

From: **LORD SUDELEY** FSA

Letter to the Daily Telegraph

Heading: Film on Indira Gandhi.

Sir,

Thank you for your report on 30 November about the film to be made in Hollywood by Bollywood on Indira Gandhi. What went wrong for the British Raj that this woman had to exist? India was the jewel in the crown of the British Empire, and as such is justly celebrated by Rudyard Kipling.

Firstly, India is a continent with a great variety of different languages. We taught them English to give them a new sense of common identity which otherwise they would not have possessed. They took advantage of that as a tool to build up their position in the world and at the same time, to rise against us.

Secondly, Prime Minister Lord Salisbury was quite right to say education for the native Indians should be confined to the arts and crafts. He warned that to give any Indians a Western liberal education would create a discontented elite. Such an elite was created, and that elite threw the British out of India.

Also in his autobiography Sir Oswald Mosley said a further reason for our losing India was our bad manners to the natives out there. Even Queen Victoria was not amused.

Before Indian Independence the Indian Princes, all of them Moslems, flourished under our Imperial system of Paramountcy to leave them with a considerable degree of their own independence. Hyderabad, for example, had its own currency. After Indian Independence Mrs Gandhi treated these old Indian Princes with a quite exceptional degree of unfairness.

My first wife nee Elizabeth Keppel is through her father the granddaughter of the Earl of Albermarle. On her mother's side she is the granddaughter of the Marquess of Londonderry who might have become Viceroy of India but in lieu preferred to take up another political appointment. Before Mrs Gandhi assassination in 1984 Lord Londonderry's daughter Lady Helen Sundieus-Hill lunched with her. Helen said to Mrs Gandhi: "My father could have had India, but he did not want it'.

Yours

Sudeley