The present work has been undertaken not only to provide an adequate treatment of the position of the sudras in ancient times, but also to evaluate their modern characterizations, either based on insufficient data, or inspired by reformist or anti-reformist motives. Here an attempt has been made to present a connected and systematic account of the various developments in the position of the sudras down to circa A.D. 600. Since the sudras were regarded as the laboring class, in this study particular attention has been paid to the investigation of their material conditions has been paid to their economic and social relations with the members of the higher varnas. This has naturally involved the study of the position of slaves, with whom the sudras were considered identical. The untouchables are also theoretically placed in the category of sudras, and hence their origin and position has also been discussed in some detail.

An in-depth analysis of the interdependence between the class structure and the Vedic and Brahmanical form of religion in ancient India.

This book is a concise collection of lectures which discuss the nature of early Indian society during the mid-first millennium BC and relate it to the ancient Indian historical tradition in its earliest forms. It also looks at the particular character of social formations, their genesis, and continuity as part of the later Indian social landscape. Examining the social and political formations of the period, this volume analyses the transformation of lineage-based societies into state formations. It considers the migration and arrival of the monarchs in the middle Ganga valley, where the evolution of these societies resulted in the formation of a state. It provides insights into environmental influences on settlements, the particularities of caste, the role of rituals, and the interaction of ideology with these changes. The volume presents an account of the interplay of a range of variables in state formation.

This book uses a historical and theoretical focus to examine the key of issues of the Enlightenment, Orientalism, concepts of identity and difference, and the contours of different modernities in relation to both local and global shaping forces, including the spread of capitalism. The contributors present eight in-depth studies and a substantial theoretical introduction, utilizing primary and secondary sources in Turkish, Farsi, Chinese, not to mention English, French and German in the effort to engage materials and cultural perspectives from diverse regions. It provides a critical attempt to think through the potentialities and limitations of area-studies and 'civilizational' approaches to the production of knowledge about the modern world, and the often obscured relationship between the fragment and the whole, or the particular and universal. The book is an intervention in one of the most fundamental debates confronting the social science and humanities, namely how to understand global and local historical processes as interconnected developments affecting human actors. From Orientalism to Postcolonialism will be of interest to academicians and postgraduate students in Cultural and Postcolonial Studies and Asian studies and Middle Eastern studies.

Perspectives on Indian Society
India is a hierarchical society. Whether in North India or South India, Hindu or Muslim, urban or village, virtually all things, people, and social groups are ranked according to various essential qualities. Although India is a political democracy, notions of complete equality are seldom evident in daily life. Societal hierarchy is evident in caste groups, amongst individuals, and in family and kinship groups. Castes are primarily associated with Hinduism, but caste-like groups also exist among Muslims, Indians, Christians, and other religious communities. Within most villages or towns, everyone knows the relative rankings of each locally represented caste, and behaviour is constantly shaped by this knowledge. Individuals are also ranked according to their wealth and power. For example, some powerful people, or “big men,” sit confidently on chairs, while “little men” come before them to make requests, either standing or squatting not presuming to sit beside a man of high status as an equal. Hierarchy plays an important role within families and kinship groupings also, where men outrank women of similar age, and senior relatives outrank junior relatives. Formal respect is accorded to family members—for example, in northern India, a daughter-in-law shows deference to her husband, to all senior in-laws, and to all daughters of the household. Siblings, too, recognize age differences, with younger siblings addressing older siblings by respectful terms rather than by name. The book is a must for sociology and anthropology teachers, NGOs, researchers and students. Contents: The Unique Caste System in Hindu Society Hallmarks of Hindu Society Rural Social System Modern Status of the Caste System Economic and Political Systems of Society Religion and Society Indian Society and Modernization Feminism, Tradition and Modernity The Pressure to Modernize and Globalize Culture and Economic Development Modernization to Globalization

