

Contents

| | |
|----------------|----|
| <i>Preface</i> | ix |
|----------------|----|

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | xiii |
|-------------------------|------|

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1 | Is 'Indian Civilization' a Myth? | 1 |
| 2 | Back to the Future: Why the West Rules the World | 11 |
| 3 | Secularism and the Happy Indian Village | 20 |
| 4 | Indian Political History and Ramachandra Guha | 32 |
| 5 | V.S. Naipaul's Pride and Prejudices | 46 |
| 6 | The Booker and 'India Shining' | 59 |
| 7 | Thugs, Thuggee, and Things Thuggish | 76 |
| 8 | What, Exactly, is an Empire? | 94 |
| 9 | Márquez, Hemingway, and the Cult of Power | 108 |
| 10 | Do Civilizations Suffer from Altitude Sickness? | 120 |
| 11 | Churchill and the Great Man Theory of History | 133 |
| 12 | Fiction, Islam, and <i>The Satanic Verses</i> | 149 |
| 13 | The Global Market for Indian History | 164 |
| 14 | India's Discovery of Vasco da Gama | 180 |
| 15 | Philanthropy, Warren Buffett, and the Bhagavad Gita | 191 |

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 16 | 9/11, Islam, and the USA | 196 |
| 17 | 'D. School' Days | 201 |
| 18 | An Ambiguous Parisian | 211 |
| 19 | A Lisbon Summer | 227 |
| 20 | Across Three Continents: An Interview | 242 |