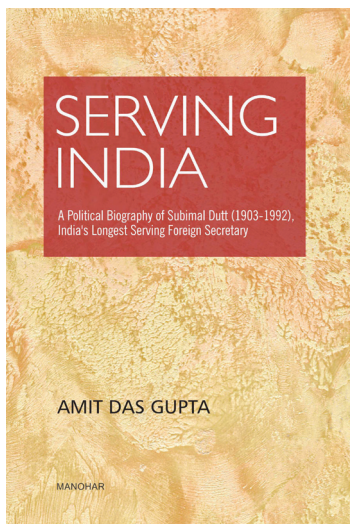




Venue

Leibniz-Zentrum
Moderner Orient

Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Invitation

Wednesday, 28 June 2017, 4 pm

Book Launch

Amit Das Gupta – *Serving India: A Political Biography of Subimal Dutt (1903-1992), India's Longest Serving Foreign Secretary*

Book Launch with author **Amit Das Gupta** (Universität der Bundeswehr München)

This first academic biography of an Indian civil servant in the 20th century covers the nearly nine decades of the life of Subimal Dutt, best known as India's longest serving Foreign Secretary. It tells the story how a Bengali village boy had one of the most distinguished careers of his generation without ever forgetting his roots. Struggling all his life between professional ambition and deep spirituality, Dutt never transformed into one of those 'brown Englishmen' so typical of South Asia's civil servants, but remained a strictly impartial, straightforward and incorruptible officer of – as he formulated it himself – the 'vernacular type'. Intellect and discipline brought him into the Indian Civil Service and soon to Delhi, where he excelled as an outstanding administrator and came in touch with foreign relations. After an interlude as Indian Agent in Malaya, as Bengal's Secretary for Agriculture he held a most important posting during WWII. Working closely with Nehru in Dutt's capacity as Commonwealth and later Foreign Secretary over twelve years, he became one of the most influential advisors of India's first Prime Minister. His career seemed to come to an end as Secretary to the President and later Vigilance Commissioner, but in 1972 he was appointed India's first High Commissioner in Bangladesh, building bridges between the country of his birth and the one he had chosen in 1947. Though Dutt made it a point to be nearly invisible throughout his career, thereafter he did everything possible to be rediscovered posthumously.

Amit Das Gupta is a senior researcher at the Universität der Bundeswehr München. His first book dealt with West Germany's South Asia Policy in the years between 1949 and 1986. He has published on international relations in the 20th century, with a focus on Germany, European integration and South Asia. Currently he is engaged in research on the influence of I.C.S officers on Indian foreign policy.