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South Asia

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Introduction

1. *Prewar and Wartime Research Trends*

Scholarly interest in India during Japan's prewar period centered on three themes. First, India existed as an "historical lesson" concerning colonial governance, thus the attraction of prewar scholars to the study of South Asia under British colonial rule. Secondly, India existed as a supplier of raw materials for Japan's cotton industry, as well as a potential market for the latter's products. Lastly, India was seen by both the Axis and the Allies as one of the important strategic areas upon which rested the outcome of the world war.

The colonization process in India showed Japan what a worst-case scenario would have been like in the late nineteenth century, when the country was threatened with colonization by the Western powers. However, during Japan's imperialistic advance into Taiwan and the Korean Peninsula from around the turn of the century, the administrative and judicial as well as fiscal systems set up by Great Britain in colonial India became topics of interest for Japanese experts. Then, the second Anglo-Japanese Alliance Treaty in 1905, which signified Japan's opposition to the anti-colonial movement in India, further drew attention to Great Britain's imperialist policies. In addition to the Shūmei Ōkawa's research on contemporary India published during this time (see

Nobuko Nagasaki 1978), there was also the serious social scientific analysis on colonial India done between the late 1920s and mid-1930s by such scholars as Tadao Yanaihara (1937) and Gorō Hani (1932).

Research institutes dealing with South Asia during the prewar and wartime periods included the Tōa Kenkyūsho (institute of East Asian studies) established in 1938, and the Sōgō Indo Kenkyūshitsu (institute of Indian studies) established in 1941. There were also the Institute of Pacific Relations (Taiheiyō Mondai Chōsakai) and several university-based research sections which became involved in the study of Indian affairs. However, with very few exceptions, almost none of these institutions survived the war. The characteristics of the research done during this period may be summed up in the following two points.

First, the interest shown in India by scholars like Yanaihara and Hani was connected in some way to the relations between Japan and the countries of East Asia (including the annexed territories of Taiwan and Korea). While such efforts to view events in terms of Japan's international position should be duly recognized, from time to time we can see their research on India often unintentionally supporting a conception of Asia revolving around a Sino-Japanese or Korean-Japanese axis.

Secondly, there is a small amount of prewar research which had an impact on postwar studies. For example, the postwar research done on the managing agency system by Kenji Koike* (1979) finds its roots in the prewar period, and the paper written by Tetsuo Hamazu* (1970) on the India's sterling balance issue can be viewed as continuing the work done by the Institute of Indian Studies on wartime fiscal policy of the British imperialism.

2. Postwar Research Trends to the Mid-60s

The political and social research done in Japan on India from the late 1950s into the early 1960s was stimulated by renewed Japan-India relations symbolized by Jawaharlal Nehru's visit in 1957. The first "yen credit" to India made in 1957 represented a new diplomatic attitude on the part of Japan vis-à-vis the Asian countries. This period was also marked by the centenary anniversary of a well-known Indian leader, Rabindranath Tagore. All these became reflected in the high regard given to Indian nationalism in Japan.

Within this atmosphere, the historical studies on the Indian land tenure system were conducted along with the research on modern and contemporary political history, including the issue of Indian nationalism. Meanwhile economists turned to the study of state capitalism mainly in connection with the post-independence economic reforms.

There were also events that occurred during this time that somewhat tarnished the brilliance of the Nehru regime: the nationwide food riots of 1959, the dismissal of the Communist government in Kerala, and strained relations with China as a result of disturbances in Tibet. The border conflict between India and China in 1962, the death of Nehru in 1964, and the escalation of the communal riots that same year, all gave the strong impression that Indian politics was entering a new phase. At this juncture, as India's economic plans teetered on the edge of failure, the country entered its most serious time of political crisis since attaining national independence. The crisis escalated with the second war against Pakistan in 1965 and culminated in the setback suffered by the Indian National Congress in the fourth general election of 1967. It was during this period characterized by a decline in India's post-independence nationalist spirit when the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) began its research activities directed at the politics and society in South Asia. Inevitably the research topics and issues that attracted scholars in the field were those influenced by the dismal state of affairs in India at the time.

The Economy

As we will see in the following sections, the South Asian regional studies and programs sponsored by the IDE have covered many fields and topics of interest. One important issue for the future is whether researchers will begin offering conceptualizations for capturing comprehensive, holistic pictures of the region's economies. In this sense, the review that follows intends to introduce elements that will be indispensable in realizing such a task.

