

5. The climate of the chief part of Hindoostan is that of the torrid zone, which among the mountains is rendered temperate by elevation. With the exception of a few sandy desert tracts, the soil is generally fertile.

6. The agriculture is imperfect, yet the produce is abundant. Rice is the chief article of food, but other grains are cultivated. Cotton, silk, sugar, opium, and indigo, are all extensively produced; also, coffee, pepper, cinnamon, &c.

7. The cotton manufactures have been long celebrated for their fineness and beauty. Silk is an important manufacture; and the shawls of Cashmere are unrivalled. The Hindoos excel in working gold and silver; and in cutting, polishing, and setting precious stones.

8. The inland trade is carried on by Banians, or Hindoo merchants, Armenians, and Parsees. The foreign commerce is in the hands of the English, Americans, &c. This country produces the finest diamonds in the world; for, though those of Brazil are of greater size, the diamonds of Golconda are superior in hardness and brilliancy. Gold, iron, tin, and zinc, are among the minerals.

9. The Hindoos vary in complexion from dark brown almost to white, with straight hair, and pleasing features. They are an indolent and spiritless race, excessively superstitious; and are described as being nearly destitute of moral honesty.

10. They are divided into four castes, or classes:—1. The Bramins or priests. 2. The Rajah-pootras, or soldiers. 3. Vaisyas, or merchants and farmers. 4. The Sudras, or labourers. These castes are forbidden to intermarry, or even to eat or drink together; and every succeeding generation must belong to the same class as their parents.

11. The religion of the Hindoos is a degrading system of paganism. Bramah is the supreme deity, and there are many millions of inferior divinities. They also worship the river Ganges, the cow, ape, and other animals. There are likewise in Hindoostan a number of Mahomedans, with some Christians, both native and European, and Jews.

12. Hindoostan is chiefly under the control of the British East India company. Its territory contains a population of about 88 millions; the tributary states 41 millions; total of the company's subjects 129 millions. To this must be added a million for Ceylon, which belongs to the crown. Total of British India, 130 millions. Of this vast multitude, the Europeans do not exceed 50,000. The independent states contain about 15 million inhabitants.

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4. What is said of Hindoostan? 5. The climate? 6. Agriculture? 7. Cotton manufactures, &c.? 8. Inland trade? Foreign commerce? Of diamonds? 9. Describe the Hindoos. 10. How are they divided? 11. Of religion? 12. What is said of the British East India Com.