



Flora's Empire: British Gardens In India

By Eugenia W. Herbert

Allen Lane / Dorling Kindersley (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 2013. Hardcover. Book Condition: New New. A deeply researched yet wonderfully readable history of Britains garden imperialism in India. In this deeply researched yet wonderfully readable history of Britains garden imperialism in India, Eugenia W. Herbert draws on a wealth of personal accounts and period illustrations, many of them little known, to track the evolution of imperial ideas of governance through colonial gardens. The British created gardens in India not just out of simple nostalgia or homesickness, but also to put a visible stamp of civilization on an alien, untamed land. Colonial gardens changed over time, from the garden houses of the East India Companys nabobs modelled on English country estates and the hill station gardens where English flowers could be coaxed into bloom to the neat flowerbeds, gravel walks, well-trimmed lawns and hedges of the Victorian sahibs. Every Government House, Civil Lines bungalow and cantonment was carefully landscaped to reflect current ideals of an ordered society. The British also made India part of the global network of botanical exploration and plant-collecting, and developed tea gardens and opium-poppy plantations to fill the coffers of the Empire. More than sixty years...



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