

मराठ्यांच्या इतिहासाचे पुनर्रचन

REWRITING OF THE MARATHA HISTORY

संपादक

डॉ. जगदीश भेलोंडे डॉ. कारभारी भानुसे

डॉ. प्रकाश महाजन



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प्राचार्य

शिवाजी कला, विज्ञान व वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय, कन्नड

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अक्षर जुळवणी

वेदिका टाईपसेटर्स,

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मुद्रक

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मराठ्यांच्या इतिहासाचे पुनर्लेखन या संशोधन ग्रंथातील सर्व मते, विचार आणि अभिप्राय संबंधित लेखकांचे असून त्याच्याशी संपादक, प्रकाशक, मुद्रक, वितरक सहमत असेलच असे नाही.

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Dr. A.R.Kulkarni's Contribution to Maratha History

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Introduction : India comprises many regions and sub-regions playing bigger or smaller roles in its political, social, economic and cultural history. Maharashtra is one of such regions which dominated the political scene of India for more than two centuries in the recent past. This peculiar historic position of Maharashtra seems to have attracted many Marathi speaking, non-Marathi speaking Indian and European historians towards its study from various angles. The vast historical source material preserved in this region still induces many scholars Indian this region still induces many scholars Indian and others, to undertake research of this region. It is proposed here to take a brief review of the contributions of Dr. A.R.Kulkarni to Maratha history.

Dr. A.R.Kulkarni considered a pioneer among Indian scholars who introduced a scientific basis for research in medieval Maratha history. He laid great emphasis on the authenticity of historical statements and their corroboration with each other. Social and Economic life of the Shivaji period in Maharashtra marked a major new historical initiative by A.R.Kulkarni.

Brief life: (1925 to 2009) : Professor Ananta Ramachandra Kulkarni was born in 19th April 1925. He attended the Municipal High School at Nipani, matriculating at Bombay University in 1942, then entering Rajaram

College at Kolhapur. He earned B.A. Degree (Bombay) from Rajaram, and M.A. from Bombay University. After a temporary appointment at the American Marathi Missions College in Ahmednagar, Kulkarni joined a college in Sholapur. Dr. A.R.Kulkarni was the Vice-Chancellor, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth (Deemed University), Pune. He was also the professor

He was twice visiting fellow at the school of Oriental and African studies. London University (1968 and 1975) for a period of six months each time. He acted as the Vice-President of the Oral History Section of the World History Congress. Bucharest (1979) and convener of the Archives Panel of the 11th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Amsterdam, 1990. He actively participated in the International Seminar on Indo-Portuguese Studies (Goa 1978 and 1982, Lisbon 1980 and 1985, Cochin 1988) and International conference on Maharashtra:

Culture and Society (Torno 1984, Pune 1987, Heidelberg 1988). He also attended the American Historians Organisation Conference (1981), Detroit (U.S.A) as a member of USEFI delegation. He was offered thrice assistance by the MSH of Paris (1985-1990) for working on the Marathi documents in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, National Fellow, U.G.C. (1982-84), National Fellow , ICHR (1987-90). A.R. Kulkarni passed away in Pune on May 24, 2009 , succumbing to the effects of throat cancer.

His Works: Dr. A.R.Kulkarni wrote many books in English and Marathi but his major books mentioned below remaining works mentioned in references.

English Books :-

1. History in Practice
2. James Cuninghame Grant Duff
3. Maharashtra in the Age of Shivaji

4. Medieval Maharashtra
5. Medieval Maratha Country
6. The Marathas(1630-1818)
7. Maharashtra: Society and Culture
8. Maratha Historiography

Marathi Books :-

1. Shivakalin Maharashtra-Samajik Arthik Jivanacha Abhyasa
2. Maharashtra Samaj ani Sanskruti
3. Marathe and Maharashtra
4. Marathyancha Itihas-3 Volumes
5. Ashi Hoti Shivshahi
6. Puneche Peshwe

Brief review of few of his English books mentioned below:

1.The Marathas(1630-1818): The first part of this volume begins with the historical background of the rise of Maratha power and discusses the roles of Shahaji, Shivaji-the founder of the Maratha Swaraj, Sambhaji and Rajaram. It briefly touches the administration , economic, social and religious policies of Shivaji , the nature of Maratha polity under Shivaji and the successor of Shivaji.

The Second part of this volume traces the history of expansion of the Maratha power both in the North and South of India in the 18th century under the leadership of the Peshwas. It then describes the gradual disintegration of the Maratha power after the tragic disaster of Panipat in 1761 and then its encounter with the Nizam, the English and the internal feuds which ultimately led to the surrender of Maratha power to the East India Company in 1818.1

2. Medieval Maharashtra: It is a collection of research papers presented in conferences and published in historical journals from time to time. These studies, based on original sources, deal with social , economic , and cultural aspects of

the history of the Deccan with special reference to the Maratha country. The two major articles of included in this book- **The Indian Village and Social relations in the Maratha Country** are based on the authors Presidential address delivered at the 52nd Session of the Indian History Congress Delhi Session (1992) and the Presidential Address of the Medieval Section of IHC, Jabalpur Session 1970.

