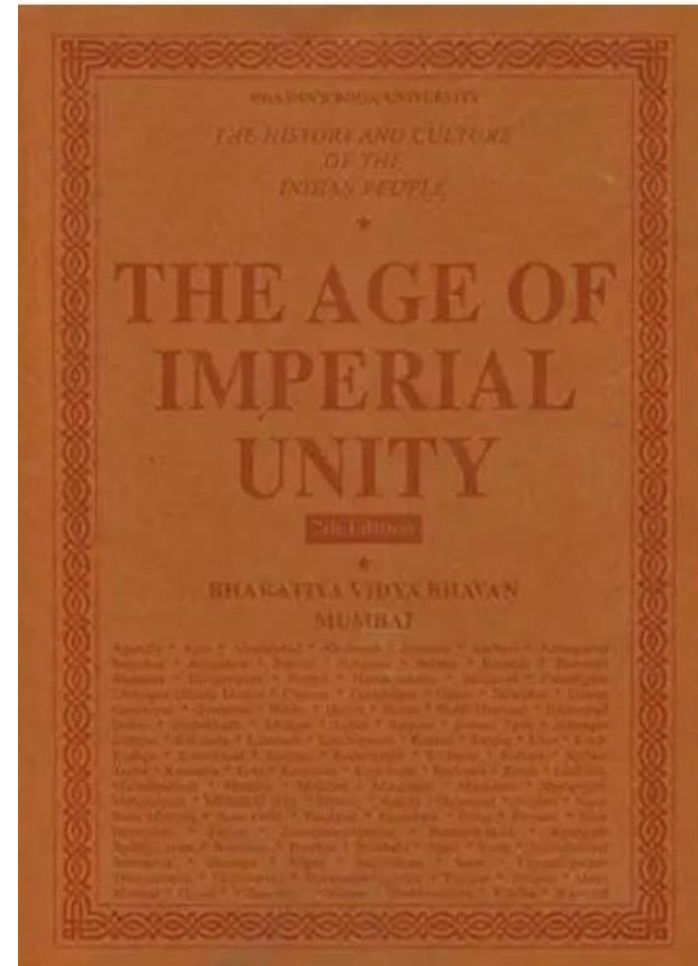
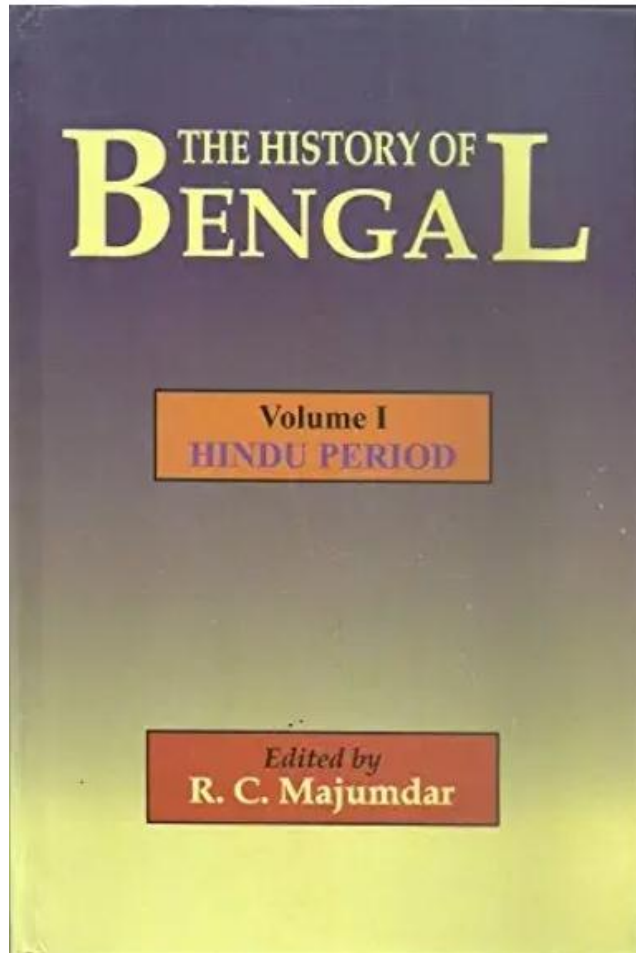
HIS WORKS



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Outline of the History of Kalinga



R. C. Majumdar

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE
OF THE
INDIAN PEOPLE

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BRITISH PARAMOUNTCY AND INDIAN RENAISSANCE

PART II

Prepared under the directions of
DR. K. M. MUNSHI,
President, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

HIS WORKS

