Precolonial India In Practice Society Region And Identity In Medieval Andhra

Precolonial India In Practice-Cynthia Talbot 2001-09-20 The society of traditional India is frequently characterized as static and dominated by caste. This study challenges older interpretations, arguing that medieval India was actually a time of dynamic change and fluid social identities. Using records of religious endowments from Andhra Pradesh, author Cynthia Talbot reconstructs a regional society of the precolonial past as it existed in practice.

Precolonial India In Practice- 2001 This study on India shows that the medieval era was a period of dynamic change during which the regional societies that characterize India today began to take recognizable shape. It focuses on the region of Andhra Pradesh.

India before Europe-Catherine B. Asher 2006-03-16 India is a land of enormous diversity. Cross-cultural influences are everywhere in evidence, in the food people eat, the clothes they wear, and in the places they worship. This was especially the case in the India that existed from 1200 to 1750, before the European intervention. The book takes the reader on a journey across the political, economic, religious and cultural landscapes of medieval India, from the Ghurid conquests and the Delhi Sultanate to the great court of the Mughals. This was a time of conquest and consolidation, when Muslims and Hindus came together to create a unique culture which still resonates in today’s India. As the first survey of its kind in over a decade, the book is a tour de force. It is beautifully illustrated and fluently composed, with a cast of characters which will educate students and general readers alike.

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Kingship and Political Practice in Colonial India-Pamela G. Price 1996-03-14 This 2006 book considers the transformation of southern Indian institutions under British colonial rule, focusing on the two former 'little kingdoms' of Ramnad and Sivaganga.


The Last Hindu Emperor- Political Violence in Ancient India-Upinder Singh 2017-09-25 Gandhi and Nehru helped create a myth of nonviolence in ancient India that obscures a troubled, complex heritage: a long struggle to reconcile the ethics of nonviolence with the need to use violence to rule. Upinder Singh documents the tension between violence and nonviolence in ancient Indian political thought and practice, 600 BCE to 600 CE.

Caste, Society and Politics in India from the Eighteenth Century to the Modern Age-Susan Bayly 2001-02-22 One of the most powerful statements ever written on the subject of caste in India.

Empire and Information-Christopher Alan Bayly 1999 In a penetrating account of the evolution of British intelligence gathering in India, C. A. Bayly shows how networks of Indian spies were recruited by the British to secure military, political and social information about their subjects. He also examines the social and intellectual origins of these 'native informants', and considers how the colonial authorities interpreted and often misinterpreted the information they supplied. It was thus misunderstandings which ultimately contributed to the failure of the British to anticipate the rebellions of 1857. The author argues, however, that even before this, complex systems of debate and communication were challenging the political and intellectual dominance of the European rulers.

History of Precolonial India-Hermann Kulke 2019-03-28 A comprehensive and analytical assessment of the history of the Indian subcontinent until 1750 CE, History of Precolonial India situates Indian history in the wider context of its Asiatic background in an effort to accommodate the ongoing cultural transactions, intersections, and overlaps. This, it is hoped, will allow the reader to go beyond the usual brief flirtations with Asian history and appreciate the historical significance of the cultural and political interactions across the shifting and permeable regional borders. Divided into three parts, the book begins with an exploration of ancient and medieval South Asian history. The second part focuses on the major debates in precolonial Indian history such as periodization, the Indi-Aryan problem, state formation, and the Indian Ocean trade. The final section comprises a thematically arranged and exhaustive bibliography. In bringing out the changing historiographical contours through time, this volume focuses on facets of continuity and change that link medieval India with the modern era and with Europe, and which can be seen as preconditions for European ascendancy. The book is an indispensable resource for students and scholars of South Asia.

Law and Commerce in Pre-Industrial Societies-Barry Hawk 2015-10-19 Legal and informal institutions were developed to secure persons and property, resolve commercial disputes, raise capital and share risk, promote fair dealing, regulate agents and gather market information. Law and Commerce in Pre-Industrial Societies is a study of how these institutions worked in Europe and nonEurope, from hunter-gatherers to 18th century Qing merchants.

