Twitter Thread by Ankur ■■

Ankur ■■
@GaikwadAnkur

[1]

A #thread on Col Tod, the famed historian on Rajput history. His work 'Annals & Antiquities of Rajasthan' is an important reference for beginners to Rajput history.

In this thread, we look at the background of his anti-Maratha atrocity literature.

#Decolonisation #History


COLONEL JAMES TOD.
(By permission of Lt.-Col. C. D. Blunt-Mackenzie, R.A.)
Frontispiece.

[2]

1799: After a Training course at Royal Military Academy in Woolwich, Tod proceeded to Bengal.

1800, Jan 9: Tod posted as a cadet to the second European Regiment at Kolkata. [This was the period sometime before the

2nd Anglo-Maratha War (1803-5)]

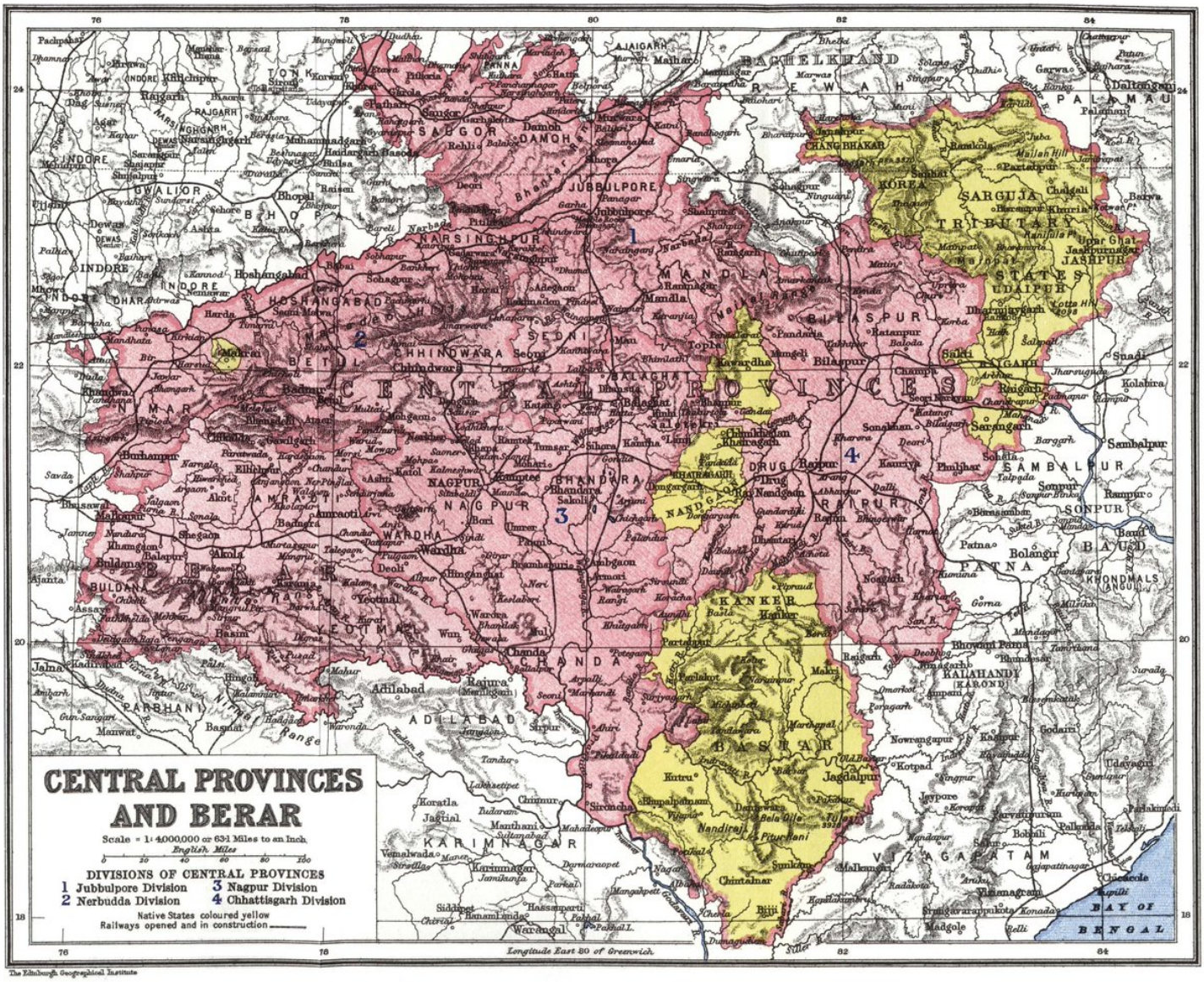
[3]
1803-5: Anglo-Maratha War; British victory

1805: Tod assisted the British Resident (diplomat) at Scindia's court.

