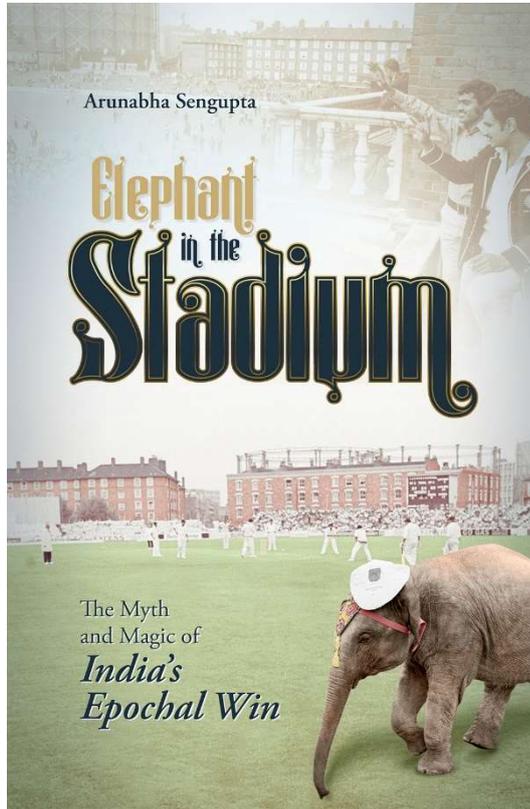




Title information



Elephant in the Stadium

The Myth and Magic of India's Epochal Win

By Arunabha Sengupta

Key features

- Blends exciting cricketing action with sensitive historical and contemporary topics — decolonisation, the Indo-Pakistani War, immigration and race relations
- Examines important aspects of the history of British India, the Empire and its illusions
- Explores the contrasts between Anglo-centric and global views – in literature, history and cricket
- Features interviews with Ted Dexter, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mike Gatting, Karsan Ghavri, Rahul Mankad and others
- Includes interviews with writers and academics such as UCLA historian Vinay Lal, David Frith, Mihir Bose and Qamar Ahmed and a foreword by British-Indian journalist and author Mihir Bose
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

India's first Test series win in England in 1971 was epic and magical, with a resonance far beyond the scorecards. The cricket was riveting, with twists and turns right up to the last ball, and the excitement was garnished by a baby elephant parading the outfield of The Oval on the final day. The victory had immense significance for a country that had gained independence from Britain less than 25 years earlier and was tottering on the brink of a history-defining war. In the background were the British illusions of moral and cultural superiority even as decolonisation went through its final phase. The Indians often accepted these illusions as they struggled for the most basic necessities of life, battling against poverty, malnutrition and illiteracy. Thus, the victory provided a major equaliser for the national psyche. *Elephant in the Stadium* examines the many reasons for the myth and magic that still surround the triumph, including the complex historical relationship between Britain and India.

Details

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