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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. Burjor Avari's balanced and well-researched book is a most reliable guide to the period of Indian history that it covers. It displays considerable mastery of primary and secondary literature and distils it into a wonderfully lucid exposition. This book should be of interest to both lay readers and academic experts. Lord Bhikhu Parekh, University of Westminster. A history of the Indian sub-continent from c. 7000 bc to ad 1200. Burjor Avari. First published 2007 by Routledge 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN. Simultaneously published in the USA and Canada by Routledge 270 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016. Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informal business. 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. Praise of the first edition: 'An engaging narrative of a complex civilization.' -Minerva 'Burjor Avari's balanced and well-researched book is a most reliable guide to the period of Indian history that it covers. India book. Read 10 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. This carefully crafted study presents the fascinating story of the development... Preview India by Burjor Avari. India: The Ancient Past: A History of the Indian Sub-Continent from C. 7000 BC to Ad 1200. by. Ancient India evolved in many stages, and in this book the author discusses the very early stages from 7000 B.C. to 1200 A.D that includes the earliest known human settlements in the Northwest frontier. An examination of their society, the development of early Indo-European language and a proto-Vedic culture that grew into modern Hinduism is a fascinating story of human evolution. The book discusses social, political, and religious activities during various periods in The history of ancient India. Avari, Burjor. Publisher. Routledge. Publication Date. 2007. Buy This Book. \$38.95. plus shipping. \$43.95. free shipping worldwide. By purchasing books through this website, you support our non-profit organization. Ancient History Encyclopedia receives a small commission for each book sold through our affiliate partners. Recommended By. Numerous educational institutions recommend us, including Oxford University and Michigan State University and University of Missouri. We have also been recommended for educational use by the following publications: Our Mission Our mission is to engage people with cultural heritage and to improve history education worldwide. Follow Us. About Contact Privacy Policy Partners Sponsors