

**CONTROLLING 'COOLIES':
A Handbook for the Surgeons
Superintendent of the Coolie
Emigration Service
By James M. Laing (The Colonial
Emigration Archives)**

Edited by: Ashutosh Kumar

ISBN: 978-93-7795-689-9

Year: 2026

Pages: 127

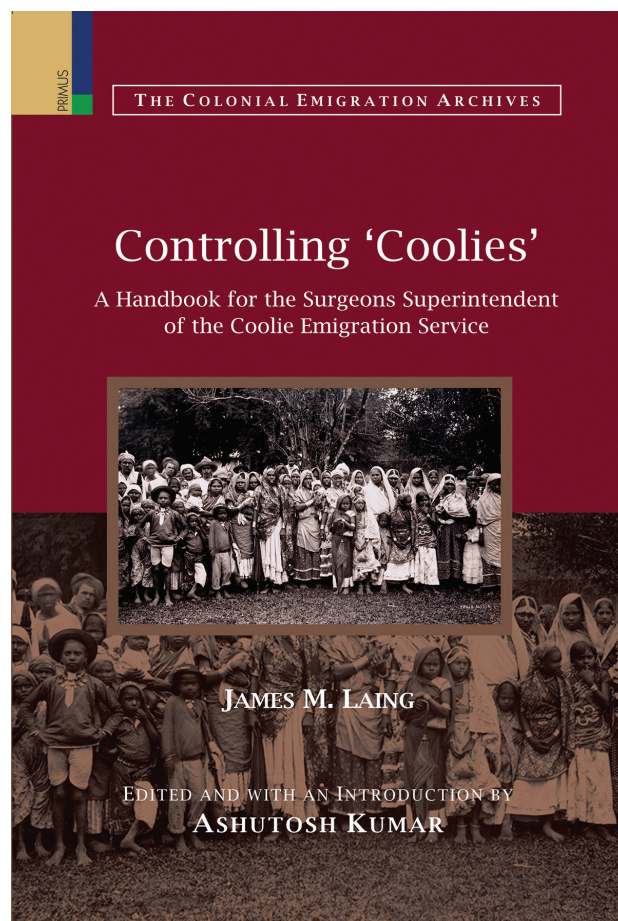
Price: ₹695/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



THE BOOK

Controlling 'Coolies' comprises a notable handbook written in 1889 by James M. Laing, an experienced surgeon involved in the transportation of 'coolie' labour from India to the sugar-producing colonies. This manual provides information and instructions for newly appointed surgeons superintendent regarding their professional duties on board 'coolie ships'. It also offers material on how colonial surgeons could 'control' indentured labourers during sea voyages—such as how to punish them in case of violation of orders. The significance of this book lies in understanding the functioning of the indentured labour regime and the encounters between the British and the 'coolies' on the ocean or *Kala Pani*.

THE EDITOR

Ashutosh Kumar is Professor of History at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He has been Visiting Professor at Harvard University and fellow at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom; Yale University, USA; Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi; the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi; Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla; and has also received the SEPHIS Fellowship during his PhD.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Labour History, Diaspora Studies, History of Migration, Colonial History etc.

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY AND EPIDEMICS

Rockefeller Foundation and Anti-Hookworm Campaigns in Early Twentieth Century Fiji

