



General & Higher Academic Programme

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Vande Mataram: The Biography of a Song (Revised Edition)

by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

The book

There are some writings which remain in the pages of books, and then there are some exceptional writings which come out of the pages and enter our lives. The song *Vande Mataram* is of that exceptional kind. When we look back to that song published in 1882 and written even earlier, many questions crowd our mind. What accounts for the fact that it holds its place in the national psyche so many years later? How did that song become a battle cry in the freedom struggle and a part of national life in the pre-independence period? What inspired poets to translate it into all major languages and music makers from Rabindranath Tagore to A. R. Rahman to set it to music? How was it recognized as the 'national song' after independence? Why has it been as much a subject of communal controversy today as it had been in the decades preceding independence?

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya revisits the fascinating story he had told in a widely acclaimed book written in 2003.

Reviews

'Under the delightfully readable and simple narrative, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya analyses the attitudes of the Muslim League, a section of the Congress Party, and of the British administration, and the twists and turns of communal politics in India through the prism of a song.' —*Outlook*

'Not many in India—and it is not just the Generation Next—know that *Vande Mataram* has been dogged by controversy right through its over-a-century-old history. For this alone, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya's biography of the national song ought to be read. . . . It is an issue that is as relevant today as it was when it first became a bone of contention.' —*The Hindu*

'This is perhaps how good analytical history should be written and brought closer to the comprehension of the intelligent reader.' —*The Telegraph*

Contents

List of Abbreviations

Preface

Introduction

1. The Communal War Cry

2. National Anthem?

3. Slogan

4. The Poem

Vande Mataram (in Sanskrit)

Vande Mataram (in translation)

Notes and References

Notes on Personalities

The Author

Sabyasachi Bhattachaya, formerly Professor of History at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University, has also held teaching and research positions in St. Antony's College at Oxford, University of Chicago and El Colegio de Mexico.

His recent publications include *Rabindranath Tagore: An Interpretation* (2011) and *Talking Back: The Idea of Civilization in the Indian Nationalist Discourse* (2011).

Market

Students and faculty members of the Departments of History, Political Science and Culture Studies, with specializations in modern India, nationalism and colonialism, national movement, cultural history, intellectual history, libraries of the Departments of History and Cultural Studies of various universities. General readers interested in the subject.

Proposed Publication Month: October 2012

Print Run: 500 cps

Size: Royal 8vo

Binding: Hardback