



### Statemaking and Territory in South Asia

Lessons from the Anglo–Gorkha War (1814–1816)

Bernardo A. Michael

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**Analyzes how European colonization transformed the organization of territory in South Asia, by examining the territorial disputes that underlay the Anglo–Gorkha War and subsequent efforts of the colonial state to reorder its territories.**

*“Trenchant and meticulously researched, Michael’s book tells the story of how the East India Company established its northern Indian boundary. A must-read for anyone interested in state formation, cartographic history, and the creation of colonial territory.” —Dr Ian Barrow, Department of History, Middlebury College, USA*

*“Bernardo Michael has produced a remarkable book, one that expertly weaves histories of colonial governance, cartography and agrarian practice. In tacking between colonial, national, regional and local archives, Michael is able to explore in remarkable detail the intensely local struggles in the Anglo–Gorkha borderland waged around agrarian entitlements and the fluid and elastic notions of territory that held sway. Theoretically innovative and deeply grounded, this is spatial history at its best.” —Raymond Craib, author of “Cartographic Mexico: A History of State Fixations and Fugitive Landscapes” and Associate Professor of History, Cornell University*

“Statemaking and Territory in South Asia: Lessons from the Anglo–Gorkha War (1814–1816)” seeks to understand how European colonization transformed the organization of territory in South Asia through an examination of the territorial disputes that underlay the Anglo–Gorkha War of 1814–1816 and subsequent efforts of the colonial state to reorder its territories. The volume argues that these disputes arose out of older tribute, taxation and property relationships that left their territories perpetually intermixed and with ill-defined boundaries. It also seeks to describe the long-drawn-out process of territorial reordering undertaken by the British in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that set the stage for the creation of a clearly defined geographical template for the modern state in South Asia.

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