


A Cultural History of India

Arthur Llewellyn Basham (Editor)

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This book, edited by the well-known historian A. L. Basham, presents a comprehensive survey of Indian culture, covering such aspects as religion, philosophy, social organization, literature, art, architecture, music and science. It includes a special section dealing with the influence of Indian civilization on the rest of the world, as well as details of the political history of the region to provide a chronological framework for the non-specialist. Contributors include such eminent scholars as Radhakrishnan, Burrow, Das, and Spear.

A Cultural History of India Details

Date : Published May 7th 1998 by Oxford University Press, USA (first published October 16th 1975)

ISBN : 9780195639216

Author : Arthur Llewellyn Basham (Editor)

Format : Paperback 640 pages

Genre : History, Cultural, India, Nonfiction

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Sunil says

A good primer on the subject. Several questions in the Civil Service exams seem to come straight from this book.

Riju Ganguly says

Although this book had been compiled for publication in 1975 (practically the middle ages, if you consider the changes that the world has undergone since then), it stands tall as the BEST primer for anybody interested in learning anything about India (except Cricket & Environment, and for those subjects I would like to suggest an immediate reading of works of Ramachandra Guha). It's almost impossible to find out another book covering practically the entire breadth of Indian socio-economic-cultural history as has been achieved by this volume. Yes, several chapters have become rather seriously dated now. And yes, several authors should have been replaced by less sympathetic (Indophilic?) but more penetrative authors even at that stage. Nevertheless, I repeat, if you are looking for a single volume that can cover practically ALL aspects of Indian history, then look no further. Recommended.