Author: Raj Sekhar Basu

ISBN: 978-93-7452-450-3

Year: 2026

Pages: 868

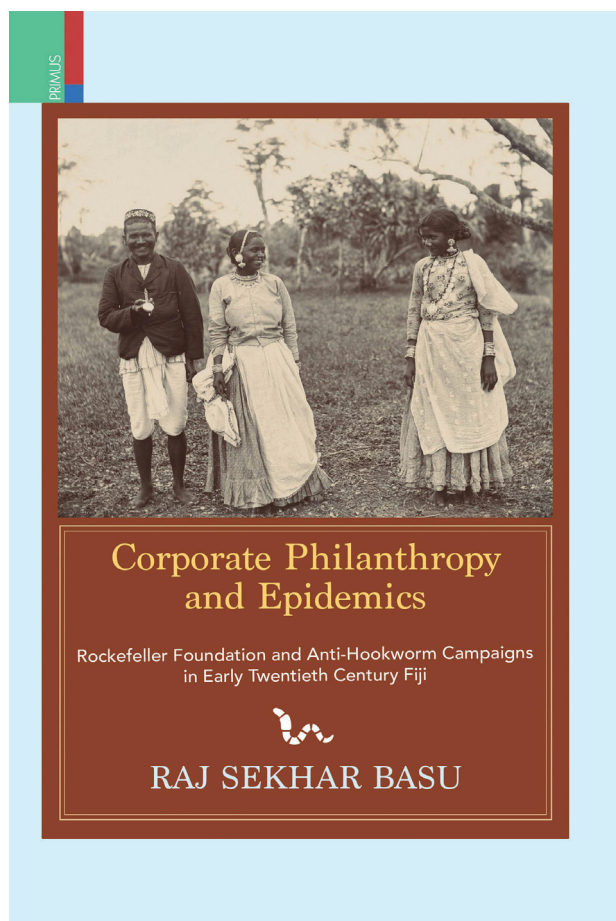
Price: ₹ 1750/-

Format: Hardback

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Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Corporate Philanthropy and Epidemics examines the Rockefeller Foundation's involvement in the hookworm eradication programme in colonial Fiji, framed within the rise of corporate philanthropy in the United States during the late nineteenth century. Influenced by the Social Gospel movement, industrialists like Carnegie established foundations to address social issues. Inspired by this model, the Rockefellers funded the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission to combat hookworm in the American South, a disease dubbed the 'lazy disease' for its impact on worker productivity, particularly in plantations. The success of this campaign led to a global hookworm eradication programme under the International Health Board. Fiji, then a British colony, was selected as a key site for implementation during the 1920s and 1930s, largely due to the efforts of Dr Samuel Lambert, whose prior experience with public health issues in the Pacific informed the initiative. The colonial administration, despite financial limitations, supported the programme. Lambert also focused on Indian indentured labourers, who suffered from poor sanitation. Interventions included improved sanitary measures and borehole latrines. Although the War curtailed funding and limited Rockefeller's involvement, the programme drew attention to emerging fields like epidemiology and public health. The case of Fiji highlights the significant role that non-state actors, such as philanthropic foundations, played in shaping global health initiatives.

THE AUTHOR

Raj Sekhar Basu is Professor in the Department of History, University of Calcutta, Kolkata.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and researchers specialising in Public Health, Pacific Studies, History of Medicine, Epidemiology etc.

EXPLORING THE LOCAL AND THE GLOBAL IN MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

Essays in Memory of
Biswamoy Pati

**Edited by: Arun Bandyopadhyay,
Raj Sekhar Basu and
Sanjukta Das Gupta**

ISBN: 978-93-7452-503-6

Year: 2026

Pages: 416

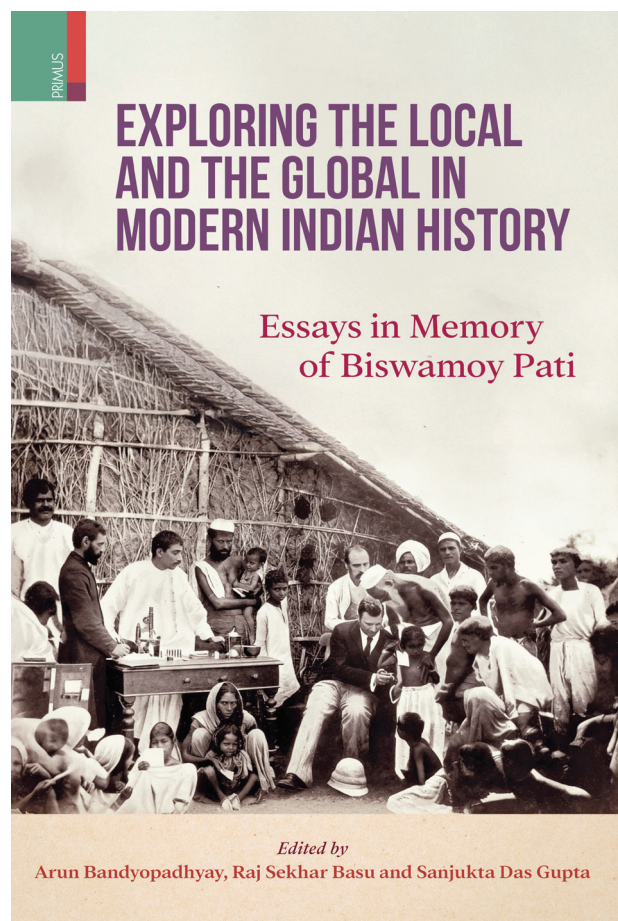
Price: ₹1600/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Exploring the Local and the Global in Modern Indian History presents a panoramic view of the range of global and local historiographical themes that interested Biswamoy Pati. While connecting creatively with his diverse research interests, the contributions in this volume from his friends, colleagues and students reflect the open enquiry with which he approached established and emerging ideas—understanding the field of history as a space of dynamism and intellectual stimulation.

The essays in this volume illustrate how global and local forces intersect within modern Indian history. Investigating a range of topics from the princely states to social history of medicine and the world of Adivasis to protest movements, the volume showcases the new discussions in history writing over the past three decades. They explore how external influences—especially colonialism and global capital—shaped India's society, culture, environment, and politics, while also emphasizing the distinct forms of adaptation and resistance that emerged within local communities.

THE EDITORS

Arun Bandyopadhyay is the President of West Bengal History Association, and Vice President, Society for the History of Science.

Raj Sekhar Basu is Professor in the Department of History, University of Calcutta.

Sanjukta Das Gupta is Associate Professor of Indian History at the Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali, Sapienza University of Rome.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of History of Science and Medicine, History of Space, History of Migration, Environmental History, Agrarian and Economic History, Modern Indian History etc.