In the next ~8-9 years, Tod was constantly on the move through Malwa & Rajputana. He gained immense information on its geography, history & politics.



[4]
1815: Col Tod submitted a map of Central India to Gov-Gen. Hastings. This map became a crucial strategic tool in the British campaigns against the Marathas that had begun in 1814.



[5]
In 1814–15, the British continued operations against the Marathas. ■Tod's map, his personal geographical, historical knowledge, and current condition of the Marathas & associated groups ■proved immediately invaluable.

[6]
Before the start of the Third Anglo-Maratha War in 1817, Col Tod started overseeing the British *intelligence department*. He provided plans for possible military campaigns of British vs Marathas.

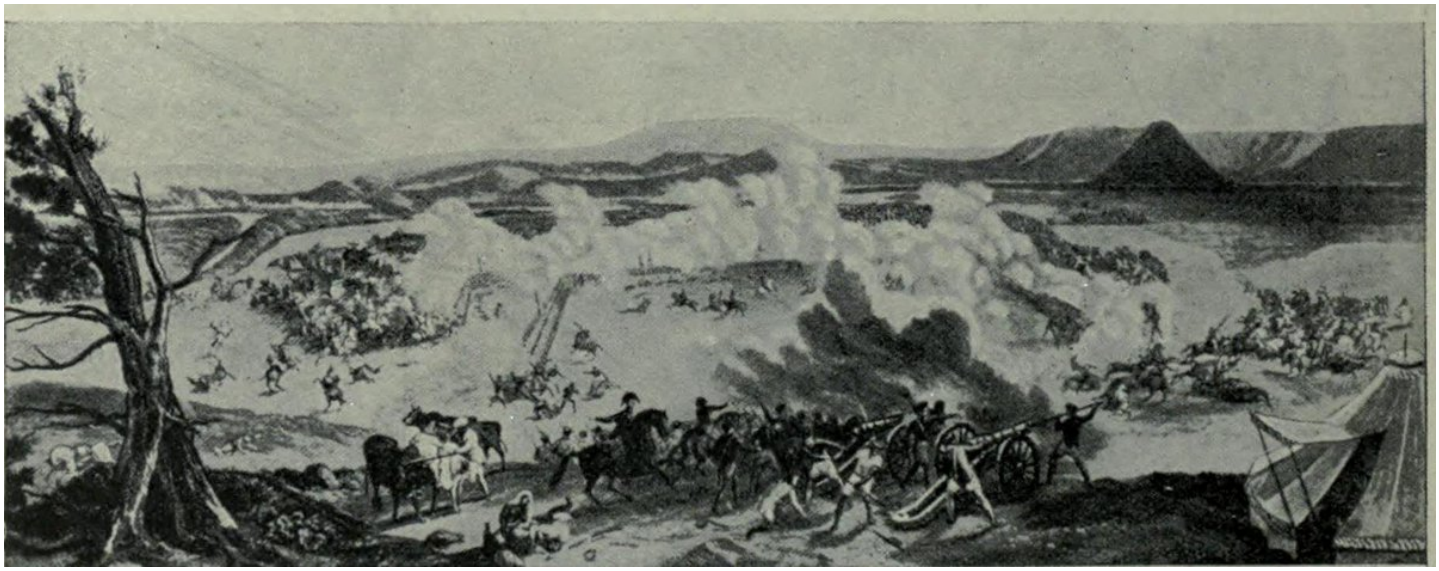
Intelligence dept. is responsible for wartime propaganda too.

#InfoWars

[7]
1818: The Third Anglo-Maratha War secured final victory for British over the Maratha forces that had been the major challenge to British supremacy in Northern & Central India.

Doubtlessly, Col Tod played a role here.

(Battle of Khadki, 1817 ■)



[8]

Thus, we see a *direct* anti-Maratha role played by Col Tod during his time between the 2nd & 3rd Anglo-Maratha Wars.

How much should we trust his atrocity literature?

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