

Analyzing the 1918 issues of Young India magazine

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Introduction

The India Home Rule League, based in New York, lobbied for India's independence in the U.S.

The Young India magazine was their official publication, launched in 1918.

Materials

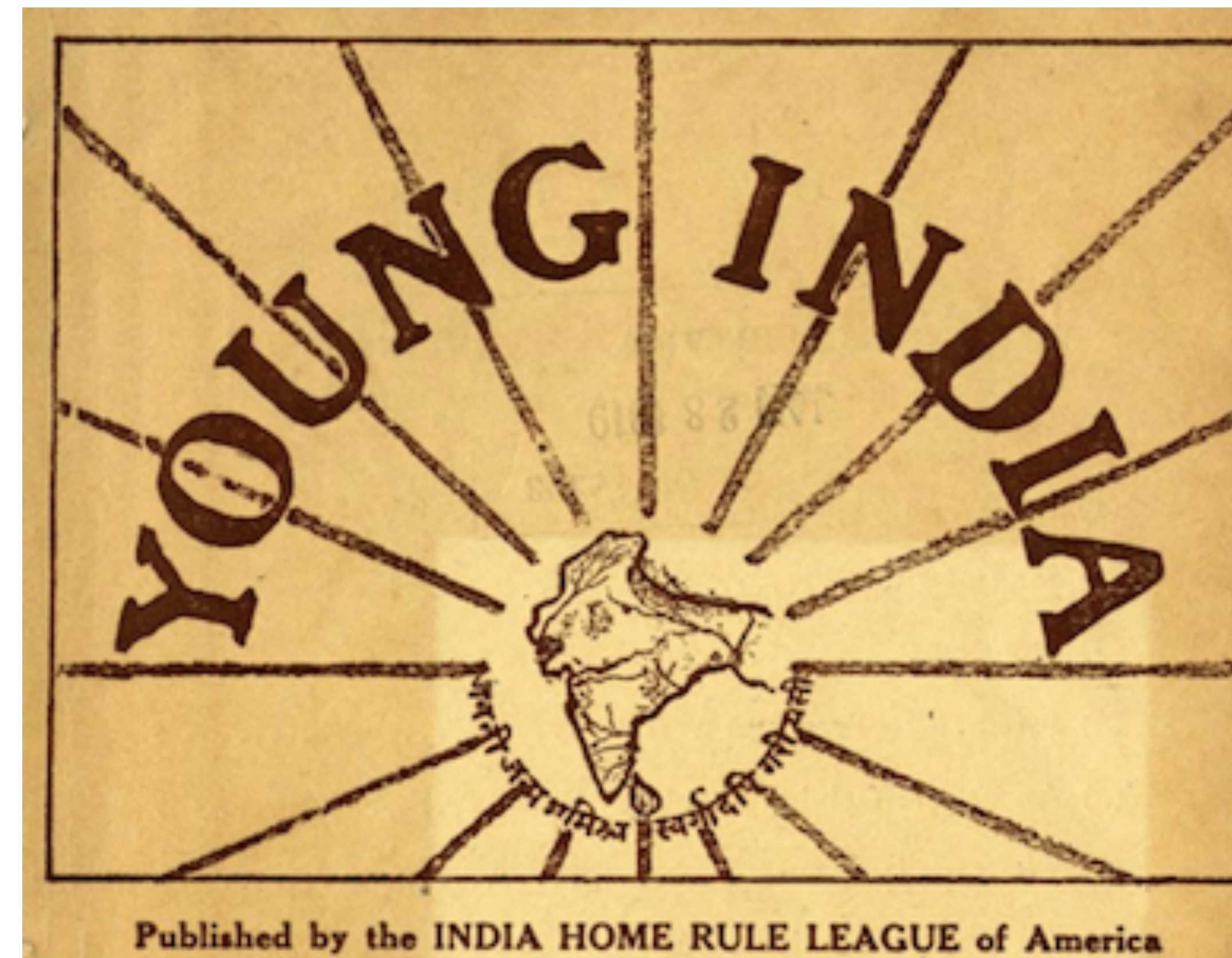
Digital copies of the magazine were downloaded from the South Asian American Digital Archives.

They were run through OCR to make them machine-readable, and the text was analyzed using topic modelling.

Main Topics

Young India sought to introduce India to their American audience, while trying to drum up support for independence. They did this by focusing on:

- Explaining certain Indian culture and customs
- Appealing to American ideals of democracy and freedom
- Detailing how British rule had mismanaged India, with statistics on things like famines, the economy etc;
- Speaking about India's history as a major world power



Conclusions

These early issues of Young India magazine took a varied editorial approach.

They needed to be interesting to read, apart from advocating for their cause.

The topics selected show a magazine gently introducing the idea of India as an independent country, while using measured economic arguments against British rule – something that would appeal to American sensibilities.

Source

The Young India magazine is available on the SAADA website: saada.org

Tools used:

WGET – for download
Tesseract – for OCR
Topic Modeling tool

Further information

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