A Single-Volume Study Of Ancient Indian History Delineating The Various Facets, Both Political And Cultural, And Incorporating The Fruits Of Recent Researches That Have Abundantly Appeared Since 1950, Has Not Been Attempted Before. Author Has Tried To Maintain A Delicate Balance Between Political History And Social, Economic And Cultural History Of Ancient India. The Book Covers The Pre-Historic India, The Vedic Age, The Post-Vedic Civilization, North India In The Sixth Century B.C. It Also Explains New Religious Movements And Their Socio-Economic Background, Maurya Age, Political Disintegration And Foreign Invasions. The Gupta Empire, The Prominence Of North Under Harshavaradana And Its Eclipse, Bengal Under The Palas And The Senas, Dynasties Of North India, Arabs And Turks In India, Indias Intercourse With The Outside World, Have Been Discussed In Depth. History Of Deccan And South India, Hithero Not Given Due Weigtage And Culture And Civilization Of Ancient India In All Its Variegated Hues, Have Received Due Attention. Some New Topics Like Espionage, Slavery, Guilds, Urbanisation, Feudalism And Science And Technology In Ancient India, Have Been Incorporated To Make The Book As Uptodate As Possible. Apart From Meeting The Requirements Of Undergraduate And Postgraduate Students Of Indian Universities, The Book Will Serve As A Useful Guide To Candidates For Civil Service Examination (Both Preliminary And Main).
The history and culture of ancient India is rich and complex. However, most history classes only touch on the most prominent aspects of ancient Indian culture, such as Hinduism. Readers experience the full breadth of this ancient society through detailed text, insightful quotes from historians, and fascinating sidebars. Vivid photographs and historical images are included to enhance the reading experience. From the lives of powerful historical figures to the stories of mythological heroes, ancient India comes to life in a way that strongly supplements standard social studies curricula.

Human Expeditions pays tribute to Trigger’s immense legacy by bringing together cutting edge work from internationally recognized and emerging researchers inspired by his example.

This book is a close study of the Ṛṣādharmacarvan which situates it within its context in the great Sanskrit epic the Mahabhṛṭa and within Indian political and social thought, and explores the relationship of its didacticism to the broader literary context of the Mahabhṛṭa.

The present work is an attempt to ease out the much stressed preparation of UPSC Civil services Examination. The Book is authored by Mr. Maniram Sharma, covering three topics of General Studies 1 viz. Post Independence consolidation and reorganisation, Indian Society and Effects of Globalisation. The present trends of the Mains GS papers require comprehensive understanding of the topics with detailed elaboration because each question demands different aspects of the same topic. With the same issue in mind, every topic has detailed elaboration dwelling on varied aspects.

Besides, to ease the preparation, ten solved questions have been appended to give a cursory glance as to how approach the questions in diverse perspective. The contents of the e-book are regularly updated with newer dimensions to cope up with the requirement of IAS examination.

This book appears in English translation more than a quarter of a century after its first appearance in Bengal. The lucid and scholarly translation from the original Bangla Hindu Samajer Goran has been done by Andre Betelle. Prof. Betelle’s introduction analyses the qualities of Bose’s mind and work, especially as illustrated in this book and his preface to this revised edition enriches this valuable study. The author has undertaken an ambitious task in which he has attempted to identify the organising principles of Hindu society, the factors which ensured its continuity for centuries, and the forces by which it is ultimately weakened. This book is impressive in its design. It brings together, within a single framework, approaches which are ordinarily practised separately by ethnographers, Indologists and social historians.

When the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assumed power in India in 1998 as the largest party of the National Democratic Alliance, it sought to implement its prioritized educational reforms. Under the BJP rule, a reorganization of the National Council of Educational Research and Training occurred, and in 2002 four new history textbooks were published. This book examines the new textbooks which were introduced, considering them to be integral to the BJP’s political agenda. It analyses the ways in which their narrative and explanatory frameworks defined and invoked Hindu identity. Employing the concept of decontextualization, the author argues that notions of Hindu cultural similarity were conveyed, particularly as the textbooks direct their attention to social, geographical and temporal contexts of their approaches to Indian history. The book shows that decontextualism to the textbooks’ emphasis on similarity is a systematic backgrounding of any references to internal lines of division within the Hindu community.

