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India: The Ancient Past A History of the Indian Subcontinent from c. 7000 BC to AD 1200

Burjor Avari

London: Routledge, 2007

ISBN: 978-0-415-35616-9

The Indian sub-continent is spectrum of culture and geography, the history of which reflects the rise and fall of empires, the origin and spread of religions, and the grandeur of art. Comprised of present day India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Indian Subcontinent represents one of the major concentrations of the human population on earth today and occupies a special place in world political economy. Given such importance, there is a need to understand the ancient literature and archaeology of the Subcontinent using modern cross-disciplinary approaches to reveal its history.

Avari's approach to the Indian sub-continent is holistic. His account takes us from the pre-Indus Mehrgarh in 7000 BC through the Indus Valley Civilization, the Vedic Age, the Gandhara Civilization, various Hindu and Buddhist dynasties, to the arrival and rule of Muslims from the eighth to the twelfth century. He explores religion, politics, art, architecture and other facets of the sub-continent's history and culture, confining his study primarily to the traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism.

Avari builds on the work of a number of well-known historians who have used literary texts, Hindu and Buddhist religious scriptures, archaeological evidence, and findings of multidisciplinary studies on the ancient India. He attempts to explain the history of the sub-continent through the geography of regions and culture. On the way, his discussion touches on Indic terminology, the myth of an 'Aryan Race', change and

continuity in the artistic traditions, indigenous knowledge and technology, agriculture and international trade, Sanskritization, wars between local rulers and foreigners, the caste system, languages and ethnic groups, as well as the coexistence of various religions. In doing so, he describes the culture and history of each politically and geographically distinct area of the Subcontinent in chronological order.

In this book, Avari has been largely successful in eliminating the perception that India has been isolated from the rest of the world by describing the relations of India with Babylonians and Sumerians some three to four millennia before and reporting the arrival of Persians, Greeks, Parthians, Scythians, Kushans, Huns, Arabs, Rajputs, Afghans, and Europeans into the Subcontinent during different time periods. This inter-cultural communication has left a mark on various cultural patterns, but is most obvious in today's language, art and belief.

The marvelous architecture of the Subcontinent's past and other aspects of material culture are illustrated in black and white pictures of temples, statues, royal palaces, forts and other constructions of historic interest. The book also indicates the changing geographical and political boundaries of the region through time with maps.

Avari uses a simple language with minimal jargon so that a general reader can understand the basic chapters in the history of Indian Subcontinent. The thought-provoking questions Avari raises at the end of each chapter will also be of interest to an academic audience. The volume covers topics common to the syllabi of many universities and will therefore be useful to post-graduate students in many disciplines seeking a background in sub-continental history.

Muhammad Aurang Zeb Mughal

India: The Ancient Past: A History of the Indian Sub-Continent from c. 7000 BC to AD 1200 1st Edition. by. Burjor Avari (Author). With the fall of Mauryan Empire was accompanied by the loss of pan-Indian authority exercised from Pataliputra to Magadha. A number of competing power centers in different regions of India came into existence. The political diffusion in the post Mauryan period and the emergence of monarchies with foreign roots is interesting since historians have a huge scale of available evidence. Request PDF | Book Review: India: The Ancient Past: A History of the Indian Subcontinent from c. 7000 BC to AD 1200, by Burjor Avari | The Indian subcontinent displays a spectrum of culture and geography, the history of which reflects the rise and fall of empires, the origin and | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Book Review: India: The Ancient Past: A History of the Indian Subcontinent from c. 7000 BC to AD 1200, by Burjor Avari. Humaniste de formation, Norman Brown value les grands courants de l'histoire et des réalités socio-politiques de l'Asie du Sud par rapport aux valeurs culturelles et religieuses primordiales du sous-continent. A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century Upin Ancient Indian History & Culture. 244 Pages 2011 32.09 MB 35,385 Downloads. Political History of Ancient India 325 H.C. - 319 AD. Rise of Mauryas. { ihandragupta Maury History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century. 1,561 Pages 2009 34.9 MB 8,152 Downloads New! into an exciting experience. That Was India: A Survey of the Culture of the Indian Sub-Continent Before the Coming of th Wonder That Was India, Vol. 2: A Survey of the History and Culture of the Indian Sub-Continent from the Coming of the Muslims to the British Conquest 1200-1700. 2005 Reprint. 416 Pages 2005 16.4 MB 182 Downloads New!