



The Hindus - An Alternative History

Wendy Doniger

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The Hindus is a book which provides clarity about which incidents can be classified as actual historical facts of Hinduism, and which ones are the figments of people's imagination. There is no chronology of events or texts that form a part of Hinduism; some of them cannot even be traced back to an accurate era. Some of the core beliefs which are the pillars of Hinduism, like karma and dharma, are often found to express different views in each era, among different castes, and between genders. This book highlights that the various vernacular and Sanskrit sources display sympathy and compassion towards the lower castes and women. It shows the debate that ensues in these sources which revolve around violence, religion, and tolerance. This book also explains the contribution of animals in the shaping of attitudes of humans towards different social classes. The Hindus throws light on the ways in which the religion of Hinduism is kept alive. This book was published by Penguin India in 2011, and is available in paperback. Key features: The Hindus held the first place as a bestseller in the Hindustan Times' non-fiction category for a week in the year 2009. It was a finalist in the Book Awards of the National Book Critics Circle. This book has also received positive reviews from the Hindu, the New York Review of Books, the Times Literary Supplement, the Library Journal, and the New York Times.

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