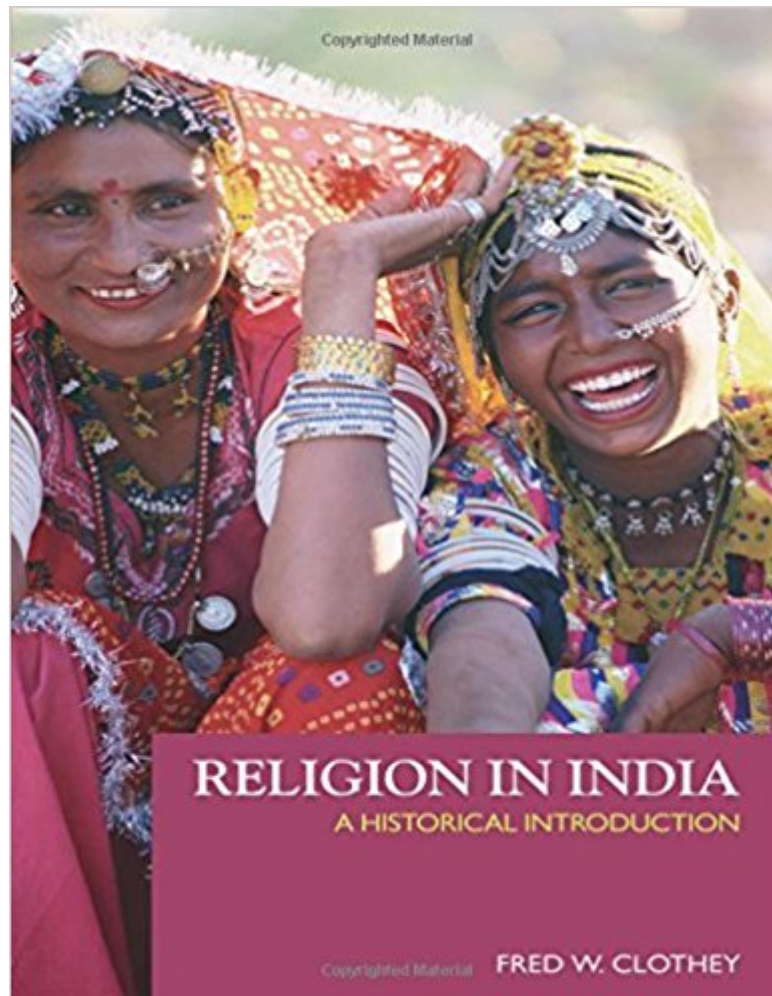




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# Religion In India: A Historical Introduction



## Synopsis

Religion in India is an ideal first introduction to India's fascinating and varied religious history. Fred Clothey surveys the religions of India from prehistory and Indo-European migration through to the modern period. Exploring the interactions between different religious movements over time, and engaging with some of the liveliest debates in religious studies, he examines the rituals, mythologies, arts, ethics and social and cultural contexts of religion as lived in the past and present on the subcontinent. Key topics discussed include: Hinduism, its origins and development over time minority religions, such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Jainism and Buddhism the influences of colonialism on Indian religion the spread of Indian religions in the rest of the world the practice of religion in everyday life, including case studies of pilgrimages, festivals, temples and rituals, and the role of women Written by an experienced teacher, this student-friendly textbook is full of clear, lively discussion and vivid examples. Complete with maps and illustrations, and useful pedagogical features, including timelines, a comprehensive glossary, and recommended further reading specific to each chapter, this is an invaluable resource for students beginning their studies of Indian religions.

## Book Information

Paperback: 296 pages

Publisher: Routledge (February 28, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415940249

ISBN-13: 978-0415940245

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.7 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #100,053 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Religious History](#) #42 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Islam](#) #183 in [Books > History > World > Religious > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

'What sets this book apart is (a) the emphasis on the arts, (b) discussion of rituals at various points in the narrative, and (c) its attention to the other [non-Hindu] religions of India and, to some extent, their interaction. This promises to be the best introduction to date on the religion of India.' - Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida, USA 'Clothey's purpose is worthy and necessary. At present there

is no complete textbook for undergraduates on the religions of India.' – Rick Jarow, Vassar College, New York, USA 'This is an extremely worthwhile endeavor, and it should produce a book for which there is considerable need. The endeavor is also, of course, an extremely ambitious one, especially the goal of combining accessibility and contextual richness. But, from what I have read, it seems likely that Clothey's book will go far toward achieving this goal.' – Anne Feldhaus, Arizona State University, USA

University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

This is a good introductory text for religion and culture of India. Offering some historical depth from the ancient period to modern times, Clothey's book is outstanding for its inclusive approach. There is information not only on Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Islam (as would be expected), but also on Zoroastrianism, Judaism and Christianity in India. His overviews of these religions or their presence in India are dependably concise and informative. For new students the text will offer a rich and comprehensive introduction. One might only object that there are so many names and terms dropped that the text begins to be too captivated by the bewildering diversity of India, and strays somewhat from the purpose of a concise, thematic introduction. That said, I think this is a fine text and will remain an important resource for beginning students of Indian religious and cultural history for many years. Clothey obviously has an extensive repertoire of knowledge which he draws upon. (p.s. I was a former student of Clothey's so perhaps I am biased, but this is good work)

good

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