

Challenges in Retaining and Benefitting from Ancient Heritage

Individuals/ groups with absolute powers invariably decided to provide their own narrative of history to those that they ruled. Lenin, for example, had Russian history written from his perspective and when Putin came to power, he had the history rewritten from his perspective. Moguls and the British did the same in the case of India. They created a narrative that the existing knowledgebase in India was inferior to the knowledgebase they brought and at times destroyed the Indian knowledgebase. Over time, colonized individuals started to believe in the ruler's narrative, and some of that inferiority complex has stayed in some countries even decades after gaining independence. As a result, it took decades to trust the domestic knowledge base and benefit from it. This brings the question of the need for studying one's past and learn from it about the part that is still relevant and useful.