FAITH AND REASON

Cultural Discourse in Nineteenth-Century Bengal

Author: Swaraj Basu

ISBN: 978-93-7795-990-6

Year: 2026

Pages: 334

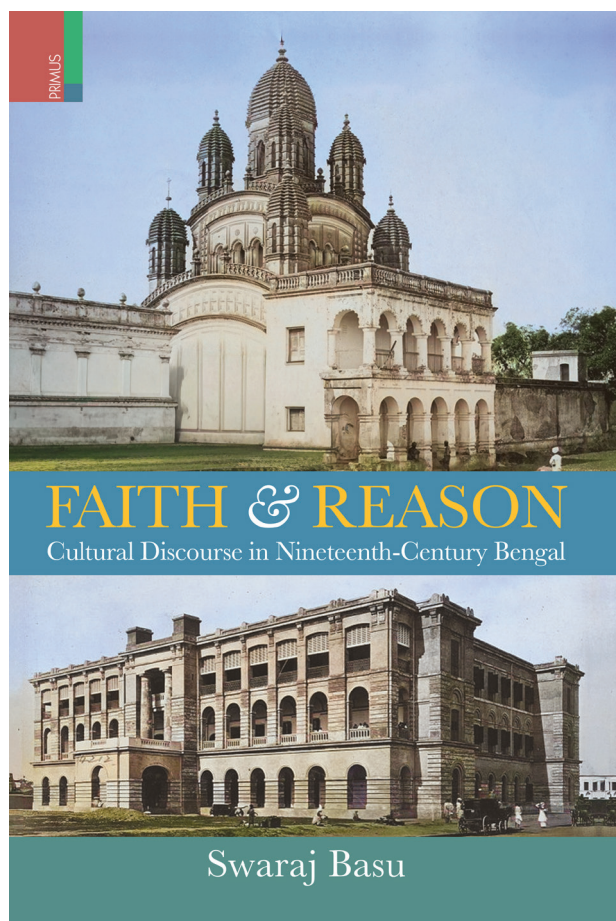
Price: ₹1675/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

In nineteenth-century Bengal, the discourse on faith and reason emerged as a critical site for the reinterpretation of Hinduism. Confronted with colonial rule, Christian missionary attacks, and the rationalist ideals of the European Enlightenment, a new class of Bengali Hindu intellectuals sought to reinterpret their religious tradition. Through appeals to ancient Sanskrit texts, a critique of ritual excess, and a language of ethical universalism, they reimagined Hinduism as a rational, moral, and spiritual tradition—capable of standing alongside modernity. This redefinition laid the cultural groundwork for early Indian nationalism, positioning a reformed Hinduism as the foundation for a modern Indian identity. Yet, in doing so, it also excluded the lived religious practices of the subaltern classes—bhakti devotion, folk deities, and local rituals.

Faith and Reason explores the tensions between elite reformist discourse and popular religious life, revealing how Hinduism in colonial Bengal was not a fixed or unified system, but a contested and evolving field. By bringing together intellectual history and the embodied faith of ordinary people, this study offers a nuanced portrait of a tradition in transformation, and of a society grappling with the meaning of belief in a rapidly changing world.

THE AUHTOR

Swaraj Basu taught at Ramakrishna Mission College, Narendrapur, West Bengal and Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students interested in History of Bengal, Religious History, Nineteenth-Century Bengal, Textual History, Modern Indian History etc.

HUES OF KASHMIR

Perspectives on Cultural History

Author: Rattan Lal Hangloo

ISBN: 978-93-7795-854-1

Year: 2026

Pages: 427

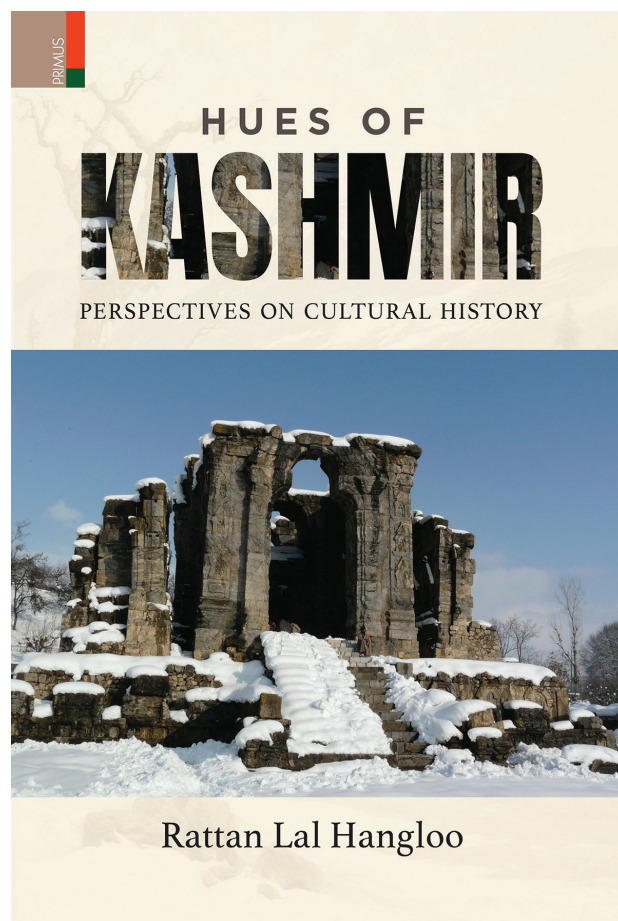
Price: ₹1750/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Kashmir has long been imagined as a space where geography, nature, metaphysics, memory, and cultural co-existence intersect in unique ways. Over several millennia, Kashmir emerged as an influential centre of learning, producing some of South Asia's most enduring philosophical systems, mystical movements, historical chronicles, and composite cultural expressions. The convergence of Kashmiri Shaivism, its early and sophisticated history-writing tradition, and the lived ethos of *Kashmiriyat*, the Valley's mystic temper, created a civilizational tapestry remarkable in depth and diversity.