1. The Theory of Development As Applied to South Asia

Up through the early 1960s, the five-year plans implemented by India exerted a great deal of influence on the research done concerning the developing economies in general. For example, the so-called "Mahalanobis model" drew a great amount of attention from scholars studying socialist economies in countries like the Soviet Union and China. The paper written by Shigeru Ishikawa (1963), setting forth a picture before and after the implementation of the economic plan based on the Mahalanobis model, argued that India's planned economy had reached a turning point because various conditions assumed by the model—including the creation of productive employment in rural areas—could not be realized due to political barriers. Ishikawa's observation sharply outlined the contradictions in the Indian

economy that were developing in the midst of worsening relations with China after 1959, and the insufficiency of foreign currency and of food supply that marked the last years of the Nehru regime. Ishikawa's methodology insisted on the efficacy of the model, while at the same time attempting to uncover as comprehensively and concretely as possible what the limiting conditions were for its successful application to each country in question. This approach in itself has been highly instructive for scholars in the field.

However, with the failure of its third five-year plan and the occurrence from the mid-1960s of what was termed "structural stagnation," the emphasis in India's development planning shifted toward the implementation of the green revolution and more dependency on the private sector. Under these circumstances, the research done during that time tended to stress the following three points. First, researchers concentrated on the analysis of India's state fiscal policy and public enterprises in support of theories that underline bankruptcy in public finance as a major factor leading to reductions in overall demand. Secondly, there was increasing analysis directed toward the green revolution, and thirdly, the study of the growth of "business groups" was stepped up.

Beginning around 1984–85, India embarked on a transition to a more open economy. At this time there were arguments among scholars inside and outside India about the applicability to India of a new model, called the "Brazil model," which was a development strategy emphasizing economic growth relying on demand for consumer durables by the wealthier strata of society. According to the research published by Hideki Esho (1987), the Brazil model did not present an alternative for India because the personal income levels for India were much lower in absolute terms than the figures for Brazil. Given India's domestic conditions at the time, the application of the Brazil model looked illusory.

Tracing chronologically the theories of Indian development and the attempts to apply development models, there appears with each new theory and model a recurrence of the basic methodology, such as propounded by Ishikawa, demanding that theories be fitted to the economic, political, and social realities that India is facing at any given time.

2. The Characteristics of India's Industrialization

One important research topic at the IDE has been the process of India's industrial development during the British colonial period. This can be divided into two major points of interest: (1) the formation process of indigenous (national) capital (Noboru Tabe* 1970; Shōji Itō* 1966, 1973; Manabu

Shimizu* 1970; Ichirō Ishii* 1982), and (2) problems surrounding the managing agency system (Kenji Koike* 1979). The research done by Koike identified the existence of a “managing agency system” in which certain companies (“managing agents”) laid first claim to enterprise profits by means of a fictional construction that equated “business management” with “agency” or “representation.”

The excellent empirical research done by Shōji Itō* (1974, **1978**) on corporate ownership structure had been stimulated by the work of the well-known Indian economist, R. K. Hazari, on the concentration of capital in the private sector following national independence. Itō showed that stock control exercised by investment companies, which in reality act as holding companies, was the key to managerial control over the member companies in each business group. There is also the research done by Ichirō Yamanaka* (1976) on the process of capital concentration in Pakistan’s private sector since achieving nationhood.

Etsurō Ishigami (1982) in his work on India’s steel industry, set a standard for research on the function and realities of the public sector in South Asia. Ishigami laid the empirical foundation for a general hypothesis about the public sector aiding the private sector through his study of the way in which state-managed steel mills differentiated their supply of products between private and public sectors, i.e., steel sheets to the former and steel plates and rails to the latter. He concluded that the policy of maintaining high prices in India’s thoroughly protected steel industry has been supported at the cost of productivity and international competitiveness.

The influence exerted by various kinds of controls and restrictive measures in the course of South Asian economic development is quite evident. This is exemplified in such cases as industrial licensing in India and export licensing in Pakistan. The legal studies carried out by the IDE on such regulatory institutions in the region include the work done by Nobuyuki Yasuda* on Indian company law. Yasuda and other scholars have also taken up such topics as anti-monopoly legislation (MRTP Act) and the industrial licensing legislation (IDR Act).

