## Negotiating Mughal Law

Based on a completely reconstructed archive of Persian, Hindi and Marathi documents, Nandini Chatterjee provides a unique micro-history of a family of landlords in Malwa, central India, who flourished in the region from at least the sixteenth until the twentieth century. By exploring their daily interactions with imperial elites as well as villagers and marauders, Chatterjee offers a new history of the Mughal Empire from below, far from the glittering courts of the emperors and nobles, but still dramatic and filled with colourful personalities. From this perspective, we see war, violence, betrayal, enterprise, romance and disappointment, but we also see a quest for law, justice, rights and righteousness. A rare story of Islamic law in a predominantly non-Muslim society, this is also an exploration of the peripheral regions of the Maratha empire and a neglected princely state under British colonial rule. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

NANDINI CHATTERJEE is Associate Professor of History at the University of Exeter. She has published widely on the British and Mughal empires, including her book *The Making of Indian Secularism: Empire, Law and Christianity,* 1830–1950 (2011).

# Negotiating Mughal Law

A Family of Landlords across Three Indian Empires

Nandini Chatterjee University of Exeter



### **CAMBRIDGE** UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

#### www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108486033 DOI: 10.1017/9781108623391

© Nandini Chatterjee 2020

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781108623391 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.

Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108623391

First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Chatterjee, Nandini, 1976- author.

Title: Negotiating Mughal law : a family of landlords across three Indian empires / Nandini Chatterjee, University of Exeter.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY, USA : Cambridge University Press, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019051903 (print) | LCCN 2019051904 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108486033 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108623391 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Law – Mogul Empire – History. | Law – India – History – 19th century. | Law – India – History – 20th century. | Landlord and tenant – India – Malwa (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, India) – History. | Law – India – Islamic influences.

Classification: LCC KNS130.5 .C47 2020 (print) | LCC KNS130.5 (ebook) |

DDC 349.54/30903-dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2019051903

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2019051904

ISBN 978-1-108-48603-3 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.