Hues of Kashmir is an engagement with a multi-layered universe that traces four foundational strands—Shaivism, history-writing, *Kashmiriyat*, and mysticism—as interconnected components of Kashmir's intellectual and cultural heritage. While each domain can be studied independently, examining them together reveals how Kashmir's philosophical depth, historical memory, humanistic ethos, and spiritual fluidity shaped one another across centuries. The aim is not to romanticize Kashmir as a timeless utopia but to understand how real historical processes created patterns of co-existence, conflict, exchange, and creativity that remain central to the region's identity even today.

THE AUTHOR

Rattan Lal Hangloo is presently Chief Representative and Honorary Chancellor, Nobel International University, Toronto, Canada.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Kashmir Studies, South Asian Studies, Cultural History, Religious History, Sociology of Religion etc.

INDIAN NATIONALISTS AND ANTI-INDENTURE RESOLUTIONS, 1910–1916 (The Colonial Emigration Archives)

Edited by: Ashutosh Kumar

ISBN: 978-93-7795-624-0

Year: 2026

Pages: 246

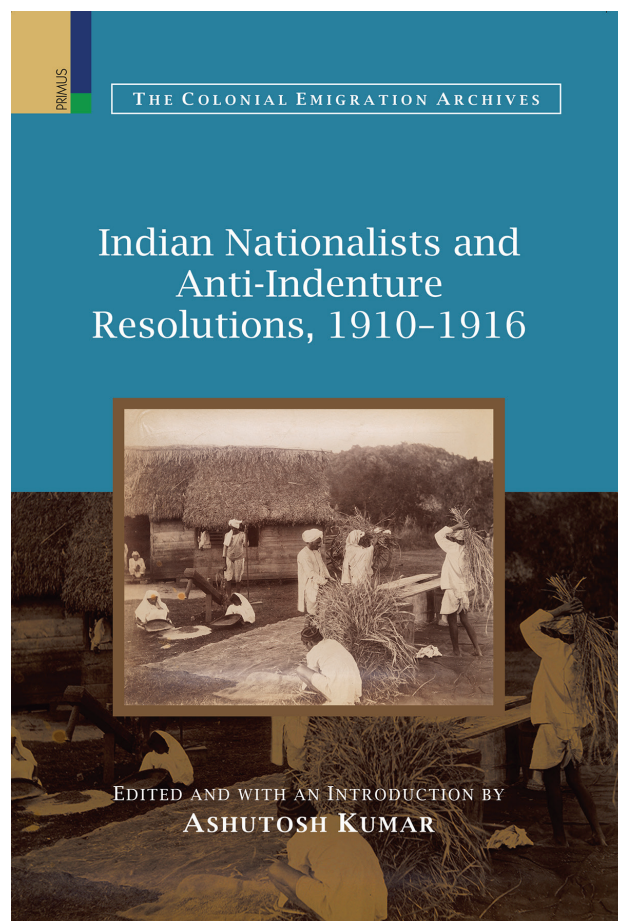
Price: ₹895/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



THE BOOK

Indian Nationalists and Anti-Indenture Resolutions, 1910–1916 presents three important resolutions against the indentured labour system in the Legislative Council of India between 1910 and 1916. Due to the continuous opposition and resolutions against indentured labour, the system was finally abolished in 1917. These resolutions are important to understand nationalist views on labour migration overseas and their thoughts on castes and gender. They indicate that Indian nationalists' opposition of the indenture system was not centred on issues of violence between the plantation regime and Indian labourers; rather, they focused on the political rights of free passenger Indians in South Africa. These resolutions also show how Indian nationalists were biased against their 'coolie' brethren as opposed to the free passenger Indians overseas.

THE EDITOR

Ashutosh Kumar is Professor of History at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He has been Visiting Professor at Harvard University and fellow at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom; Yale University, USA; Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi; the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi; Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla; and has also received the SEPHIS Fellowship during his PhD.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Labour History, Indentured Labour Studies, Diaspora Studies, History of Migration, Colonial History etc.