3. Land Reform and Agricultural Development

a. Evaluating land reform measures

The issue that attracted the interest of agricultural economists in Japan more than any other during the 1950s and 1960s was the question of land reforms in Asian countries. According to Tsuneo Hamaguchi* (1972), land reform in India, despite doing away with the intermediary rights of traditional

absentee landlords by abolishing the zamindari system, created a form of small and middle-size peasant landownership accompanying not a negligible size of cases under sharecropping. Hirokazu Tada* (1969–70) concurred with Hamaguchi's opinion in his work on zamindari abolition and the Land Reform Act of 1950 in Uttar Pradesh. Tada had already taken note of the land reform plan drafted by Charan Singh, and his role as a political leader of India's agricultural population, thus predating attention paid to him by such Western scholars as Paul Brass.

b. The green revolution and agricultural production

Masanori Koga and Shigemochi Hirashima* are representative of those scholars who were working during the era of change in South Asia brought on by the green revolution.

Koga (1970) reported the appearance of agricultural investors who were called at the time the "gentleman farmers." He also observed widespread practice of eviction of tenants due to the introduction of upgraded farming methods and the crisis this caused in agricultural communities. Hirashima (1976), on the other hand, argued the need for an integrated understanding of both the institutional and technological aspects of the agrarian question, and focused on the fact that despite the failure of reform efforts in Pakistan, landlords still responded by introducing tractors and tube-wells. Hirashima (1975, 1976, 1978) examined such institutional questions as (1) whether technological innovation was furthered in a form that benefited landlords or tenants, and (2) to what extent such innovation was dependent upon the preceding investment in land which had been made in the form of canal irrigation under the British rule.

Research was also stimulated in the area of agricultural employment, such as the employment opportunities created by the green revolution and the impact on nonagricultural employment. Hirokazu Tada* (1975), Masanori Koga (1975), and Shigemochi Hirashima* (1977) produced research on the rural non-agricultural labor population, most of which neither owned nor tilled the land.

c. Agricultural technology and water usage

The success of the green revolution hinged on the availability of water. Issues concerning water for irrigation, especially from underground sources, became a new source of post-green revolution inequality, rivaling in gravity the maldistribution of landownership. In his history of water usage in Sri Lanka, Hisashi Nakamura* (1979) used a comparison with the situation in Japan in order to describe agricultural water use in South Asia. He concluded

that (1) there are clear, significant differences between the wet and dry seasons; (2) the extent of rainfall is a distinct feature differing from one region to another (there are areas suffering from insufficient rainfall all year around and other areas with too much rainfall); (3) separate water usage systems have to be constructed for irrigation and drainage; (4) paddy fields, dry fields, and wastelands are all interchangeable; (5) there is little geomorphological change in micro-region; and (6) because of the large amount of farm household labor required to control irrigation, there is a high demand for hired labor to work in the fields.

4. Economic Development and Disparity in South Asia

Although problems affecting the poor have not been dealt with directly in the studies on South Asia done at the IDE, Fumiko Oshikawa* (1987) found differences and changes in expenditure patterns among different income strata through an analysis of household expenditures set forth in the National Sample Survey. Oshikawa found a number of interregional differences: for example, regions characterized by real increases in expenditures that led to more expenditure on clothing, nutrition, and durables contrasted with regions where there was no growth in expenditures and outlays for grain continued to occupy a proportionately large part of family budgets. In a study of food policy, Kinuyo Matsumoto* (1983) discussed the issue of income distribution since the green revolution.

Another aspect of the problem of economic development and disparity is the interregional dimension. One opinion concerning India has been offered by Hiroichi Yamaguchi* (1982a), who argued that the "Hindi Belt," which is more or less socially and economically represented by Bihar, has a choice of two models to follow: one is that represented by West Bengal under the leftist regime that attempted to improve agricultural production through institutional change, the other is represented by Punjab which decided to go the way of the green revolution.

Politics

The major interest of political science studies at the IDE has focused on political parties with nationalist background, such as the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. However, most of the research done to date has tended to focus on postindependence political history. A second area of interest has been the problem of Indian democracy, particularly the substance and sustainability of "democracy" as practiced in India. Finally,

IDE scholars have also investigated the structure of the state through studies of the military, judicial, and bureaucratic systems.

