How did Western imperialism shape the developing world? In *Imperialism and the Developing World*, Atul Kohli tackles this question by analyzing British and American influence on Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America from the age of the British East India Company to the most recent U.S. war in Iraq. He argues that both Britain and the U.S. expanded to enhance their national economic prosperity, and shows how Anglo-American expansionism hurt economic development in poor parts of the world. In this lecture, Professor Kohli revisits the East India Company’s rule in India so as to generate a broader understanding of the motives, mechanisms, and the impact of imperialism. The main motive that drove East India Company’s rule in India was the extraction of economic resources for private and public gain. The central mechanism of rule was coercion. And the evidence that the British benefited at the expense of India is unequivocal. The chapter being discussed supports the argument that the taproot of imperialism was the search for national economic prosperity and the impact on the poor parts of the world was decisively negative.

12:00 - 1:30 PM | LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED