The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company

During 200 years the East India Company grew from a loose association of Elizabethan tradesmen into “the grandest society of merchants in the universe.” As a commercial enterprise it came to control half the world’s trade and as a political entity it administered an embryonic empire.

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company

The Honourable Company was remembered, if at all, only as an anomalous administrative service, and that was indeed what it had become in the early nineteenth century. But before that, for all of 200 years, its endeavours were seen as having been primarily commercial, often inglorious, and almost never “honourable.”

The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company

The Honourable Company was seized by a group of men who played on a twelve-hole course at North Berwick in 1744 by a group of men who played on a twelve-hole course at North Berwick in 1744.