1. *Political History of South Asia*

a. *The history and theory of political parties*

The political process leading up to national independence for both India and Pakistan is an essential topic for understanding the political history of South Asia. Unfortunately, the amount of research that has been done at the IDE directly addressing this topic is still small. One pertinent study was the piece by Hiroshi Kagaya (1973) on the Muslim League. Another was the study by Soryon Li (1974) which dealt with the same topic in the Indian constitutional history. There was also the work of Masanori Koga (1978) on the fiscal aspects of the Princely States.

The Indian National Congress experienced a series of setbacks and divisions between 1967 and 1969 which necessitated a reevaluation of the post-independence INC. The best studies done at the IDE analyzing the political background to this period are those by Toshikazu Mori and Hiroichi Yamaguchi.*

Mori (1970) started with the premise that the post-independence INC should be considered a parliamentary party which also became the ruling party, rather than a force in the nationalist movement. Given the schism that occurred in the INC in 1969, Mori observed that following the end of the Nehru era, the power of prime minister began to be disassociated from that of the INC president, whereas both positions had been consolidated under the Nehru regime. Mori looked upon the transformation taking place in Indian politics during this time as a "leadership crisis" within the INC. Several years after Mori published his study, Yamaguchi (1975a) analyzed the three periods of Indian political history from an economic perspective: (1) the era of preparation for capital accumulation (1947–55), (2) the era of capital accumulation (1956–64), and (3) the era of groping toward transition (1965–72). While this periodization has been determined by certain important political events that occurred, Yamaguchi understood them as the political preliminaries for the purpose of deciding economic policy directions.

Regarding the typological study of political parties which was pioneered by L. I. Rudolph and S. H. Rudolph, Takenori Horimoto (1979, 1982) studied the characteristic features of the INC, identifying it as a party of the "centrist" type.

b. *Political history of South Asian countries*

The study of Pakistani political history at the IDE has been carried on mainly by Tsuneo Hamaguchi* and Hiroki Fukamachi.* The collection of papers edited by Ichirō Yamanaka* (1973) was an effort to consolidate the research in the 1960s. In this work Hiroshi Kagaya (1973) wrote on the political history of Pakistan, structuring his discussion around the Islamic state (see also his earlier work, Kagaya 1968).

After eighteen years of independence, a comprehensive study on Bangladesh was finally undertaken at the IDE by Hiroshi Satō* (1990b). Meanwhile Mitsue Osada* has studied various facets of the country; noteworthy is her work (1990) on factionalism in military establishment of Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka has been covered only in the research of Hisashi Nakamura* (1978), Toshio Shibuya (1985), and Yoshifumi Saitō (1988). The work done on Nepal will be treated later in the section dealing with studies on local government institutions.

2. *The Study of Indian Democracy*

In contrast to the many developing countries that were transformed into military dictatorships of varying degrees following independence, India continued to maintain its elective parliamentary system. Whenever the question of "Indian democracy" is raised, the discussion is likely to turn to the political issue of its institutions as a state, despite continuing social discrimination and inequalities. A paper representative of this discussion is the one by Eiji Shimoyama (1978) examining India's constitution.

Basing his study on the premise that India's national independence was realized through non-military measures, Shimoyama emphasized the important role played by a group known as the "lawyers." This group gave national independence its legal outer trappings which made it possible to promulgate a "democratic" constitution without hurting the class interests of the Indian National Congress. At the same time, however, the Indian constitution turned out to be a blend of "democratic" and "authoritarian" provisions due to a demand for "a strong government" represented by the three elements, that is, the directive principles of the state policy, the centralized federalism, and central government's emergency powers. The contradiction between these two opposing constitutional features surfaced in 1975 with the attempt to amend the constitution under the national emergency declared by Indira Gandhi. Shimoyama's work went beyond being a legal

study in the narrow sense by helping us to understand the nature of Indian democracy as a whole.

