

Subimal Dutt had three remarkable careers in colonial and postcolonial India: Working on top positions as a member of the Indian Civil Service under British rule in 1947 he joined independent India's Foreign Service, where he became ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union as well as Foreign Secretary. Ten years after his retirement in 1972 he returned as India's first ambassador to Bangladesh. A political biography about this career bureaucrat and diplomat is going to offer new insights in the internal mechanism of Indian foreign policy under the Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. Dutt's service under such different masters is also likely to answer questions about the loyalty of South Asia's top men in the second row. Finally the seemingly contradiction between strong roots in Bengal and Hinduism and a professional life demanding 'western' thinking and leading him to relevant positions abroad a number of times is going to throw a light on the changes of the world view of a generation, who grew up in a British dominated surrounding but later on was to represent independent India worldwide. The project is based on newly available sources, including Dutt's diaries and files of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs