

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE
OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE

THE VEDIC
AGE

6124

GENERAL EDITOR

R. C. MAJUMDAR

M.A., PH.D., F.R.A.S.B.

*Ex Vice-Chancellor and Professor of History
Dacca University*

*Hon. Head of the Department of History
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*

ASSISTANT EDITOR

A. D. PUSALKER

M.A., LL.B., PH.D.

*Assistant Director and Head of the
Department of Sanskrit
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*

LONDON

GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>Foreword by K. M. Munshi</i>	7
<i>Preface by R. C. Majumdar</i>	23
<i>Abbreviations</i>	31

BOOK I. INTRODUCTION

I. Indian History, its nature, scope and method <i>by R. C. Majumdar, M.A., PH.D., F.R.A.S.B.</i> Formerly Vice-Chancellor and Professor of History in the University of Dacca	37
II. Sources of Indian History <i>by R. C. Majumdar</i>	47
1. Ancient Period. A—Literary Sources. B—Archaeology (I. Inscriptions. II. Numismatics. III. Monuments). C—Foreign Accounts (Greek Writers. Chinese Travellers. Arab Writers)	
2. Mediaeval Period	
3. Modern Period	
III. Archaeological Explorations and Excavations <i>by the late Rao Bahadur K. N. Dikshit, M.A., F.R.A.S.B.</i> Formerly Director General of Archaeology, Government of India Decipherment of the Brāhmī Script. Beginnings of Archaeological Survey. Establishment of Archaeological Department. Regular and Systematic Excavations (Mohenjo-daro, Punjab and N.W.F.P., Kāshmir, United Provinces, Bengal). Prehistoric remains in Gujarāt (Bombay, Mysore, Madras). Explorations in Greater India	65
IV. The Geological Background of Indian History <i>by D. N. Wadia, M.A., B.Sc., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., F.R.A.S.B., F.N.I.</i> Special Adviser to the Government of India	79
1. The Setting of the Stage for Early Man in India	
2. The Indo-Gangetic Alluvium of the Plains of North India	
3. Human cave-dwellers of India: Their animal contemporaries	
4. Laterite cap of the Peninsula and Soil Deposits	
5. Changes in the River Systems of North India during the human epoch	
6. The Great Prehistoric River of Northern India	
7. The Deserts of Western India: The Rann of Cutch	
8. The meteorological influence of the Himālaya Mountains	
9. Earthquakes and Volcanoes	
10. Late earth-movements and local Alterations of level	

CONTENTS	PAGE	CONTENTS	PAGE
V. The Geographical Background of Indian History by R. C. Majumdar	90	IX. The Indus Valley Civilization by A. D. Pusalker, M.A., LL.B., PH.D.	169
1. Physical Features (I. The great mountain wall. II. The Plain of Hindustān. III. The Plateau: A—The Deccan Plateau, B—The Coastal Region, C—The Central Indian Plateau).		Assistant Director and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Bhāratīya Vidyā Bhavan	
2. Influence of Geography upon History. Division into several political and cultural units. India, a distinct geographical unit. Effect of physical features. Indian Colonization. Effect of climate	107	1. The Town (Buildings. Drainage. The Great Bath)	
VI. Flora and Fauna		2. Social and Economic Life (Food. Animals. Dress. Ornaments. Toilet Articles. Household Utensils. Games. Conveyance. Weight and Linear Measures. Medicine. Weapons, Tools, and Implements. Trade and Commerce. Classes of People)	
Part I. The Flora by G. P. Majumdar, M.Sc., PH.D. (LEEDS) Professor of Botany in the Presidency College, Calcutta		3. Arts, Crafts, and Industries (Figures. Seal-engravings. Statues. Spinning and Weaving. Pottery. Seals. Precious Stones and Metals, Shell, Ivory, and Faience)	
1. Forest Vegetation; its types		4. Religion (Mother Goddess. Śiva. Animal Worship. Worship of Tree, Fire, and Water)	
2. Freshwater Vegetation		5. Funerary Customs	
3. Cultivated Vegetation		6. The Indus Script	
Part II. The Fauna by B. K. Chatterji, M.Sc. Lecturer in Zoology in the Presidency College, Calcutta		7. The Antiquity of the Culture	
1. The Vertebrates. Mammals. Birds. Reptiles. Batrachians. Fishes. Lower Chordates		8. Authors of the Indus Civilization	
2. The Invertebrates. Molluscs. Arthropods. Echinoderms		9. Extent, Connections, and Survivals of the Indus Civilization	
<i>BOOK II. THE PREHISTORIC AGE</i>			
VII. Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Copper Ages by H. D. Sankalia, M.A., LL.B., PH.D. (LONDON) Professor of History in the Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Poona	123	<i>BOOK III. THE ARYANS IN INDIA</i>	
1. Palaeolithic Age (I. First Inter-Glacial Age. II. Second Inter-Glacial Age and Early Soan Industry. III. Third Ice Age and Late Soan Industry. IV. Third Inter-Glacial Age; Chauntra Industry. V. Fourth Ice Age Tools)		X. The Aryan Problem by B. K. Ghosh, D.PHIL. (MUNICH), D.LITT. (PARIS)	201
2. Mesolithic Age		Lecturer in Philology in the University of Calcutta	
3. Neolithic Age		Original home of the Indo-Europeans. Earliest trace of the Indo-Irānians. Lithuanian, the most archaic of Indo-European Languages. No case for original home in Europe. Scandinavia of the Original Home. Relation between Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages	
4. Copper and Bronze Age		Appendix—India, the original home of the Aryans by S. Srikanta Sastri, Professor Maharaja's College, Mysore	
5. Iron Age			
VIII. Race-Movements and Prehistoric Culture by S. K. Chatterji, M.A., D.LITT. (LONDON), F.R.A.S.B. Khaira Professor of Indian Linguistics and Phonetics in the University of Calcutta	141	XI. Indo-Iranian Relations by B. K. Ghosh	218
Six main races with nine sub-types. Evolution of Common Indian Culture. Contribution of (a) the Negroid or Negro, (b) the Proto-Australoids, (c) Dravidian-speakers. Synthesis of the Aryan and non-Aryan Culture		Cleavage between the Aryans of India and Irān. Antagonism between the Worshippers of Daiva-gods and Asura-gods. Reforms of Zarathustra. Pre-Zarathustra Irānian Culture essentially the same as Vedic	
14		XII. Vedic Literature—General View by B. K. Ghosh	225
		1. The Samhitās (I. Rigveda. II. Sāmaveda. III. Yajurveda. IV. Atharvaveda)	
		2. The Brāhmaṇas	
		3. The Śrauta-sūtras	
		15	