The two articles on the village Indapur (Pune District) based on unpublished Marathi (Modi Script) documents dug from the Pune Archives, Jamav Section covering period from 17th to 19th centuries are Deshmukhi Watan of Indapur and Jiziya to the study on Micro level the socio-economic life of a Maratha village of the Deccan from Medieval to Modern Times. The essay on the Maratha Brahmans in the Seventeenth Century shows how the changing political and economic situations in the 17th century influenced the socio-economic life of the Brahman Community.¹

3. Medieval Maratha Country: This is a collection of fourteen research articles published in various research journals the proceedings of the Conferences and Seminars. It contains a variety of articles dealing with political, cultural, architectural, maritime and economic activities of the Marathas in Medieval times.

An attempt has been made to study the first fort capital of Shivaji, namely the **Rajgad** from its architectural and historical points of view with appropriate illustration. The article on **Ram Singh and Shivajis escape from Agra** based on some new documents from Bikaner tries to resolve the controversy regarding the responsibility of Shivaji escape from Agra in 1665. A part of the economic activity of the Medieval Maharashtra is covered in the article. **Business and the Marathas.** The articles on **Women and purification** deal with the cultural aspects of Medieval Maratha Society. The last, article on the revolt of the

Zamindars attempts to indicate how the Marathas were resenting the foreign rule right from its inception.²

4. History in Practice (Historians and Sources of Medieval Deccan-Marathas)- This book is dedicated to the memory of one of foremost historians of Maharashtra, Dattatraya Vishnu Apte. The purpose of this book is to acquaint the research scholars and students of medieval India history, firstly with the early attempts of a few historians who constructed or interpreted Maratha history, with the help of the limited sources at their disposal. Among them mentioned M.C.Sprengel, J.C.Grant Duff, M.G.Ranade, Jadunath Sarkar and Charles D Ochoa.

1.A.R.Kulkarni, The Marathas, Books and Books, New Delhi, 1996.

2.A.R.Kulkarni, Medieval Maharashtra, Books and Books, New Delhi, 1996.

3 A.R.Kulkarni., Medieval Maratha Country, Diamond publications, Pune, 2008.

And secondly, with the nature of source material in Marathi, available for narrating the socio-economic history of Medieval period of Deccan in general and Maratha Country in particular. The emphasis here is not on philosophy of History but Practice of history or historical Methodology.¹

5. Maratha Historiography (based on Heras Memorial Lectures): This work on Maratha historiography is divided into three parts. It starts with an account of the writings of the foreign historians Cosme da Guarda (Portugese), M.C. Sprengel (German), and Robert Orme, Scott Waring, Elphinstone and Grant Duff (British).

The second part of the work is devoted to the Archival movement in Bombay Presidency in the colonial period and the popular movement launched by the Maratha scholars against the rigid policy regarding the access to the State Archives, and the amount of source material collected by

them. The contribution of Kashinath Narayan Sane, Vasudeo Vaman Khare, Vishwanath Kashinath Rajwade, Dattatraya Balwat Parasnis is discussed in this part. The work also analyses the contribution of the medieval chronicles or the Bakharkars²

6. **Marathi Books:** A.R.Kulkarni's many Marathi books focuses on Shivaji period, Medieval Maratha state, socio-economic conditions as well as indigenous Maratha, Indian and Foreign historian works on Maratha history.

Research Methodology:

He was greatly responsible for the discovery, availability and fullest utilization of not only small as well as large collections of documents in Private or Public archives.

- Through his writing covered the long history of the Marathas from Shivaji period to the end of the Peshwa rule in a brief manner.

- With the help of large-scale survey maps, he located many places connected with Mughal and Maratha history. He consulted all possible repositories or archives concerned with his study, mostly by paying from his personal resources or by obtaining the relevant material through his friends or the government.

- Objective history methods adopted in his writings.

- Used the Maps, tables, original documents, references in his writings.

- He also introduced the many Maratha and foreign historian's life, works and their contribution to Maratha history.

- He also brought out the many Persian words meaning in English and Marathi.

FootNote :

1 A.R.Kulkarni (ed), History in Practice (Historians and Sources of Medieval Deccan- Marathas), Book and Books, New Delhi, 1993.

2 A.R.Kulkarni, Maratha Historiography, Manohar publishers, New Delhi, 2006.

- He desired to make history readable, attractive and fascinating and condemned 'scissors and gum bottle, type of research. His style is easy, natural and appealing and presents the drama vividly before the eyes. His facts are solid, his knowledge is profound and his style is graceful.

Conclusion :- In an active career lasting more than fifty years he made major contributions to the study of the history of India and more especially that of Maharashtra, both through his own numerous books and articles and as an institution builder in the University of Pune. He published so extensively in both Marathi and English. A.R.Kulkarni's powerful personality and erudite works have established a tradition of honest and scholarly historiography whose tenets have exerted a healthy influence on many individual historians. He was a great Maratha historian of Modern period.

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