

1118. Conti divides India into three: (1) From Persia to the Indus (*i.e.* Mekran and Sind); (2) From the Indus to the Ganges; (3) All that is beyond Ganges (Indo-China and China).

In a map of Andrea Bianco at Venice (No. 12) the divisions are—(1) India Minor, extending westward to the Persian Gulf; (2) India Media, “containing 14 regions and 12 nations;” and (3) India Superior, containing 8 regions and 24 nations.

Marino Sanuto places immediately east of the Persian Gulf “India Minor *quae et Ethiopia.*”

John Marignolli again has three Indias: (1) Manzi or India Maxima (S. China); (2) Mynibar (Malabar); (3) Maabar. The last two with Guzerat are Abulfeda's divisions, exclusive of Sind.

We see that there was a traditional tendency to make out *Three Indies*, but little concord as to their identity. With regard to the expressions *Greater* and *Lesser* India, I would recall attention to what has been said about Greater and Lesser Java (*supra*, chap. ix. note 1). Greater India was originally intended, I imagine, for the *real* India, what our maps call Hindustan. And the threefold division, with its inclination to place one of the Indies in Africa, I think may have originated with the Arab *Hind*, *Sind*, and *Zinj*. I may add that our vernacular expression “the Indies” is itself a vestige of the twofold or threefold division of which we have been speaking.

The partition of the Indies made by King Sebastian of Portugal in 1571, when he constituted his eastern possessions into three governments, recalled the old division into Three Indias. The first, INDIA, extending from Cape Gardafui to Ceylon, stood in a general way for Polo's India Major; the second MONOMOTAPA, from Gardafui to Cape Corrientes (India Tertia of Jordanus); the third MALACCA, from Pegu to China (India Minor). (*Faria y Souza*, II. 319.)

Polo's knowledge of India, *as a whole*, is so little exact that it is too indefinite a problem to consider which are the three kingdoms that he has *not* described. The ten which he has described appear to be—(1) Maabar, (2) Coilum, (3) Comari, (4) Eli, (5) Malabar, (6) Guzerat, (7) Tana, (8) Canbaet, (9) Semenat, (10) Kesma-coran. On the one hand, this distribution in itself contains serious misapprehensions, as we have seen, and on the other there must have been many dozens of kingdoms in India Major instead of 13, if such states as Comari, Hili, and Somnath were to be separately counted. Probably it was a common saying that there were 12 kings in India, and the fact of his having himself described so many, which he knew did not nearly embrace the whole, may have made Polo convert this into 13. Jordanus says: “In this Greater India are 12 idolatrous kings and more;” but his Greater India is much more extensive than Polo's. Those which he names are *Molebar* (probably the kingdom of the Zamorin of Calicut), *Singuyli* (Cranganor), *Columbum* (Quilon), *Molephatan* (on the east coast, uncertain, see above pp. 333, 391), and *Sylen* (Ceylon), *Java*, three or four kings, *Telenc* (Polo's Mutfli), *Maratha* (Deogir), *Batigala* (in Canara), and in *Champa* (apparently put for all Indo-China) many kings. According to Firishta there were about a dozen *important* principalities in India at the time of the Mahomedan conquest of which he mentions *eleven*, viz.: (1) *Kanauj*, (2) *Mirat* (or Delhi), (3) *Mahavan* (Mathra), (4) *Lahore*, (5) *Malwa*, (6) *Guzerat*, (7) *Ajmir*, (8) *Gwalior*, (9) *Kalinjar*, (10) *Multan*, (11) *Ujjain*. (*Ritter*, V. 535.) This omits Bengal, Orissa, and all the Deccan. *Twelve* is a round number which constantly occurs in such statements. Ibn Batuta tells us there were 12 princes in Malabar alone. Chinghiz, in Sanang-Setzen, speaks of his vow to subdue the *twelve* kings of the human race (91). Certain figures in a temple at Anhilwara in Guzerat are said by local tradition to be the effigies of the *twelve* great kings of Europe. (*Todd's Travels*, p. 107.) The King of Arakan used to take the title of “Lord of the 12 provinces of Bengal” (*Reinaud, Inde*, p. 139.)

The *Masalak-al-Absar* of Shihabuddin Dimishki, written some forty years after Polo's book, gives a list of the provinces (twice twelve in number) into which India was then considered to be divided. It runs—(1) *Delhi*, (2) *Deogir*, (3) *Multan*, (4) *Kehran* (*Kohram*, in Sirhind Division of Province of Delhi?), (5) *Saman*