Although the original *Cambridge History of India*, published between 1922 and 1937, did much to formulate a chronology for Indian history and describe the administrative structures of government in India, it has inevitably been overtaken by the mass of new research over the past fifty years.

Designed to take full account of recent scholarship and changing conceptions of South Asia's historical development, *The New Cambridge History of India* will be published as a series of short, self-contained volumes, each dealing with a separate theme and written by a single person. Within an overall four-part structure, thirty-one complementary volumes in uniform format will be published. Each will conclude with a substantial bibliographical essay designed to lead non-specialists further into the literature.

The four parts planned are as follows:

I The Mughals and their contemporaries

II Indian states and the transition to colonialism

III The Indian Empire and the beginnings of modern society

IV The evolution of contemporary South Asia

A list of individual titles in preparation will be found at the end of the volume.
European commercial enterprise in pre-colonial India
# CONTENTS

*List of figures*  
*List of maps*  
*List of tables*  
*General editor’s preface*  
*Preface*  

**Introduction**  
1 *India in the Indian Ocean trade, circa 1500*  
2 *The Portuguese in India, 1500–1640*  
3 *The European trading companies: exports from Europe and the generation of purchasing power in Asia*  
4 *The companies in India: the politics and the economics of trade*  
5 *Euro-Asian and intra-Asian trade: the phase of Dutch domination, 1600–1680*  
6 *The VOC and the growing competition by the English and the French, 1680–1740*  
7 *The supremacy of the English East India Company, 1740–1800*  
8 *European trade and the Indian economy*  
9 *Conclusion*  

*Bibliographic essay*  
*Index*