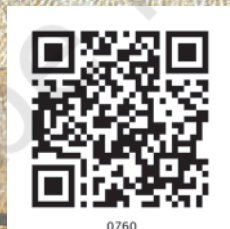


SOCIAL SCIENCE

OUR PASTS – II

Textbook in History
for Class VII



0760

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एन सी ई आर टी
NCERT

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OFFICES OF THE PUBLICATION

DIVISION, NCERT

NCERT Campus
Sri Aurobindo Marg
New Delhi 110 016

Phone : 011-26562708

108, 100 Feet Road
Hosdakere Halli Extension
Banashankari III Stage
Bangalore 560 085

Phone : 080-26725740

Navjivan Trust Building
P.O. Navjivan
Ahmedabad 380 014

Phone : 079-27541446

CWC Campus
Opp. Dhankal Bus Stop
Panipati
Kolkata 700 114

Phone : 033-25530454

CWC Complex
Maligaon
Guwahati 781 021

Phone : 0361-2674869

Publication Team

Head, Publication Division	: Anup Kumar Rajput
Chief Editor	: Shveta Uppal
Chief Production Officer	: Arun Chitkara
Chief Business Manager (In charge)	: Amitabh Kumar
Assistant Editor	: Shashi Chadha
Assistant Production Officer	: Rajesh Pippal

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FOREWORD

The National Curriculum Framework, 2005, recommends that children's life at school must be linked to their life outside the school. This principle marks a departure from the legacy of bookish learning which continues to shape our system and causes a gap between the school, home and community. The syllabi and textbooks developed on the basis of NCF signify an attempt to implement this basic idea. They also attempt to discourage rote learning and the maintenance of sharp boundaries between different subject areas. We hope these measures will take us significantly further in the direction of a child-centred system of education outlined in the National Policy on Education (1986).

The success of this effort depends on the steps that school principals and teachers will take to encourage children to reflect on their own learning and to pursue imaginative activities and questions. We must recognise that, given space, time and freedom, children generate new knowledge by engaging with the information passed on to them by adults. Treating the prescribed textbook as the sole basis of examination is one of the key reasons why other resources and sites of learning are ignored. Inculcating creativity and initiative is possible if we perceive and treat children as participants in learning, not as receivers of a fixed body of knowledge.

These aims imply considerable change in school routines and mode of functioning. Flexibility in the daily time-table is as necessary as rigour in implementing the annual calendar so that the required number of teaching days are actually devoted to teaching. The methods used for teaching and evaluation will also determine how effective this textbook proves for making children's life at school a happy experience, rather than a source of stress or boredom. Syllabus designers have tried to address the problem of curricular burden by

restructuring and reorienting knowledge at different stages with greater consideration for child psychology and the time available for teaching. The textbook attempts to enhance this endeavor by giving higher priority and space to opportunities for contemplation and wondering, discussion in small groups, and activities requiring hands-on experience.

NCERT appreciates the hard work done by the textbook development committee responsible for this book. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the Advisory Group on Social Science, Professor Hari Vasudevan and the Chief Advisor for this book, Professor Neeladri Bhattacharya for guiding the work of this committee. Several teachers contributed to the development of this textbook; we are grateful to their principals for making this possible. We are indebted to the institutions and organisations, which have generously permitted us to draw upon their resources, material and personnel. We are especially grateful to the members of the National Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairpersonship of Professor Mrinal Miri and Professor G. P. Deshpande, for their valuable time and contribution. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinement.

New Delhi
20 November 2006

Director
National Council of Educational
Research and Training

RATIONALISATION OF CONTENT IN THE TEXTBOOKS

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative to reduce content load on students. The National Education Policy 2020, also emphasises upon reducing the content load and providing opportunities for experiential learning with creative mindset. In this background, the NCERT has undertaken the exercise to rationalise the textbooks across all classes. Learning Outcomes already developed by the NCERT across classes have been taken into consideration in this exercise.

Contents of the textbooks have been rationalised in view of the following

- Overlapping with similar content included in other subject areas in the same class
- Similar content included in the lower or higher class in the same subject
- High difficulty level
- Content, which is easily accessible to students without much interventions from teachers and can be learned by children through self-learning or peer-learning.
- Content, which is not relevant in the present context or outdated.

This present edition, is a reformatted version after carrying out the changes given above.

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TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TEXTBOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE FOR THE SECONDARY STAGE

Hari Vasudevan, *Professor*, Department of History,
University of Calcutta, Kolkata

CHIEF ADVISOR

Neeladri Bhattacharya, *Professor*, Centre for Historical Studies,
School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

ADVISOR

Kunal Chakrabarti, *Professor*, Centre for Historical Studies,
School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Sunil Kumar, *Reader*, Department of History, Delhi University, Delhi

TEAM MEMBERS

Anil Sethi, *Former Professor*, DESS, NCERT, New Delhi

Bhairavi Prasad Sahu, *Professor and Head*, Department of History,
Delhi University, Delhi

Chetan Singh, *Professor*, Department of History,
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, H.P.

C. N. Subramaniam, *Director*, Eklavya, Kothi Bazar, Hoshangabad, Madhya
Pradesh

Farhat Hasan, *Reader*, Department of History,
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P.

Kesavan Veluthat, *Professor*, Department of History,
Mangalore University, Mangalore, Karnataka

Kumkum Roy, *Associate Professor*, Centre for Historical Studies,
School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Mily Roy, *Sr. Lecturer*, DESS, NCERT, New Delhi

Nayana Das Gupta, *Lecturer in History*, Lady Sri Ram College,
Delhi University, Delhi

Rajan Gurukkal, *Professor*, Department of History,
Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala

Rajat Dutta, *Professor*, Centre for Historical Studies,
School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Sreela Mitra, *PGT*, History, Vasant Valley School, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Suchi Bajaj, *PGT*, History, Springdales School, Pusa Road, New Delhi

Vijaya Ramaswamy, *Professor*, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social
Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

MEMBER-COORDINATOR

Reetu Singh, *Lecturer*, DESS, NCERT, New Delhi

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IN THIS BOOK

Each chapter is divided into sections. Read, discuss and understand each section before proceeding to the next. Look out for the following in each Chapter.

1

Definition Box

Some chapters contain definitions.

2

Additional Information

Many chapters contain boxes with interesting, *additional information*.

3

Source Box

Many chapters contain a portion from a *source*, clues from which historians write history. Read these carefully, and discuss the questions they contain.

Many of our sources are visual. Each *illustration* has a story to tell.

4



You will also find *maps*. Look at these and try to locate the places mentioned in the lessons.

5



In each chapter there are *intext questions and activities* that are highlighted. Spend some time discussing these as you go along.

6



Imagine

And there is a small section titled *Imagine*. This is your chance to go back into the past and figure out what life would have been like.

7

KEYWORDS



At the end of each chapter, you will find a list of *keywords*. These are to remind you of important ideas/ themes introduced in the lesson.



8

You will also find different kinds of activities listed at the end of each chapter — **Let's recall, Let's discuss, Let's do** and **Let's understand**.

There is a lot to read, see, think about and do in this book. We hope you will enjoy it.

