

Obituaries

M. ATHAR ALI 1925–1998

On July 7, in Aligarh, India, one of the world's top scholars of medieval South Asian history succumbed to liver cancer after a three-month illness.

M. Athar Ali earned his doctorate at Aligarh Muslim University in 1961, under the supervision of Satish Chandra. He published his revised dissertation, "The Mughal Nobility Under Aurangzeb," in 1966, and it was soon acknowledged as the definitive study of India's late medieval ruling class. His meticulous analysis of original source materials set a high standard which few subsequent scholars have been able to match, and he was known as a stern but friendly critic of both Indian and non-Indian colleagues in the same subfield.

Also the author of several dozen articles on medieval India, the comparative history of Islamicate empires, the political implications of secularism, and topical aspects of medieval and early modern societies from Spain to Indonesia, Athar Ali worked in recent decades toward an encyclopedia of the Mughal aristocracy in two volumes, the first of which appeared in 1985 as *Apparatus of Empire: Awards of Ranks, Offices and Titles to the Mughal Nobility (1574–1658)*.

He served as secretary of the Indian History Congress for three years in the 1970s, and was elected president of its medieval section in 1972.

Numerous visiting professorships included repeated visits to Cambridge University, London's School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of Virginia, the University of Tokyo, and Leiden University; he was also a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution for one year. He participated widely in seminars, invited talks, and professional meetings on four continents, including those of the Association for Asian Studies. Writing prodigiously, always in longhand and often in trying circumstances, he left a remarkable legacy of productivity. His career and personality were marked by rigorous discipline, a ready sense of humor, a strong advocacy of secular values, and an energetic collegiality with even those colleagues with whose interpretations he vehemently disagreed.

He is survived by his widow, Feroza Khatoon, and a son, Taimur, an established research chemist.

RICHARD B. BARNETT
University of Virginia

WARREN S. HUNSBERGER 1911–1997

Warren S. Hunsberger, 86, economist, Asia specialist, and professor emeritus at American University, died December 22 after a fall at his Washington, D.C. home. He had lived in Washington for most of the past 37 years, except for assignments abroad in Japan and Malaysia.

Professor Hunsberger was born in Philadelphia in 1911 and received his A.B. from Yale University in 1933. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Yale in 1937, when the economics field was still in its infancy.