Rethinking Early Medieval India-Upinder Singh 2012-06-07 This book changes the way we look at the history of early medieval India (c. 600-1300 CE). Deftly tackling issues of periodization and continuities, it highlights the complex and multilinear nature of historical processes. From feudalism and state formation and economic and social structures in villages and cities to explorations in religion, art, and intellectual history of the period, this book sheds light on the economic, political and cultural history of the pre-Sultanate and non-Sultanate early medieval India.

Medieval Indian Mindscapes-Eugenia Vanina 2012 Medieval Indian Mindscapes: Space, Time, Society, Man centres on how Indians in pre-colonial times perceived their world. It compares the specific features of their ‘mental programmes’ with that of their counterparts in other pre-modern societies. While analysing the importance of space in the medieval world view, the book discusses how medieval Indians comprehended their territories and the landscape as ‘their own’ vis-a-vis the ‘alien’ space; the development of territorial-cultural and territorial-political identities, and knowledge about other lands and peoples. In a discussion of medieval temporality, the book also studies the ways of perceiving and reckoning time, attitudes to the historical past and the manifold ways of recording it. A special chapter on ‘Society’ deals with socio-ethical values and behavioural stereotypes of major estate and caste groups like the feudal landlords, priests and officials, merchants and craftsmen, peasants and the lower castes in villages. The book also has a chapter on the medieval Indian perception of Man, his appearance and peculiarities as they pertained to the age; behaviour, social status, and the steady development of individuality. Medieval Indian Mindscapes will be of interest to medievalists as well as general readers, keen to know more of the dynamics of pre-modern history and culture.

Castes of Mind-Nicholas B. Dirks 2011-10-09 When thinking of India, it is hard not to think of caste. In academic and common parlance alike, caste has become a central symbol for India, marking it as fundamentally different from other places while expressing its essence. Nicholas Dirks argues that caste is, in fact, neither an unchanged survival of ancient India nor a single system that reflects a core cultural value. Rather than a basic expression of Indian tradition, caste is a modern phenomenon--the product of a concrete historical encounter between India and British colonial rule. Dirks does not contend that caste was invented by the British. But under British domination caste did become a single term capable of naming and above all subsuming India’s diverse forms of social identity and organization. Dirks traces the career of caste from the medieval kingdoms of southern India to the textual traces of early colonial archives; from the commentaries of an eighteenth-century Jesuit to the enumerative obsessions of the late-nineteenth-century census; from the ethnographic writings of colonial administrators to those of twentieth-century Indian scholars seeking
to rescue ethnography from its colonial legacy. The book also surveys the rise of caste politics in the twentieth century, focusing in particular on the emergence of caste-based movements that have threatened nationalist consensus. Castes of Mind is an ambitious book, written by an accomplished scholar with a rare mastery of centuries of Indian history and anthropology. It uses the idea of caste as the basis for a magisterial history of modern India. And in making a powerful case that the colonial past continues to haunt the Indian present, it makes an important contribution to current postcolonial theory and scholarship on contemporary Indian politics.

Language, Texts, and Society-Patrick Olivelle 2011-12-15 This collection brings together a series of Patrick Olivelle’s research papers, published over a period of about ten years, whose unifying theme is the search for hidden historical context and developments within words and texts. Words (and cultural histories represented by words) that scholars often take for granted as having a continuous and long history are often new - sometimes even being neologisms. They can thus provide important indications of cultural and religious innovations. Olivelle’s book on the asramas, as well as the short pieces included in this volume, such as those on ananda and dharma, seek to see cultural innovation and historical changes within the changing semantic fields of key terms. Closer examination of numerous Sanskrit terms taken for granted as central to ‘Hinduism’ provide similar results. Indian texts have often been studied in the past as discarnate realities providing information on an ahistorical and unchanging culture. ‘Language, Texts, and Society’ is a small contribution towards correcting this method of textual study.

