



Influence on Indian Garments by Britishers

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ABSTRACT

The impact of the British Raj on Indian attire is an intriguing aspect of the cultural interchange between immigrants and native-born people. There is no doubt that the introduction of the British in India significantly altered popular culture as well as that of the aristocracy. The British and their distinctive dress regulations gave India a new fashion sense. Women wore dresses from the Victorian era, and males donned fitted shirts, trousers and suits. British fashion became linked to modernity, power, and advancement, much like its cultural values and identity. Respect and Resemblance: Indian elites, particularly those living in urban areas, admired and imitated British style "Memsahib" and "Gora Sahib".

INTRODUCTION:

Clothes is one of a person's basic requirements. Similar to food and shelter, clothing started out as a basic necessity and then developed into one of the most significant markers of cultural identity. The fact that mixing different cultures alters identity has always piqued the curiosity of costume historians. The ways in which ancient clothing and body art serve to express identity and ethnicity, convey social values involving gendered actions, and show social wealth and status are perhaps the most fascinating and rewarding aspects to study (Dr. Carroll, 2011.). In my research, I examined how British influence permanently altered Indian dress.

Early in the 20th century, the British colonised a sizable portion of the Indian Subcontinent, uniting it to create "India." India was a synthesis of the customs of the numerous princely states that had previously

existed. Everybody had their own classes, customs, beliefs, and attire, which was more regional and appropriate for the time period and culture in use. The period of Indian history can be broadly classified into the following categories from a historical perspective.

1. 2600–1800 BCE Indus Valley Civilization
2. 1700–600 BCE, the Vedic and Post-Vedic Period
3. From 320 BCE to 100 BCE, the Mauryan and Sunga Period
4. The Kushan Kings of the first century AD lived in the northern region of the Indian subcontinent.
5. The southern Satvahanas (first century AD)
6. The Chola, Chalukya, and Panda periods in the south and the Gupta period in the north. Indian history's "Golden Period" (4th to 8th Century CE)
7. The first Islamic king of the eighth century CE, Mohammed Bin Qasim, was an Arab general who conquered the western portion of the Indian subcontinent.
8. Mughal Rule firmly established — In the sixteenth century AD, the Rajputs, Marathas, and Ahom Republic were sovereign kingdoms that remained unconquerable by the Mughals and were engaged in perpetual warfare.

Studies indicate that the people of the Indus Valley civilization wore garments that were draped. The first documented accounts of costumes are from the post-Vedic period. This is mentioned in the Vedas, a collection of ancient Hindu texts. Again, we discover clothing that is draped. Three draped garments were identified by costume historians as being worn by both sexes: the upper garment, the Uttariya, and the kayabandh, which functioned as a belt to secure the bottom garment. No outward evidence of the same exists. However, a substantial amount of documented data suggests that these rectangular garments were worn by both sexes and were appropriately wrapped around them. The British Raj had an impact on current Indian attire, which is the subject of this essay. The process of becoming Indianized.

"The language of the government in India was not originally imposed to be English." Watson (1979). Similarly, foreign clothes were not at first required to be worn in England or accepted. The main topic of this study is how Indian clothing was altered in the contemporary age by the British Raj. How were the British garments worn by the Indians? Before the British, Persian was the official language and had a big impact on fashion. Fashion is a means of expressing cultural identity. Their attire evolved dramatically along with the

sociopolitical climate of the country. Early Raj paintings show how much the Indian emperors enjoyed accessorizing their western attire, even if Brahmins and commoners initially found it absurd.

Architecture is embodied in style. According to Sieve Wright (2007), "It's all about proportions" says Coco Chanel. As a result, in line with the prevailing belief following the, the that were made in India were also anglicized, as evidenced by the notable change in subject from lotuses to tulips and the distinctly Victorian style of illustration. "Most flowering trees are exhibiting flamboyant Baroque Curves by the start of the eighteenth century." Irwin J. and Brett K.B.2007.

In 1970

The history of the Indian subcontinent is known to have dated back around 5000 years. The earliest civilization, the Indus Valley Civilization, is whence the archaeological record of draped clothing originates. Excavations at several locations, including Harrapa and Mohen-jo-daro in modern-day Pakistan and India, have shown evidence of an urban settlement.

The Uttariya and Antariya can be draped in a variety of ways. The materials that were used most frequently were cotton and silk. Wool was used as well, even though it was thought to be impure. Cotton fabrics vary greatly in fineness or coarseness according to the status of the wearer. Over the many centuries that they were worn, the antariya and uttariya underwent minimal changes. During the Mauryan era, headdresses such as the Uttariya and Antariya are still worn. Even while traditional clothing has mostly endured, Greek garments have had a significant impact since Chandragupta married a Greek princess from the Greek Macedonian Court. During this period, Indian religious attire was also greatly influenced by Buddhism and Jainism. The Uttariya and Antariya can be draped in a variety of ways.

People would frequently take baths during the summer because of the heat; rectangular cotton cloth pieces were supple, breathable, easy to maintain, and multipurpose in every way. Magnificent silk materials were made, but they were not meant for everyday wear by the general public. The magnificent artistry on these flat textile pieces and the rise in riches occurred during the Gupta Empire, often recognized as the Golden Age of Indian history. Although stitched clothing like the Ghagra, a skirt-like item, and the Choli, a garment worn on the upper body by women, started to appear, most people still used the uttariya and antariya.



The establishment of Islamic rule in the eighth century AD profoundly changed mediaeval Indian attire and customs. This change is reflected in the unique architecture and paintings that feature contemporary attire. Art, architecture, and clothing have combined the aesthetic sensibilities of ancient Persia and India since the Mughal era. The majority of India's sewed apparel was influenced by Persian designs; leg garments, or pyjamas, took the role of antariyas and were available in a range of fits and styles, from extremely loose to extremely tight. The cut, style, and ornamentation of pyjamas for men and women varied. The uttariya remained, even with the inclusion of various tunics like Kurtas and angrakhas.

In search of spices and textiles, European explorers landed in India during sixteenth century. They were initially accepted as strangers and friends as well as business partners in the developing global economy, despite their seeming overdressing for the Indian environment. Indians did not truly distinguish between the various European nationalities; they viewed them all as traders. Sometimes the Indians would buy something from them, but they never thought to dress several layers of clothing. Gradually, the roles switched. The East India Company started to show more interest in nation-building than just business under Robert Clive's leadership.

Conclusion and Interpretation:

Fashion serves as a cultural identity representative. This was a cultural identity that was changing. The contemporary Indian was educated in convents, nationalistic, secular, and eager to belong to INDIA rather than any particular state, religion, or culture. Due to this cultural transformation, India came unified as a nation; they spoke English and wore trousers. Women had curly hair and wore Indian sarees with foreign shirts and petticoats. The phrases "blouse" and "petticoat" are now present in all Indian languages due to British influence. As far as we know, despite their English ancestry, no Indian feels cut off from them at this point because they have assimilated.

1. The elites dressed in more contemporary British fashion, making a statement.
2. It did away with caste divisions; any Indian wearing western clothes was perceived as bright and forward-thinking, irrespective of caste or religion (x, y, or z).
3. Women felt more relaxed and modern.
4. According to author Toolika Gupta during her research, attendants or servants were expected to put on upper garments like coats and shirts and to retain.

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