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### **Queen Victoria's Indian Jubilees**

That Victoria's Golden and Diamond Jubilees of 1887 and 1897 were widely celebrated throughout the British Empire is well-known. Those celebrations, particularly those within the British Isles, have also been the subject of much scholarly attention. Rather less however has been said about the celebrations in India. The principal means by which her Indian subjects marked these anniversaries was by loyal addresses submitted to the queen-empress. The paradox is that they did so at a time when the British regime in India was highly unpopular. Were these addresses manufactured from above in an 'orientalist invention of tradition'? Or were they inspired more by media hype? Taylor conceded that both these explanations played a part, but argued that the process was a much more complicated one. Since 1858 there had been considerable interest in India in Queen Victoria as an individual. Many Indians thought that she was more sympathetic towards their concerns than most of her colonial administrators. And, in this, they were not entirely wrong, for Victoria, who lacked a sense that the Indians were racially inferior, was indeed more liberal than most British officials in India. The problem in 1887 and 1897 was therefore not creating respect for the queen but rather ensuring that any celebrations did not become coded criticisms of those ruling in her name. The government in Calcutta was not so much manufacturing loyalty as controlling and containing it. **AB**