Indo-Islamic society-André Wink 2003-11 This third volume of André Wink’s acclaimed and pioneering “Al-Hind: The Making of the Indo-Islamic World” takes the reader from the late Mongol invasions to the end of the medieval period and the beginnings of early modern times in the late fifteenth century. It breaks new ground by focusing attention on the role of geography, and more specifically on the interplay of nomadic, settled and maritime societies. In doing so, it presents a picture of the world of India and the Indian Ocean on the eve of the Portuguese discovery of the seafort: a world without stable parameters, of pervasive geophysical change, inchoate and unstable civilization, highly volatile and itinerant elites of nomadic origin, far-flung merchant diasporas, and a famine- and disease-prone peasantry whose life was a gamble on the monsoon.

Theory and Practice of Yoga-Knut A. Jacobsen 2005-10-28 This collection of original essays on Yoga in honour of Professor Gerald James Larson provides fascinating new insights into the yoga traditions of India as a historical and pluralistic phenomenon flourishing in a variety of religious and philosophical contexts.

India and the British Empire-Douglas M. Peers 2017-02-09 South Asian History has enjoyed a remarkable renaissance over the past thirty years. Its historians are not only producing new ways of thinking about the imperial impact and legacy on South Asia, but also helping to reshape the study of imperial history in general. The essays in this collection address a number of these important developments, delineating not only the complicated interplay between indirect imperial rule and the development of modern Indian states, but also illuminating the rulers’ political, environmental, social, cultural, ideological, and intellectual contexts which informed, and were in turn informed by, these interactions. Particular attention is paid to a cluster of binary oppositions that have hitherto framed South Asian history, namely colonizer/colonized, imperialism/nationalism, and modernity/tradition, and how new analytical frameworks are emerging which enable us to think beyond the constraints imposed by these binaries. Closer attention to regional dynamics as well as to wider global forces has enriched our understanding of the history of South Asia within a wider imperial matrix. Previous impressions of all-powerful imperialism, with the capacity to reshape all before it, for good or ill, are rejected in favour of a much more nuanced image of imperialism in India that acknowledges the impact as well as the intentions of colonialism, but within a much more complicated historical landscape where other processes are at work.

A Concise History of Modern India-Barbara D. Metcalf 2012-09-24 The third edition of the Metcalfs’ classic history of India charts developments across the last two centuries.

Objects of Translation-Finbarr B. Flood 2018-03-13 Objects of Translation offers a nuanced approach to the entanglements of medieval elites in the representations of the modern world.

The Indian Princes and their States-Barbara N. Ramusack 2004-01-08 Although the princes of India have been caricatured as oriental despots and British stooges, Barbara Ramusack’s study of the princely states suggests that the British did not create the princes. On the contrary, many were consummate politicians who exercised considerable degrees of autonomy until the disintegration of the princely states after independence. Ramusack’s synthesis has a broad temporal span, tracing the evolution of the Indian kings from their pre-colonial origins to their roles as clients in the British colonial system. The book breaks ground in its integration of political and economic developments in the major princely states with the shifting relationships between the princes and the British. It represents a major contribution, both to British imperial history in its analysis of the theory and practice of indirect rule, and to modern South Asian history, as a portrait of the princes as both patrons and patrons of the arts.

Devolitional Sovereignty-Caleb Simmons 2020-01-03 Devolitional Sovereignty: Kingship and Religion in India investigates the shifting conceptualization of kingship in India through a historical and in-depth examination of the political contexts of Tipu Sultan’s reign (r. 1782-1799) and Krishnaraja Wodeyar III (r. 1799-1868).