3. *The State Apparatus in South Asia*

a. *Bureaucratic institutions and the military*

The study of the bureaucracy of South Asia by Japanese scholars began in earnest with the research of Toshikazu Mori and Kiyotaka Ochiai (1974) following the tradition of political scientists in the United States and Great Britain, like Ralph Braibanti, beginning in the 1950s. Minoru Ōuchi* (1968–72) took up the problems of “politically corrupt” bureaucratic institutions from such aspects as relationships between politicians, bureaucrats, and big business and the political climate in developing countries. Later Hiroshi Satō* and Norio Kondō* (1986) carried out empirical research on the subject using the service list of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Malaysian Administrative and Diplomatic Service (MADS). Focusing on the cadre bureaucracies of these services, both of which followed in the tradition of British colonial institutions, Satō and Kondō studied their role in national integration, the process of internal specialization within their ranks, and their politicized behaviors. The work of Hiroki Fukamachi* (1983) is probably the most comprehensive research done to date on the background of the military’s advance into Pakistani politics. The importance of the political role played by the military in that country is supported by the following four factors: (1) the absence of a middle-class intellectuals to support political leaders and the bureaucracy, (2) a lack of civilian control measures, (3) control over the military by a single ethnic group, and (4) the ease with which military coups can be set off by foreign influences.

b. *The judiciary*

Due to the important role played by legal experts in nationalist movements throughout South Asia (Shimoyama 1978), in the post-independence political arena they have become the dominant social class in the region’s parliamentary bodies. In both India and Pakistan, legal experts occupied around 40 per cent of the seats in the national parliaments immediately after independence.

Even in Pakistan and Bangladesh, which have been under the control of military regimes for long periods of time, the judiciary branch has often rendered legal decisions limiting actions stemming from virtually unrestricted executive powers. As indicated by Hiroshi Kagaya (1973), concerning the “polity” debate over the Pakistani state, the judiciary branch has maintained its stand for both modern democratic and secularist principles.

The topic of politics and law is closely tied to the contemporary trends in Indian politics in the 1970s. This is proven by the research of Nobuyuki Yasuda* (1974, 1977, 1980) who analyzed the relationship between judiciary institutions and the political process during the early 1970s, a time of authoritarian control by the Indira Gandhi regime.

c. The study of federal and local institutions

India's federal system has been the subject of a great deal of research by Indian scholars. On Pakistan, scholars have done comprehensive study of the debate over federalism in the constitutional process of the 1950s, but Pakistan's central government institutions since 1971 have not yet been studied in detail.

Scholars in Bangladesh have done a lot of work on the socio-political background of the members of the Union Parishad, the country's lowest level representative institution. At the IDE, in his study of local administrative reform during the Ershad regime, Hiroshi Satō* (1990a) showed that the barring of political parties from local council elections was an essential element in building the power bases of military regimes.

In Nepal the Panchayat system was dismantled after thirty years by the democratization movement of 1990. The system was dealt a first blow by a similar movement in 1980, but managed to continue as the main support of the Nepal's monarchy. A concise discussion may be found in the work of Kyōko Inoue* (1986), and an analysis of the 1980 democratization movement has been done by Mitsue Osada* (1980).

Society

1. The National Question in South Asia

In the mid-1960s Heiji Nakamura stressed the importance of the concept of a multinational state as the fundamental framework for understanding Indian society. This idea did a great deal to stimulate interest in South Asian studies in Japan. But substantial doubts arose about the acceptability of this model which is based on the multinational concept that the Communist Party of India had transplanted during World War II from the Soviet Union's official policy for dealing with its own nationality issue. The independence of Bangladesh in 1971 forced a reexamination of the national question in South Asia beginning with the alteration of the framework developed along the lines of the Indian-Pakistani partition. In Japan, a debate on the question was carried on between Hiroshi Kagaya and Nakamura in the pages of the historical

journal, *Rekishigaku kenkyū*. In response to Kagaya's claim (1971) that independence merely constituted a unilateral move on the part of the Bangladesh liberation forces which severed ties with West Pakistan democratic forces, Nakamura (1971) argued that the independence of Bangladesh was the outcome of a national liberation struggle in the true sense of the word.

Considering the significant rise of separatist movements and demands for political autonomy throughout South Asia following Bangladesh independence, it seems appropriate to reexamine the exact meaning of "the national question" in South Asia, including an evaluation of the significance of Bangladesh independence.

2. *Communalism and Religion*

Social science research often overemphasizes exogenous factors, like politico-economic ones, for the analysis of religious phenomena. For one thing such an approach fails to deal with religion per se (i.e., the religious ideas, rituals, and unique cultural issues of each sect), and such research often ends up lacking any solid effort to understand the internal rationale for religious movements that appear on the political scene.

