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Title and Abstract

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| South Asian Legal Professionals and International Legal Order, c. 1860-c. 1970 |
| Abstract: The East India Company and South Asian rulers both routinely used international law arguments when debating their rights, responsibilities, authority, and legitimacy in the context of their relationship to one another. Historians of international law have argued, and historians of South Asia seem to have accepted, that Crown rule after 1857 foreclosed the possibility for international legal activity among South Asians. However, starting in the 1870s, increasing numbers of South Asian legal professionals -- lawyers, then judges, and eventually diplomats -- actively thought and wrote about, and practiced, international law. My dissertation focuses on one question: how did South Asian legal professionals imagine and work to construct international law and institutions? I hope to contribute to a reassessment of the history of international law and to add to our understanding of South Asians as members of a cosmopolitan, global community. | |