CONTENTS	PAGE
XIII. Aryan Settlements in India by A. D. Pusalker	241
1. Geographical Names in the Rigveda	
2. The Tribes in the Rigveda	
3. The Period of the Later Samhitās, Brāhmaṇas, Upanishads and Sūtras (I. Geographical Names. II. The Tribes)	
<i>BOOK IV. HISTORICAL TRADITIONS</i>	
XIV. Traditional History from the Earliest Time to the Accession of Parikshit by A. D. Pusalker	267
1. Sources of Information	
2. Chronological Scheme of Traditional History according to the Purāṇas	
3. Pre-Flood Traditions and Dawn of History	
4. Flood and Manu Vaivasvata (c. 3100 B.C.)	
5. Yayāti Period (c. 3000-2750 B.C.) (I. The Lunar Dynasty. II. The Solar Dynasty. III. Brāhmaṇa Families)	
6. Māndhātṛi Period (c. 2750-2550 B.C.) (I. The Solar Dynasty. II. The Lunar Dynasty)	
7. Paraśurāma Period (c. 2550-2350 B.C.) (I. The Bhrigus. II. The Haihayas. III. Other Lunar Dynasties. IV. The Solar Dynasty. V. Brāhmaṇa Families)	
8. Rāmacandra Period (c. 2350-1950 B.C.) (I. The Solar Dynasty. II. The Lunar Dynasty. III. Brāhmaṇa Families)	
9. Krishṇa Period (c. 1950-1400 B.C.) (I. The Pañchālas. II. The Pauravas. III. The Yādavas. IV. The Eastern Ānavas. V. The Solar Dynasty)	
10. The Bhārata War (c. 1400 B.C.) (I. The Kauravas and Pāṇḍavas. II. The Bhārata War)	
11. Comparative Value of the Vedas and the Purāṇas as Sources of Traditional History	
12. The Expansion of the Aryans and Aryan Culture	
Appendix I: Development of different dynasties	
Appendix II: Genealogical Tables	
XV. Traditional History from the Accession of Parikshit to the end of the Bāhradratha Dynasty by A. D. Pusalker	319
1. The Pauravas	
2. The Kosalas	
3. Magadha	
4. Other Kingdoms	
16	
<i>BOOK V. THE AGE OF THE RIK-SĀMHITĀ</i>	
XVI. Language and Literature by B. K. Ghosh	333
1. Language (Not homogeneous. Artificial. Rehandling of original texts. The Verbal system. Tenth Mandala distinctly later)	
2. Literature (Yāska's classification of Vedic hymns not quite satisfactory. Hymn to Ushas. Spirit of the hymns. Hymn to Parjanya. Martial hymns. Dialogue-hymns. Frog-hymn. Dānavi-stuti. Apri-hymns. Funeral-hymns. Philosophical hymns)	
XVII. Political and Legal Institutions by V. M. Apte, M.A., PH.D. (CANTAB.) Professor of Sanskrit in the Karnatak College, Dharwar	352
1. Political Institutions (Monarchy. <i>Sabhā</i> and <i>Samiti</i> . <i>Purohita</i>)	
2. Administrative Organization (<i>Grāma</i>)	
3. Law and Legal Institutions (Individual ownership of Land)	
XVIII. Religion and Philosophy by V. M. Apte	360
1. Mythology (I. Origin. II. The Nature and Classification of Gods. III. The Celestial Gods. IV. The Atmospheric Gods. V. The Terrestrial Gods)	
2. Sacrifice	
3. Philosophy	
4. Ethical and Spiritual Thought	
XIX. Social and Economic Conditions by V. M. Apte	384
1. Social Condition (I. Family Life. II. The Caste System. III. Marriage and the Position of Women. IV. Education. V. Amusements and Entertainments. VI. Food and Drink. VII. Dress and Decoration. VIII. Knowledge of Medicine and Sanitation)	
2. Economic Condition (I. Agriculture and Cattle. II. Trade and Commerce. III. Occupations and Industries. IV. House-building and Means of Transport, etc.)	
<i>BOOK VI. THE AGE OF THE LATER SAMHITĀS</i>	
XX. Language and Literature by B. K. Ghosh (Section 4 by V. M. Apte)	403
1. The Language of the Samhitās (I. Sāmaveda. II. Yajurveda. III. Atharvaveda)	
2. The Samhitā Literature (I. Atharvaveda, Arrogance of the Brāhmaṇas, Coronation hymn, Bhūmi-sūkta, the National Anthem of Vedic India, Magic and Charms, Hymn to Varuṇa. II. Yajurveda)	
3. The Brāhmaṇas (I. Language. II. Literature)	
4. The Āraṇyakas	
17	

