

**THE INDUS DELTA
COUNTRY: A MEMOIR,
CHIEFLY ON ITS ANCIENT
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649461110

The Indus Delta Country: A Memoir, Chiefly on Its Ancient Geography and History by M. R. Haig

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M. R. HAIG

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A MEMOIR

CHIEFLY ON ITS ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY AND
HISTORY

BY
Malcolm Robert
MAJOR-GENERAL, M. R. HAIG, M.R.A.S.

WITH THREE MAPS

LONDON
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., LTD.
PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHARING CROSS ROAD

1894

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PREFACE.

THE first two sections of the following Memoir were written and printed seven years ago. Since then a few copies have been privately circulated among friends who are interested in the subjects of which it treats. Within the last year the original plan of the little work has been carried to completion, but under the disadvantage of distance from large libraries and the consequent impossibility of refreshing my acquaintance with works—especially Oriental works—which it would have been desirable to consult anew. I have thus been obliged to depend in great measure on the resources of a very modest library, on notes and extracts made when opportunities were more favourable, and, in the last resort, on a memory for which I am obliged to ask the reader's most indulgent consideration.

The Memoir pretends to be nothing more than a rough guide for those in Sindh, who, taking an interest in the past of a province, one of the poorest, and in its outward aspect the least lovely in India, care to seek out the relics of former ages, and trace for themselves some picture of the country as it was at different periods of its generally troubled history.

The pressure under which the governmental machine works in India grows more and more intense; leisure becomes less; books, more than a few, are not for the nomad official: hence the con-

venience of a *compendium* of any kind—even of the rough and makeshift kind—for those who, if they pursue any branch of inquiry, must pursue it under difficulties unknown to the leisured student in other lands. That which is here offered as a humble aid to research has only such value as may be supposed to attach to the results of considerable local knowledge, to careful consideration of questions discussed, and to a sincere endeavour to arrive at truth in matters great or small. Its literary form requires much apology. For this and its many other defects I trust the indulgence of the reader will not be wanting.

M. R. H.

DAVOS PLÄTZ, SWITZERLAND,

November, 1894.

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CORRIGENDA.

Page 6, line 9, for 1500 read 1700.

„ 13. „ 27, for Morontobaros read Morontobara.

Map III., for Rishul (name of river mouth) read Richhal.

THE INDUS DELTA COUNTRY.



I.

SKETCH OF THE GEOGRAPHY AND HYDROGRAPHY OF THE DELTA COUNTRY.

A POPULAR geographical notion of its inhabitants distinguishes three main divisions of the Lower Indus Valley. These are named *Siro*, or "Upper Country;" *Vicholo*, or Middle Country; and *Lāru*, or "Sloping, descending (to the sea) Country," and correspond respectively to Upper Sindh, or the country north of about 27° N. lat., 40 miles above Sōwan; Central Sindh, or the tract between that limit and Ḥaydarābād; and Lower Sindh, extending from Ḥaydarābād to the sea. This last division may be treated as the historical Delta country of the Indus, that is, the Delta country as seen when the light of history first falls upon it in the descriptions of the writers on Alexander's expedition. At that period the head of the Delta was at Patala, where the river divided into two large branches, running, one south-east, the other south-west, to the sea, and each retaining the name Indus. Any precise identification of the site of Patala is hardly within the limits of possibility. I am unable to agree with the authorities who would place it at Ḥaydarābād, or with others who think Ṭhaṭa a more likely situation; but there are grounds, as we shall see, for the conjecture that it lay not very far below the latitude of the former town, though considerably to the east of its longitude. It seems, therefore, legitimate to assume that the Sindh geographical division of "Lāru" is nearly identical with Patalene, or the Delta country of the Indus as known to the Greeks.

The Delta tract of this memoir, then, extends from the sea northward to the latitude of Ḥaydarābād, or 25° 23' N., and is bounded on