The IDE began its efforts in the field of religio-intellectual history toward the end of the 1960s with the initiation of joint research projects that included Middle East experts of such subjects as Islamic social and political movements and Pakistani political thought. The general history by Hiroshi Kagaya (1973), in which he examined the idea of Islamic state, drew a lot of interest because it touches on all the main issues in the history of Pakistani political thought. A valuable study was also done by Toshio Shibuya (1985) on the escalation of the Sinhala-Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka as reflected in the content of religious rituals.

3. *The Caste Question*

The idea that the caste system is a static structure of unchanging customs and institutions is not correct. The research done by Takeshi Fujii (1988) showed that the censuses carried out since the colonial period and statistical account on the castes have had the ironic effects to strengthen caste group consciousness. Thus the caste question has many different dimensions; factors tending to strengthen caste consciousness and those tending to weaken it are intricately intertwined. The research carried out at the IDE on the subject of caste includes the work by Hiroichi Yamaguchi* (1982a) and Fumiko

Oshikawa* (1990) on the “reservation system” which is an attempt to reserve a set ratio of positions in public employment and higher education for the “backward classes.” Their studies directed attention to the problems of the backward classes or the intermediate castes.

Recent Research Trends

The 1990s have been a time of dramatic change in South Asia. The repressive political systems in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal are becoming far more politically competitive due to movements in each country demanding democracy. However, ethnic and religious confrontations have surfaced along with these democratic movements. Meanwhile the strong influences of the structural adjustment policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank can be seen on the nations’ economies. Efforts to apply these policies had already been under way in the 1980s in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka; they began to be applied in a serious way in India from July 1991, and now these policies have flowed over all of the countries of South Asia. Research at the IDE on South Asia cannot limit itself to simply explaining the current state of affairs or describing policies of change in the politics and economies of the 1990s. The worth of the research rather rests on whether or not it can also provide theoretical and structural explanations to the changes in politics and economies of the 1990s.

Concerning research on Pakistan, the articles contained in a study edited by Ichirō Yamanaka* (1992b) provide an overall picture of Pakistan since the secession of Bangladesh in 1971. This work continues with the treatment of issues which were dealt with in an earlier study done in the 1970s and also edited by Yamanaka (1973). Of particular interest in this book are Yamanaka’s examination (1992a) of the relationship between privatization policy and enterprise groups, and Takashi Kurosaki’s* analysis (1992) concerning the economic activities of the different social classes in rural society. Kurosaki (1995) has also analyzed the importance of livestock economy for agricultural households in Pakistan. He shows that this activity is a market risk-aversion measure that has come about because of the incompleteness of the Pakistan’s domestic insurance market.

Concerning Bangladesh, Mayumi Murayama* (1994) has analyzed the relationship between business groups and industrial policies. Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, Mayumi Murayama,* and S. M. Mahfuzur Rahman (1995) have made a detailed study of the garment industry which has been an important sector for capital investment by private enterprise. Problems in Nepal’s industrialization, which have affected the country’s democratization

process, and problems in the relations between Nepal and India have been taken up in detail by Madan K. Dahal and Kyōko Inoue* (1994).

Concerning India, Kyōko Inoue* (1992) closely follows the course of industrial policy after the independence until the change of economic policy in 1991. Hiroshi Satō* (1994) analyzes the financial relationship between the central government and local governments in South Asian countries. However, there still has not been any good analysis bringing together theory and substantive proof regarding structural adjustment policy which has brought about the recent changes in India's economy. On political and social issues, Fumiko Oshikawa* (1994) takes up the problems involved in the "reservation system" proposed by the government in 1990. The work looks closely at the attitudes and thinking of the high-caste students who have participated in movements opposing the system. Norio Kondō* (1993) has analyzed Indian elections by looking into the so-called "wave election" phenomenon. Kondō points to socioeconomic factors for this phenomenon. Takeshi Fujii (1994) makes a historical analysis of the problems involved in determining official language in the course of enacting India's constitution in the late 1940s. This is the most detailed work on the subject so far made by a Japanese researcher. A similar kind of work is indispensable for an understanding of the issues and assumptions prevailing among India's ethnic groups.

Among the research projects at the IDE, the foregoing studies have been notable for their vigorous effort to delve into and deal with the new changes taking place in South Asia in the 1990s.

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