KUMUDINI WELFARE TRUST **An Intimate History of Gender,** **Care and Capital in Post-Partition** **Bengal**

Edited by: Nabamita Das and
Suhrita Saha

ISBN: 978-93-7179-630-9

Year: 2026

Pages: 277

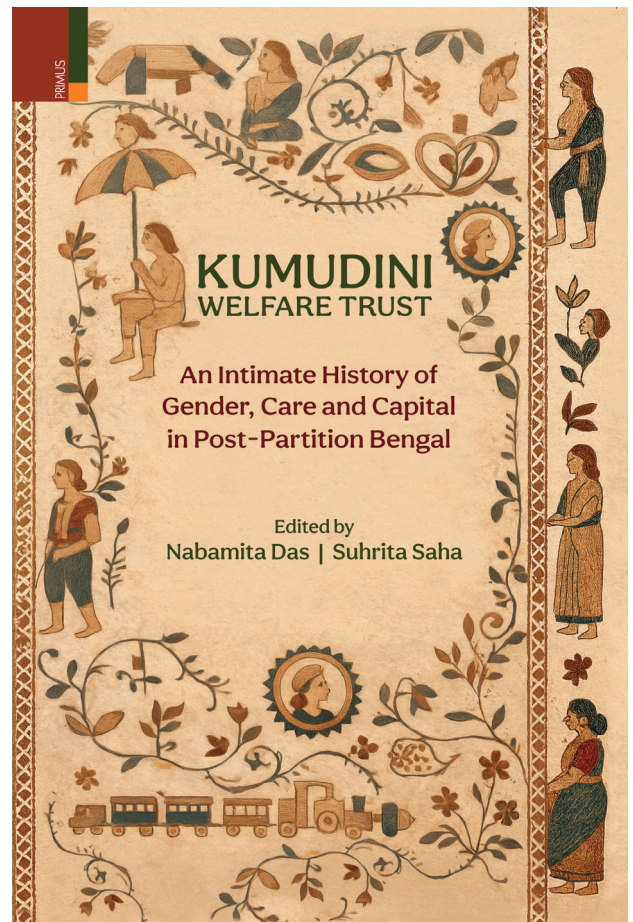
Price: ₹1450/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Kumudini Welfare Trust traces the intimate history of one of the oldest welfare organizations in Bangladesh, founded in the aftermath of Partition and sustained through the labour of women. Drawing on ethnographic research at Mirzapur, Narayanganj and Dhaka, the chapters explore how care, work, memory and the market are woven into the daily rhythms of the Trust's hospitals, schools and workshops.

The chapter presented in this volume collectively explore the intricate and evolving relationship that the Trust has maintained with the socio-political landscape of Bangladesh. Kumudini has continuously adapted to the country's historical shifts—most notably the violence and transformation brought about by the Liberation War of 1971. This also marked the recalibration of Kumudini's identity in a nation irrevocably changed by trauma, displacement, and the challenge of constructing a national consciousness. Moving between archival fragments, life stories and the textures of *Nakshikantha* embroidery, the volume shows how a women-led institution negotiated displacement, capital and governance while holding together an ethic of care with an ethic of justice. It invites readers to rethink familiar binaries of public and private, charity and enterprise, tradition and modernity post-Partition.

THE EDITORS

Nabamita Das is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Presidency University, Kolkata.

Suhrita Saha is Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at Presidency University.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Sociology, Social History, Gender Studies, Anthropology etc.

MISREADINGS**A Re-Examination of Established Interpretations****Author: Dipankar Gupta**

ISBN: 978-93-0961-980-9

Year: 2026

Pages: 247

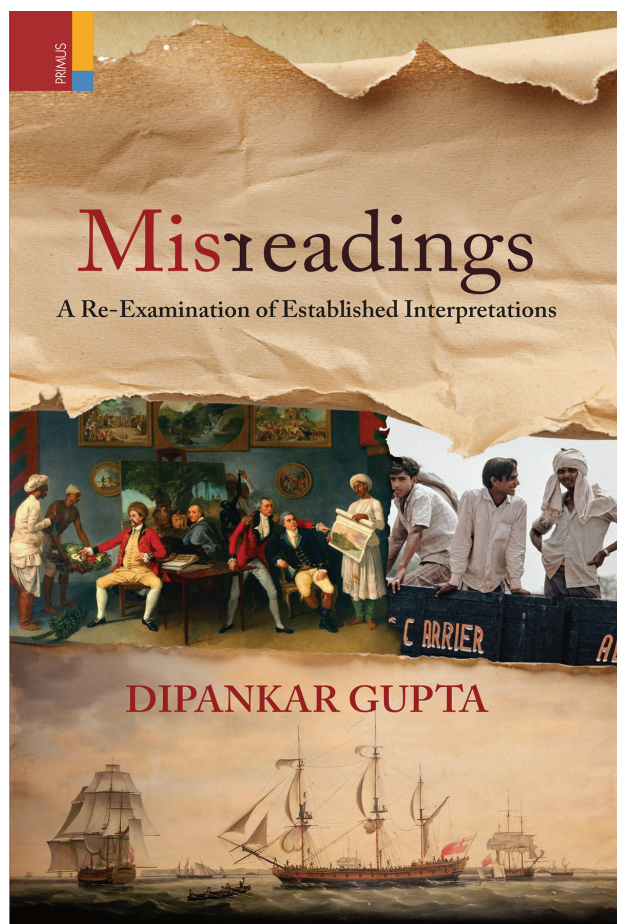
Price: ₹995/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo

