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**Evolution of statistics in India.** (English) Zbl 0927.01015

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The authors describe the development of statistics in India from the fourth century B. C., when (apparently, in some regions) detailed data were collected on agriculture, economics, population; to the British period, when, in 1816, a comprehensive report covering ca. 15 mln people in the spirit of Staatswissenschaft was compiled, and when, in 1881, decennial censuses also including information on religion, geography and sociology have begun; and to the present days. The role of the Indian Statistical Institute and of Mahalanobis is emphasized, the main area of theoretical and applied statistical work as well as education in statistics and training of foreign students during the latest decades are described. The main impression (not unexpected) is that, as far as statistics is concerned, India is an advanced nation. The list of references is impressive but not at all comprehensive; even a paper of one of the authors on Mahalanobis is not mentioned here.

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