The Archaeology of Sacred Spaces-Susan Verma Mishra 2016-08-05 This volume focuses on the religious shrine in western India as an institution of cultural integration in the period spanning 200 BCE to 800 CE. It presents an analysis of religious architecture at multiple levels, both temporal and spatial, and distinguishes it as a ritual instrument that integrates individuals and communities into a cultural fabric. The work shows how these structures emphasise on communication with a host of audiences such as the lay worshipper, the ritual specialist, the royalty and the elite as well as the artisan and the sculptor. It also examines religious imagery, inscriptions, traditional lore and Sanskrit literature. The book will be of special interest to researchers and scholars of ancient Indian history, Hinduism, religious studies, architecture and South Asian studies.
A Concise History of India-Barbara D. Metcalf 2002 An account of modern India charts its history from the Mughals, through the colonial encounter and independence, to the present day, profiling the area as a complex and perpetually changing society. Simultaneous.

Politics, Kingship and Poetry in Medieval South India-Whitney Cox 2016-10-31 A fundamental real-imagining of the politics of pre-modern India through a revisionist reading of the dynamic history of the Cholas.

Gender, Medicine, and Society in Colonial India-Sujata Mukherjee 2017-01-05 British imperialism in India left in its wake the scars of many battles between the colonizer and the colonized. Intense hostilities were witnessed as each tried to prove its superiority in domains such as medicine, education, and law. Through the lens of gender politics, Sujata Mukherjee confronts these conflicts to reveal the contested 'body' of the Indian woman. Focusing on hospital medicine and preventive medical care, Mukherjee traces the popularization of Western forms of medical care in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Bengal. She shows how it created a space-albeit small-for providing Western health care to female patients; for the first time, women could receive medical attention outside the purdah and zenana. However, there was a simultaneous discrediting of indigenous forms of medicine such as Ayurveda and Unani-and their practitioners, who had once exercised significant influence. The book also explores the growth of Western medical education among women in Bengal. Overcoming racial and gender discrimination, social taboos, and active opposition from authorities and their families, some remarkable women became doctors and practicing physicians. Aiding them in their long-drawn efforts were the Brahmo Samaj and several women's organizations and agencies of the time.

Hinduism and Law-Timothy Lubin 2010-10-21 Covering the earliest Sanskrit rulebooks through to the codification of 'Hindu law' in modern times, the book examines the forces that shaped the development of Hindu law. The authors present the major transformations to India's legal system in both the colonial and post colonial periods and their relation to contemporary Hinduism. Thematic studies show how law and Hinduism relate and interact in areas such as ritual, logic, politics, and literature, and offering a broad coverage of South Asia's contributions to religion and law at the intersection of society, politics and culture. In doing so, the authors build on previous treatments of Hindu law as a purely text-based tradition, and in the process, provide a fascinating account of an often neglected social and political history.

A Social History of the Deccan, 1300-1761-Richard M. Eaton 2005-11-17 A rich narrative history of the Deccan, portrayed through eight Indian lives. Precolonial and Colonial Punjab-Indu Banga 2005 This Study In 2 Parts Begins With The Geographical And Cultural Perspectives On The Early Punjab, And The Migration And Settlement Of Jatts By The Seventeenth Century. The First Part Dwells On Different Aspects Of Socio-Cultural Life In Northwestern India In The Precolonial Times, Whereas The Second Part Brings Out Multi-Faceted Change In The Region Under The Colonial Rule. This Volume Breaks Fresh Ground In Regional History And Raises Some Significant Issues Of Historical Methodology And Interdisciplinary Approach. Published-09-30 A free ebook version of this title is available through Luminos, University of California Press's Open Access publishing program for monographs. Visit www.luminoso.org to learn more. How did the patronage activities of India’s Vijayanagara Empire (c. 1346-1565) influence Hindu sectarian identities? Although the empire has been commonly viewed as a Hindu bulwark against Islamic incursion from the north or as a religiously ecumenical state, Valerie Stoker argues that the Vijayanagara court was selective in its patronage of religious institutions. She shows the importance of texts for understanding the dynamic interaction between Hinduism and the religious institutions that are central to the region. In a 1996-1998 research project, Stoker investigated the role of texts in the understanding of Hinduism and its development over time. The Selected Articles show how historians have developed their understanding of the early modern period. This book will interest historians of memory, gender, community, culture, and historywriting in South Asia. Illustrating how enduring legends about virtuous women changed as they circulated across particular communities in South Asia between the sixteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Andromeda and an Agent of the State in the Vijayanagara Empire-Padmini 2016-04-20 This book investigates these legends and traces their subsequent appropriation by colonial administrators and nationalist intellectuals, for varying different political ends. Using Padmini as a means of illustrating the power of gender norms in constructing heroic memory, she shows how such narratives about virtuous women changed as they circulated across particular communities in South Asia between the sixteenth and early twentieth centuries. This book will interest historians of memory, gender, community, culture, and historywriting in South Asia. Illustrating how enduring legends emerged out of particular precolonial repertoires of ‘tradition,’ the book also addresses the nature of colonial transitions and precritical historical consciousness.