	CONTENTS	PAGE
XXI.	Political and Legal Institutions by V. M. Apte	425
1.	Political Theory (Origin of Kingship. Growth of royal power. <i>Sabkā</i> and <i>Samiti</i>)	
2.	Administrative Organization (Royal Officials. Taxation)	
3.	Law and Legal Institutions (Evidence. Criminal law. Civil law. Civil procedure. Ownership of Land)	438
XXII.	Religion and Philosophy by V. M. Apte	
1.	Atharvaveda (Magic Formulae. Philosophical hymns)	
2.	The Sāmaveda and the Yajurveda <i>Sānhitās</i> and the Brāhmaṇas (Grand Sacrifices. Groups of priests. The Gods. Ethical Ideas. The conception of Heaven and Hell. The Circuit of Birth and Death)	
3.	The Aranyakas	449
XXIII.	Social and Economic Conditions by V. M. Apte	
1.	Social Condition (I. Family Life. II. The Caste System. III. Marriage and the Position of Women. IV. Education. V. Amusements and Entertainments. VI. Food and Drink. VII. Dress and Decoration. VIII. Knowledge of Medicine)	
2.	Economic Condition (I. Agriculture and Cattle. II. Trade and Commerce. III. Occupations and Industries. IV. House-Building and Means of Transport)	
BOOK VII. THE AGE OF THE UPANISHADS AND SŪTRAS		
XXIV.	Language and Literature by M. A. Mehendale, M.A., PH.D.	467
Professor of Sanskrit in S. B. Garda College, Navasari, Bombay		
1.	The Upanishads (Chronological classification. Composed mainly by the Kshatriyas. Principal teachings. The doctrines of Ātman and Brahman. Transmigration)	
2.	The Sūtras (I. Śikshā. II. Kalpa. Śrauta-sūtra. Grīhya-sūtra. Dharma-sūtra. Śulva-sūtra. Date of the Kalpa-sūtra texts. III. Vyākaraṇa. IV. Nirukta. V. Chandas. VI. Jyotiṣha)	
3.	Language (I. The Upanishads. II. The Sūtras)	
XXV.	Political and Legal Institutions by V. M. Apte	482
1.	Political Theory (Principle of Dharma. Life and duty of king. Position of the Brāhmaṇa in the State. <i>Parishad</i>)	
2.	Administrative Organization (Taxation. Village)	
3.	Law and Legal Institutions (Beginnings of Civil and Criminal Law. Judicial tribunals. Punishments. Rules of Inheritance. Title to Property. Rate of Interest)	
	18	
	19	
XXVI.	Religion and Philosophy by V. M. Apte	493
1.	The Upanishads (Protest against ritual. Identity of Brahman and Ātman. Prāṇa. The transmigration of the soul. Ethical concepts. Fundamental doctrines)	
2.	The Sūtras (The Śrauta sacrifices. The Grīhya ritual. Meaning and nature of sacrifice. Different classes of priests. Magic and rituals. Ethical concepts)	
XXVII.	Social and Economic Conditions by V. M. Apte	506
1.	Social Condition (I. Family Life. II. The Caste System. III. Marriage and the Position of Women. IV. Education. V. Manners and Morals. Habits and Customs. VI. Amusements and Entertainments. VII. Food and Drink. VIII. Dress and Decoration. IX. Health and Hygiene)	
2.	Economic Condition (I. Agriculture and Cattle. II. Trade and Commerce. Arts and Industries. III. House-building and Means of Transport)	
	Bibliographies	
	Appendix	527
	Index	541
		546