

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910874675303321
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Titolo	Critical Insights on Colonial Modes of Seeing Cattle in India (1850–1980) : Tracing the Pre-history of Green and White Revolutions / / by Himanshu Upadhyaya
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore : , : Springer Nature Singapore : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2024
ISBN	9789819715602
Edizione	[1st ed. 2024.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (247 pages)
Collana	Asia in Transition, , 2364-8260 ; ; 27
Disciplina	338.176200954
Soggetti	Asia - History Animal welfare - Moral and ethical aspects Philosophy Postcolonialism Agriculture Applied ethics Imperialism Animal culture History of South Asia Animal Ethics Postcolonial Philosophy Agricultural Ethics Imperialism and Colonialism Animal Science
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Revisiting 'Surplus Cattle' and 'Sacred Cattle' Discourse: Why a History of Cattle in India needs to move beyond this framing? -- 3. Famines, Cattle Diseases and Cattle Mortalities: History of Civil Veterinary Departments in India -- 4. Breeding Bovine Animals for Better Productivity: High Modernist Mission -- 5. Writing the Pre-History of Amul: Emergence of Milk Markets and Dairy Cooperatives in Late Colonial India -- 6. Discourse on Dairy Development, Scientific Instruction and Emergence of Technocracy -- 7. Chasing Productivity

Dreams: Intensification in Crop and Cattle Development in Post-Colonial India -- 8. Replicating Anand Pattern Milk Cooperatives: Studying the Operation Flood -- 9. After the Operation Flood: Studying Transformations in Bovine Holding Patterns -- 10. Conclusion -- 11. Endnotes.

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## Sommario/riassunto

This book traces the contours of the symbiotic relationship between crop cultivation and cattle rearing in India by reading against the grain of several official accounts from the late colonial period to the 1980s. It also skillfully unpacks the multiple cultural expressions that revolve around cattle in India and the wider subcontinent to show how this domestic animal has greatly impacted political discourses in South Asia from colonial times, into the postcolonial period. The author begins by demonstrating the dependence between the nomadic cattle breeder and the settled cultivator, at the nexus of land-livestock-agriculture, as indicated in the writings of Sir Albert Howard, who espoused some of the most sophisticated ideas on integration, holism, and mixed farming in an era when agricultural research was marked by increasing specialisation and compartmentalisation. The book springboards with the views of colonial experts who worked at imperial science institutions but passionately voiced dissenting opinions due to their emotional investment in the lives of Indian peasants, of whom Howard was a leading light. The book presents Howard and his contemporaries' writings to then engage contemporary debates surrounding organic agriculture and climate change, tracing the path out of the treadmill of industrial agriculture and factory farming. In doing so, the book shows how, historically, animal rearing has been critically linked to livelihood strategies in the Indian subcontinent. At once a dispassionate reflection on the role played by cattle and water buffaloes in not just supporting farm operations in the agro-pastoral landscape, but also in contributing to millions of livelihoods in sustainable ways while fulfilling the animal protein in the Indian diet, the book presents contemporary lessons on development perspectives relating to sustainable and holistic agriculture. A rich and sweeping treatment of this aspect of environmental history in India that tackles the transformations prompted by the arrival of veterinary medicine, veterinary education and notions of scientific livestock management, the book is a rare read for historians, environmentalists, agriculturalists, development practitioners, and animal studies scholars with a particular interest in South Asia.

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