A comparison through earlier textbooks, it sheds light on the contested nature of history writing in India, especially in terms of nation building and identity construction. This issue is also highly relevant in India today due to the electoral success of the BJP in 2014, and the efforts of the Hindu nationalist organization Vishwa Hindu Parishad to construct a coherent Hinduism. Arguing that the textbooks operate according to the BJP’s ideology of Hindu cultural nationalism, this book will be of interest to academics in the field of South Asian studies, contemporary history, the uses of history, identity politics and Hindu nationalism.


This book is a substantially modified and enlarged version of the author’s “Ancient India: An Introductory Outline” (Delhi, 1977) and surveys the major developments in India’s social, economic and cultural history up to the end of the ancient period and the beginning of the early middle ages and explains the rise and growth of states with reference to their material basis. Special attention has been paid to the elements of change and continuity in society, economy and culture, and to the changing forms of exploitation and consequent social tensions as well as to the role of religion and superstition in society. The book demolishes the popular historiographical stereotypes created by the Hindu-chauvinist communal writings. It also gives the lie to the view that the Indian society has been stagnant and changeless — a view which was propounded by Western scholars in the heyday of British imperialism and continues to be peddled ingeniously in our own times. The assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and the demolition of the Baburi Masjid are two unforgettable milestones in the unfolding of the backward-looking Hindu revivalist and fascist politics of contemporary India. Since both Harappa and Mohenjodaro are situated now in Pakistan, the Hindu revivalists are busy locating the epicentre of the Harappan culture in the elusive Saraswati valley.

The book analyses the transition from the ancient to the medieval period in polity, economy, the caste system and culture. It examines the form of peasant protest and the reasons for their failure and infrequency. The author also examines the development of tantrism and the mentality that feudalism created.

A collection of papers that interprets afresh, known facts about the early period of Indian history up to the end of the first millennium AD. The papers discuss several associated themes such as society and religion, social classification and mobility and the study of regional history. A useful reference book for postgraduate students of History.


This book has a collection of ten articles written during 1982–2007 and an exhaustive introduction on the structural features of Indian society, that is, the enduring social groups, institutions and processes, such as caste, tribe, sect, rural-urban relations, etc. The book views Indian society in contemporary as well as historical perspective, based on a wealth of field research as well as archival material. The book focuses on the significance of village studies in transforming the understanding of Indian society and also shows how urban centres have been useful in shaping society. Taking a critical look at the prevailing thinking on various structures and institutions, the author uses insights derived from his comprehensive studies of kinship, marriage, religion, and grassroots politics in advancing their studies. He points out the strengths and weaknesses of these structures and institutions and the direction in which they are changing with respect to modern time. As against the overwhelming emphasis on the hierarchical dimension of caste, this book focuses on its horizontal dimension, that is, every caste’s population spread over villages and towns in an area, its internal organization and differentiation based on networks of kinship, marriage, patron-client relationship, and role of endogamy versus hypergamy in maintaining caste and lineage boundaries. The tribes are also seen in the same perspective, emphasizing the tribe-caste homology. Finally, the book provides information on important issues like policy of reservations, the reliability of censuses and surveys of castes and tribes, removal of untouchability, growth of organized religion and secularization.

