

THE  
H I S T O R Y  
OF  
H I N D O S T A N,  
FROM THE DEATH OF AKBAR,  
TO THE COMPLETE SETTLEMENT OF THE EMPIRE UNDER  
A U R U N G Z E B E.

- TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,
- I. A DISSERTATION on the Origin and Nature of  
DESPOTISM in HINDOSTAN.
  - II. An ENQUIRY into the STATE of BENGAL;  
With a Plan for restoring that Kingdom to its former  
Prosperity and Splendor.

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**P L A N**  
**FOR RESTORING BENGAL**  
**TO ITS FORMER PROSPERITY.**

*Preliminary Observations.*

**G**OVERNMENT, among the natives of a country, rises imperceptibly from that impenetrable obscurity with which time and barbarism have covered the origin of mankind. When states are subdued by foreign enemies, who are advanced in the arts of civil life, a new constitution generally starts up from their pressure upon the old. Some laws of the conquerors must necessarily supersede some of the regulations of the conquered; but the ancient form of government remains in all the lesser departments of the state. When the Patans conquered India, when the Moguls extended their empire over that country, many of the indigenous laws of the northern nations of Asia were introduced; but the great system, in most of its parts, descended from

Reflections  
on the go-  
vernment of  
India.

would be highly beneficial ; Bengal would draw great quantities of money from all the regions of Asia ; and, by enriching herself, be rendered capable of bearing such taxes upon different articles, as this nation, for the augmentation of the revenues, might think proper to impose.

Napal, Thibet, Ava, Arracân, Pegu, Siam, Cochinchina, China, and almost all the islands in the Eastern ocean, produce gold : In the west, that metal seems only to be found in the Turkish Diarbekir. Japan and China only have silver mines. Asia contains native wealth, which has enriched it in all ages, exclusive of the balance of its commerce against Europe. The Author of the Enquiry means not that specie should be drawn from the East. But it might center in Bengal, and make it one of the richest kingdoms in the world ; whilst we might import, in its manufactures, the surplus of its revenues, without damaging either its foreign commerce or internal prosperity.

These two plans, and it is to be feared only these, advantages, would restore, under a government established on impartial justice, Bengal to its former prosperity and splendor. Let the lands be disposed of in property : let a paper currency be established. Every individual would, in



in such a case, become industrious in improving his own estate; provisions would fall to a third part of the present price; the country would assume a new face, and the people wear the aspect of joy. Immense tracts of rich land, which now, with their woods, conceal the ruins of great cities, would again be cultivated; and new provinces arise out of those marshy islands, near the mouth of the Ganges, which are, at present, the wild haunts of the rhinoceros and tiger.

*Monopolies.*

Monopolies

**T**HERE is no maxim in commerce better established, than the destructive tendency of monopolies. In Bengal, its recent evils are well-known and abhorred. A law must provide against it; otherwise every other regulation will be made in vain. The inhabitants must be permitted to enjoy a free trade; subject, however, to such imposts upon various articles, excepting those of either the growth or manufacture of Great Britain, as may be thought reasonable from time to time. Gross articles, necessary for carrying on the finer manufactures, ought, however, to be exempted from duty; and every encouragement possible given to the export trade.

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