**THE BOOK**

Misreadings examines five major misconceptions that cloud popular perceptions of social reality. The first is the transformations brought about by urbanization in gender relations, particularly the patriarchy, which the term 'manxiety' best captures. The second misreading concerns the evolution of socialist thinking that Marx himself initiated to accommodate within its scope higher levels of efficiency in private entrepreneurship. To this end, Marx's *Capital* is closely scrutinized. In the context of caste, the next misreading examines how immediate, everyday concerns often trump the dictates of ritual hierarchy. This makes caste alliances malleable, especially in the context of contemporary politics, which is why election predictions along caste lines become suspect. Closely related is the misreading of traditional texts; while they can inspire, they can also muddle the goals of modern democracy. Finally, the misunderstanding of history leads one to overlook the four accidents that occurred between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries that favoured the rise of European colonialism.

Through these 'readings', this book aims to correct long-held popular beliefs and prejudices and, in doing so, encourage a democratic temper, foster empathy, and emphasize a greater sense of citizenship at the popular level.

THE AUTHOR

Dipankar Gupta taught sociology for nearly three decades at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has authored well over a hundred scholarly articles on subjects ranging from ethnicity and caste to social movements and modernity, and published more than twenty books, including three crime novels, which he wrote under the nom de plume D.G. Rae.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Sociology, Political Sociology, Gender Studies, Caste Studies, Citizenship Studies, Social History etc.

REVISITING BAGHA JATIN AND EARLY REVOLUTIONARIES OF BENGAL (1890–1915)

Author: Amitava Chatterjee

ISBN: 978-93-7452-536-4

Year: 2026

Pages: 180

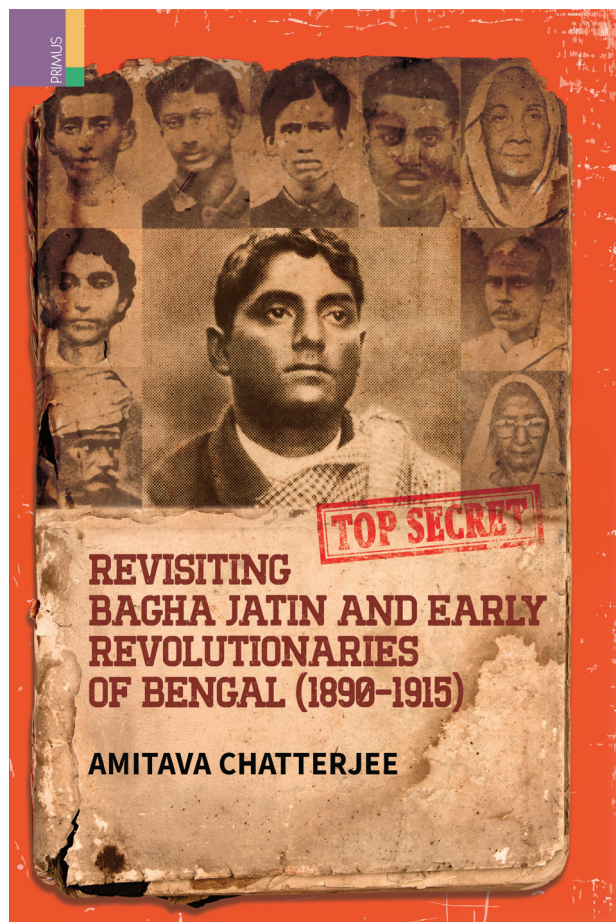
Price: ₹ 1395/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

In a dynamic era, when the British government was in its high noon in the early twentieth century and seemed unshakeable, a group of aggressive, adamant young revolutionaries of Bengal dared to take up arms against them. *Revisiting Bagha Jatin and Early Revolutionaries of Bengal* takes the readers into the charged moment in history when events moved with an unstoppable momentum led by the fearless and enigmatic leader of the rebels, Bagha Jatin.

This book focuses on the unsung harbingers of the revolutionary movement who shaped India's freedom struggle at the turn of the century by sacrificing their life for freedom. Through a rich historical lens, this book uncovers the intricate web of underground networks, the moral dilemmas of violent struggle, and the emotional testimony of young leaders who chose sacrifice over silence. It examines the emergence of an organized and ideologically coherent revolutionary framework in Bengal. This work also analyzes the evolution of secret societies, their strategic methods and the critical role played by Bagha Jatin and his associates in redefining resistance beyond spontaneous uprisings toward coordinated political action.

