Colonial Justice in British India describes and examines the lesser-known history of white violence in colonial India. By foregrounding crimes committed by a mostly forgotten cast of European characters – planters, paupers, soldiers, and sailors – Elizabeth Kolsky argues that violence was not an exceptional but an ordinary part of British rule in the subcontinent. Despite the pledge of equality, colonial legislation, and the practices of white judges, juries and police placed most Europeans above the law, literally allowing them to get away with murder. The failure to control these unruly whites revealed how the weight of race and the imperatives of command imbalanced the scales of colonial justice. In a powerful account of this period, Kolsky reveals a new perspective on the British empire in India, highlighting the disquieting violence that invariably accompanied imperial forms of power.

Elizabeth Kolsky is an assistant professor of History at Villanova University. She is co-editor of Fringes of Empire: People, Power and Places on the Margins of Colonial India (2009), author of many articles, and contributor to numerous books.
Cambridge Studies in Indian History and Society 17

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Contents

List of figures vi
List of maps vii
List of tables viii
Acknowledgements ix
Glossary xi

Introduction 1

1 White peril: law and lawlessness in early colonial India 27

2 Citizens, subjects, and subjection to law: codification and
the legal construction of racial difference 69

3 “Indian human nature”: evidence, experts, and the elusive
pursuit of truth 108

4 “One scale of justice for the planter and another for the
coolie”: law and violence on the Assam tea plantations 142

5 “A judicial scandal”: the imperial conscience and the race
against empire 185

Conclusion 229

Bibliography 234
Index 248
Figures

0.1 Planters at drink, 1870s, photographer and collection unknown.  page 6

0.2 Viceroy’s Council, c. 1864–1866, photographer unknown, India Office Records, British Library. 7

1.1 Calcutta Supreme Court, 1787, coloured etching with aquatint by Thomas Daniell, India Office Records, British Library. 32

2.1 Calcutta High Court, 1875, photograph by W. G. Stretton, India Office Records, British Library. 87

2.2 Loafer makes himself at home, illustration by H. Van Ruith. 89

3.1 Sacrificial instruments used in the murder of a child in a temple at Jessore, illustrator unknown. 131

3.2 British doctor and young child with spleen enlarged by malaria, c. 1929, Farm Security Administration – Office of War Information Photograph Collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. 138

4.1 Tea-making in Chaubattia, 1880s, photographer unknown, India Office Records, British Library. 150

4.2a Sorting tea, date and photographer unknown. 154

4.2b Tea pickers in the Himalayas, c. 1890, Frank and Frances Carpenter Collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. 154

4.3 Tea party in Calcutta, c. 1890, photographer unknown, India Office Records, British Library. 156

4.4 Payment of wages to tea laborers, c. 1900, photograph by Bourne and Shepherd, India Office Records, British Library. 168

4.5 Tea planter's bungalow, Khorhaut Tea Estate, Assam, India, 1935, drawing by Edward Goodall, courtesy of Richard Goodall. 177

5.1 Pig-stickers, 1870, photographer and collection unknown. 192

5.2 Lord Curzon, photographer unknown, George Grantham Bain Collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. 202

5.3 9th Lancers, June 1860, photographer and collection unknown. 205
Maps

1.1 India in 1765.  
2.1 India in 1857.  
4.1 Assam under the jurisdiction of the Chief Commissioner, 1875.  
5.1 India in 1909.

page 39  
82  
147  
188
## Tables

| 4.1 Growth of labor force on Assam tea plantations, 1877–1920. | page 160 |
| 4.2 Europeans on trial in Assam, 1884–1908. | 160 |
| 5.1 Interracial violence. | 211 |
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Glossary

adalat court of law
chowkidar watchman
diwani right to collect revenues and administer justice on behalf of the Mughal Emperor
diwani adalat civil court
mofussil interior of the country
Nizamut Adalat superior criminal court of Bengal
palanquin hand-carried covered carriage on poles
punkhawallah fan-puller
rattan whip
ryot peasant
Sadr Diwani Adalat superior civil court of Bengal
sepoy soldier
syce horse groom
thana police post
zamindar landholder
zulm oppression
British control over India. The British take of power The European powers gained little in India as long as strong rulers held the Mogul Empire by the queen. In 1877, Victoria became empress of India. Indian troops under British officers defeated Afghanistan in the Second Afghan War (1878 ...Â British Colonial Strategy in the Subcontinent Imperial powers followed two basic strategies when colonizing. They either allowed a large number of Europeans to settle overseas (known as Settler Colonies) or sent a much smaller number â€“ usually less than 1 percent of the population â€“ to serve as administrators and tax collectors (known as Peasant Colonies). See 1 question about Colonial Justice in British India Â Lists with This Book. This book is not yet featured on Listopia.Â The story that comes out of it is hardly a story of India - but that of colonialism all over the world and the dilemma that was faced by administrators of the empire - more specifically the likes of Bentick, Macaulay and Curzon who in their own minds, took on the responsibility to improve the lives of everyone within British empire.