The Language of the Gods in the World of Men-Sheldon Pollock 2009-06 “The scholarship exhibited here is not only superior; it is in many ways staggering. The author’s control of an astonishing range of primary and secondary texts from many languages, eras, and disciplines is awe-inspiring. This is a great achievement.” —Sandy Schiff, Sanft and India Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays- B. D. Chattopadhyaya 2018-08-23 This exploration of key terms related to social and political order, found in early Indian texts, challenges the idea of a unified ancient India and a unified national identity at that time. This collection explores what may be called the idea of India in ancient times. Its declared objective is to identify key concepts and ideas, and concepts which show how early Indian civilization as distinct and differently orientated from other formations. The essays focus on ancient Indian texts within a variety of genres. They identify certain key terms—such as janapada, desa, varpa, dharma, bhāva—in their empirical contexts to suggest that neither the ideas embedded in these terms nor the idea of Bharatavarsha as a whole are “given entities,” but that they evolved historically. Professor Chattopadhyaya examines these texts to unveil historical processes. Without denying comparative historical, he stresses that the internal dynamics of a society are best decoded via its own texts. His approach bears very effectively on understanding ongoing interactions between India’s “Great Tradition” and “Little Traditions.” As a whole, this book is critical of the notion of overarching Indian unity in the ancient period. It punctures the retrospective thrust of hegemonic nationalism as an ideology that has obscured the diverse textures of Indian civilization. Renowned for his scholarship on the ancient Indian past, Professor Chattopadhyaya’s latest collection only consolidates his high international reputation.

The Many Lives of a Rajput Queen-Ramya Sreenivasan 2017-05-01 Winner of the 2009 Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Book Prize, sponsored by the Association for Asian Studies The medieval Rajput queen Padmini - believed to have been pursued by Alauddin Khalji, the Sultan of Delhi - has been the focus of numerous South Asian narratives, ranging from a Sufi mystical romance in the sixteenth century to nationalist histories in the late nineteenth century. The Many Lives of a Rajput Queen explores how early modern regional elites, caste groups, and mystical and monastic communities shaped their distinctive versions of the past through the repeatedly refashioning of the legend of Padmini. Ramya Sreenivasan investigates these legends and traces their subsequent appropriation by colonial administrators and nationalist intellectuals, for varying different political ends. Using Padmini as a means of illustrating the power of gender norms in constructing heroic memory, she shows how such narratives about virtuous women changed as they circulated across particular communities in South Asia between the sixteenth and early twentieth centuries. This book will interest historians of memory, gender, community, culture, and historywriting in South Asia. Illustrating how enduring legends emerged out of particular precolonial repertoires of “tradition,” the book also addresses the nature of colonial transitions and precritical historical consciousness.

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Exploring religious processes in the Deccan region between the eleventh and the nineteenth century with class relations as its point of focus, it throws new light on the making of religious communities, monastic institutions, legends, lineages, and the ethics that governed them. In the light of this prehistory, a compelling framework is suggested for a revision of existing perspectives on the making of Hinduism in the nineteenth and the twentieth century.

Fragmented Memories-Yasmin Saikia 2004-11-09 DIVA study of identity and its connection to memory, focusing on the history of community identity formation among the Tai-Ahom in Assam.
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