THE AUTHOR

Amitava Chatterjee is Professor of History at Kazi Nazrul University, West Bengal.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students specialising in History of Bengal, Modern Indian History, Colonial History, Political History, History of Indian Nationalism etc.

SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA UP TO AD 1500

Dynamics of Difference

(History of Christianity in India, Volume 2)

Edited by: Pius Malekandathil, K.S. Mathew, James Puliurumpil, and Francis Thonippara

ISBN: 978-93-0961-593-1

Year: 2026

Pages: 460

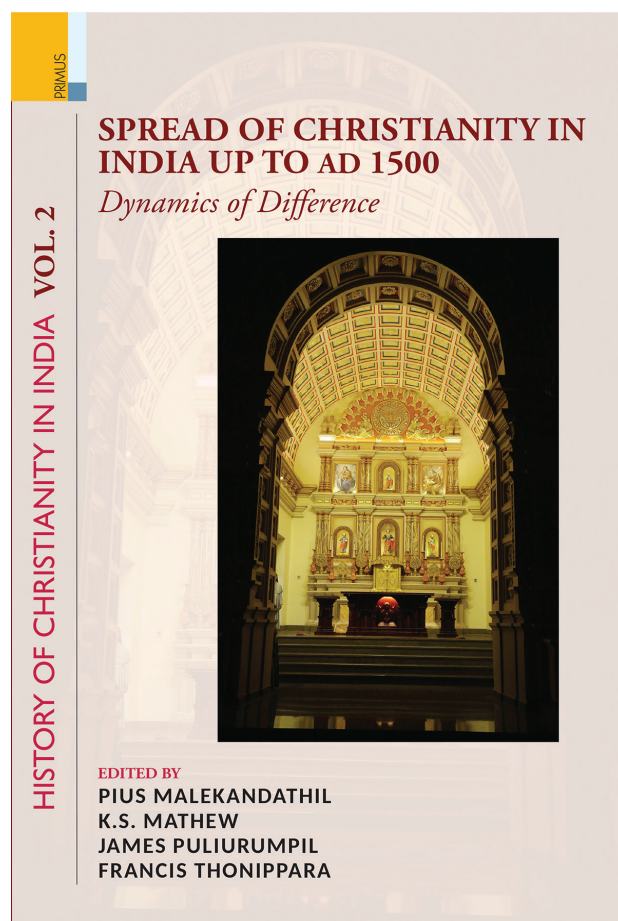
Price: ₹1595/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Spread of Christianity in India up to AD 1500 examines the history of the St. Thomas Christians, and unravels the complex socio-economic and cultural processes by which this community navigated its unique identity within a space where Eastern Syriac liturgical traditions, Indic cultural practices, and Christian religious beliefs intersected. The St. Thomasites' internal struggle to define what it meant to be an 'Indian Christian' was influenced by faith and trade-related networks with Persia, the community's overwhelming tilt towards the Seleucia-Ctesiphon Church, and local Indic cultural practices by which their everyday social and cultural life was shaped.

THE EDITORS

Pius Malekandathil is former Professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and is currently Vicar General of the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Kothamangalam, Kerala, India.

K.S. Mathew served as Professor and Head at Hyderabad Central University and later as Founder Head and Professor at the Department of History, Pondicherry Central University.

James Puliurumpil has served as Secretary to the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and as President of the Historical Commission for the Cause of Canonization of Fortunatus Thanhaeuser.

Francis Thonippara has taught Church history and allied subjects at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram (DVK), Bengaluru, and at many other institutions.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students specialized in History of Christianity in India, Religious Studies and Identity Formation, Sociology of Religion, Religious History etc.

THE GAME OF KNOWLEDGE

Playing at Spiritual Liberation in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Western India

Author: Jacob Schmidt-Madsen

ISBN: 978-93-0961-619-8

Year: 2026

Pages: 730

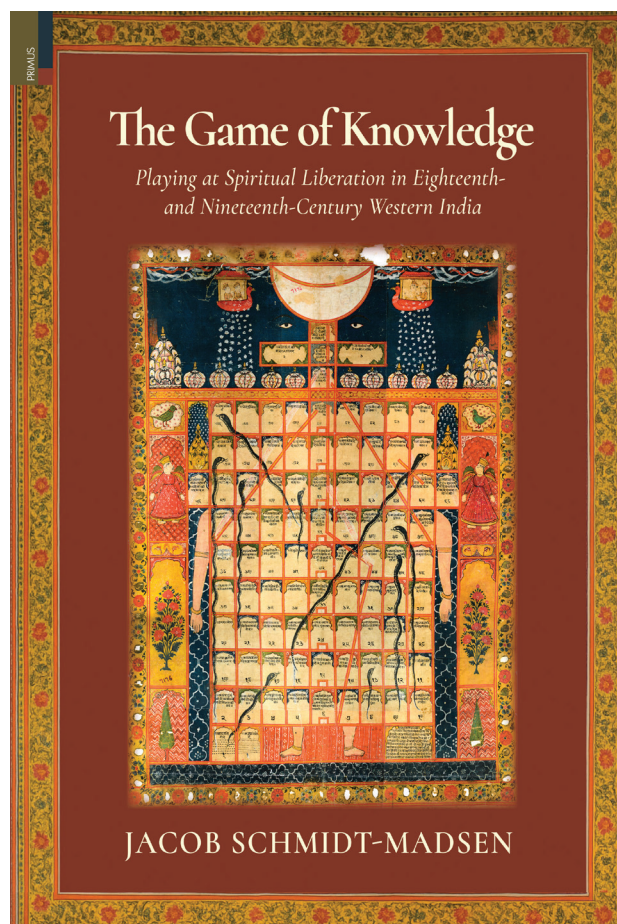
Price: ₹ 7995/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: A4