OLD NCERT ANCIENT INDIA Keywords: OLD NCERT history books, upsc civil services csat has previous year solved papers questions mcqs Indian polity by laxmi kant, Indian economy by Ramesh singh, geography majid hussain certificate of physical and human geography gc leong, old ncert history modern india, old ncert ancient india mediaeval india romilla thapar, rs sharma lexicon ethics integrity and aptitude tmh tata mcgraw hills general studies manual, ardhant disha ias books, csat paper 1, paper 2, ias current affairs, yojana magazine, kurukshetra magazine, political weekly epw ida, upsc ias guide notes mcq practice sets papers upsc ias history polity economy geography ecology environment general science, ias preparation books, ias upsc gs manual
The City and the Country in Early India: A Study of Malwa is about the emergence of urban centres in the sixth century BCE, and analyses the processes and spatiality of urbanization, taking Malwa as its case study. Earlier research on urbanism has focussed on either literary or archaeological sources. While literary sources tend to locate the agency for change exclusively in preachers and rulers, in archaeology, the forces of change become nameless and faceless. The study of inscriptions from Malwa helps in restoring agency to common people. The beginnings of urbanism are to be found in the pre-literate past, and, therefore, require an analysis of archaeological data. Using insights from anthropology and studies of early states, in the first half of the book an attempt has been made to look for new ways to account for urbanization. The second half of the book tries to understand the process of urbanization by examining epigraphic and literary sources. The process of the emergence of urban centres created new forms of division of space: urban centres were surrounded by villages which in turn were surrounded by wilderness. This book tries to recover the histories of their complex interrelations. Since caste and kinship are considered central to the world of Indian sociology, an attempt has also been made to understand the relationships between caste, kinship and urbanism. Changes in the attitude of the literati towards the city and the country have also been examined.

This volume breaks new ground by conceptualizing landscape as a dynamic cultural complex in which the natural world and human practice are inextricably linked and are constantly interacting. It examines the social and cultural construction of space in the early medieval period in South Asia, as manifest in society, religious architecture and as shaped through trade and economic transactions.

The revision comes 10 years after the first edition and completely overhauls the text not only in terms of look and feel but also content which is now contemporary while also being timeless. A large number of words are explained with the help of examples and their lineage which helps the reader understand their individual usage and the ways to use them on the correct occasion.

India: The Ancient Past provides a clear and systematic introduction to the cultural, political, economic, social and geographical history of ancient India from the time of the pre-Harappan culture nine thousand years ago up until the beginning of the second millennium of the Common Era. The book engages with methodological and controversial issues by examining key themes such as the Indus-Sarasvati civilization, the Aryan controversy, the development of Vedic and heterodox religions, and the political economy and social life of ancient Indian kingdoms. This fully revised and updated second edition includes: Three new chapters examining the differences and commonalities between the north and south of India; Extended discussion on contested issues, such as the origins of the Aryans and the role of feudalism in ancient India; New source excerpts to introduce students to the most significant works in the historiography of India, and questions for discussion; Study guides, including a list of key issues, suggested readings and a selection of internet sources for each chapter; Specially designed maps to illustrate different time periods and geographical regions. This richly illustrated guide provides a fascinating account of the early development of Indian culture and civilization that will appeal to all students of Indian history.

Builds a defense of India's caste system as not racist inequality but as a natural ordering of diversity while revealing the stereotypes of Indian society invented to justify colonialism. Original.

The Book Highlights The Nature And Features Of Indian Society And The Charges That Has Taken Place In Various Social Institutions During Different Historical Phases. This Is Comprehensive Book And Covers Subjects Widely Prescribed In The Syllabi Of Various Indian Universities At The Under-Graduate And Post-Graduate Levels In Sociology. The Topics Covered Include Indian Society, Indian Society And Culture, Indian Society And Social Institutions, Social Change In India And Indian Social Institutions, Contemporary Indian Society And Culture. While The Subject Has Been Presented In An Analytical Style With Central, Side And Running Headings, Integral And Holistic View Has Been Adopted, In Matters Having Different Opinions. The Language Is Easy And Free Of Technical Jargon As Far As Possible. At The End Of Each Chapter, Questions Of University Examinations Have Been Given To Help The Students For Preparing Well For The Examination. This Ideal Textbook Will Prove Most Useful To The Students, Teachers, Policymakers And Common Readers.

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