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Abstract:

My goal is to analyze the shift from a global order based on empires to one based on sovereign states by examining the interrelationships among the Indian, imperial, and international arenas. I focus on the specific subset of Indian lawyers who were trained in London; their role in intellectual and political debates about law, sovereignty, self-determination, and internationalism; and how that role was facilitated by their legal practice and by the circulation of people and ideas throughout the empire. I hope to be able to argue that (and explain how) South Asian legal professionals played a critical role in the development of international law and institutions in the interwar and post-War periods.