

RAMACHANDRA
GUHA

INDIA AFTER GANDHI



THE HISTORY OF THE
WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY

'Riveting . . . a balanced and
unfailingly insightful book'
Sunday Times

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Praise for INDIA AFTER GANDHI

'Finally, here is a history of democratic India that is every bit as sweeping as the country itself . . . [A] magisterial work'

EDWARD LUCE, *Financial Times*

'A formidable undertaking . . . As comprehensive, balanced and elegantly crafted as any reasonable reader could expect'

PHILIP ZIEGLER, *Spectator*

'[A] dazzling book'

London Review of Books

'Guha is a scholar of astounding energy and ingenuity, and his book triumphantly dismisses an often-made plea: that India's contemporary history cannot be written because (as a result of government pigheadedness) the sources are not available. He seems to have visited every archive from Alabama to Allahabad, Calcutta to California, delving into a sea of private correspondence, news reports, pamphlet ephemera, as well as state papers. The result is a fascinating, kaleidoscopic narrative'

Daily Telegraph

'Insightful, spirited and elegantly crafted'

Times Literary Supplement

'Superb, gloriously detailed . . . a brilliant and beautifully balanced book. It is impeccably researched and documented, but Guha is no dry-as-dust academic historian. He presents his facts objectively but never hides his patriotism or cosmopolitan, Nehruvian ethos. He avoids self congratulation and celebrates the survival of democratic India without overlooking the nation's countless failings and shortcomings'

Independent

'A riveting narrative . . . *India After Gandhi* is a balanced and unflinching insightful work'

Sunday Times

'No brief review could convey the astonishing range of this remarkable and capacious book . . . Guha marshals his facts and figures brilliantly . . . There will undoubtedly be other books covering the extraordinary and exhilarating story of post-independence India, but it is hard to imagine there will be a better one'

Sunday Telegraph

'Combining academic rigour with the readability of a thriller, *India After Gandhi* is a breathtaking survey'

Time Out Mumbai

'Magnificently told . . . A riveting story with unforgettable characters and towering challenges, immense greatness and extraordinary veracity, soaring hopes and profound disappointment'

India Today

'It's not often that you want a 771 page book to be longer. But as you race – yes, race – through *India After Gandhi* . . . you keep feeling that way. Guha writes lucidly, with unobtrusively readable prose, covers most bases, paints characters in with apposite quote or wry comment, points to broad themes, but also picks fascinating small details and in general keeps things going at an excellent pace'

The Economic Times

Chosen as a Book of the Year by the *Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Time Out* and *Outlook*

India After Gandhi

RAMACHANDRA GUHA was born in Dehradun in 1958, and educated in Delhi and Calcutta. He has taught at the universities of Oslo, Stanford and Yale, and at the Indian Institute of Science. He has been a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and also served as the Indo-American Community Chair Visiting Professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

After a peripatetic academic career, with five jobs in ten years in three continents, Guha settled down to become a full-time writer, based in Bangalore. His books cover a wide range of themes: they include a global history of environmentalism, a biography of an anthropologist-activist, a social history of Indian cricket, and a social history of Himalayan peasants. His entire career, he says, seems in retrospect to have been an extended (and painful) preparation for the writing of *India After Gandhi*.

Guha's books and essays have been translated into more than twenty languages. The prizes they have won include the UK Cricket Society's Literary Award and the Leopold-Hidy Prize of the American Society of Environmental History.

ALSO BY RAMACHANDRA GUHA

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RAMACHANDRA GUHA

INDIA

AFTER GANDHI

*The History of the
World's Largest Democracy*



PUSTAKA PERDANA



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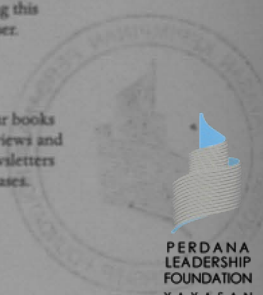
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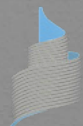
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*For
Ira, Sasha and Suja:
lights on my coast*





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