THE BOOK

Snakes and Ladders is one of the most successful board games ever marketed. It was introduced by British game manufacturers in the late nineteenth century, but its history can be traced back to the religious Vaishnava and Jaina communities in eighteenth-century Western India. It was known there as the 'Game of Knowledge' and variously used for entertainment, education, divination, and self-exploration. The board was a map of the universe, the pawns were the souls traveling through it, the dice the karma controlling them, and the snakes and ladders the ups and downs on their journey toward spiritual liberation.

The Game of Knowledge: Playing at Spiritual Liberation in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Western India tells the fascinating story of board games from its origin in mystical charts of the astral body to its modern adaptation as an abstract children's game. The story is told through beautifully handcrafted gameboards and little-known texts and manuscripts. The facts are presented with scholarly rigour yet easily grasped by the attentive reader.

THE AUTHOR

Jacob Schmidt-Madsen is a historian of board games specializing in traditional South Asian games. Currently based at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, his research explores how formal game systems are invested with meaning and used for purposes of ritual, divination, education, and other playful yet serious practices.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of History of Games and Play, Cultural History, Indology, History of Board Games etc.

VISUALITY, SPATIALITY AND SOCIETY IN INDIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Editor: Seema Bawa

ISBN: 978-93-7452-030-7

Year: 2026

Pages: 724

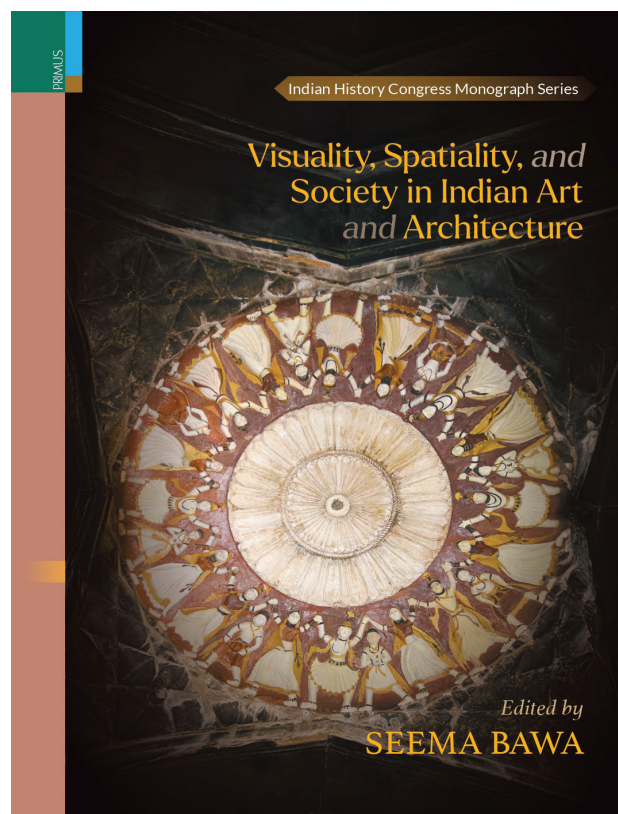
Price: ₹ 2150/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Visuality, Spatiality, and Society in Indian Art and Architecture examines how the writing of Indian art history has evolved in dialogue with broader historical scholarship and its shifting ideological frameworks. Bringing together papers presented at the Indian History Congress between 1986 and 2013, the volume places these essays within the intellectual and historiographical contexts in which they were produced, tracing how art and its study have been shaped by changing understandings of history itself. The volume reveals the diverse ways in which visual and spatial forms express social meanings. From the 1990s, what has often been described as the 'visual turn' in history encouraged greater attention to art historical materials as sources that illuminate emotion, memory, and experience. These materials require a kind of visual literacy: the capacity to interpret and situate images within the cultural and historical conditions that give them significance. Organized thematically, the volume's six sections may be read independently, though they continually intersect—iconography merges with gender and region, regional traditions with patronage and ideology.

THE EDITOR

Seema Bawa is Professor in the Department of History, University of Delhi, where she specializes in the history of South Asian art and culture.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to Social Scientists specialising in Art History, Archaeology, Indian History, Iconography, Gender and Landscape Studies etc.



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