

**BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,
1850–1920
Disease, Sanitation and Public
Health Personalities**

Author: Mridula Ramanna

ISBN: 978-93-58522-05-1

Year: 2024

Pages: 356

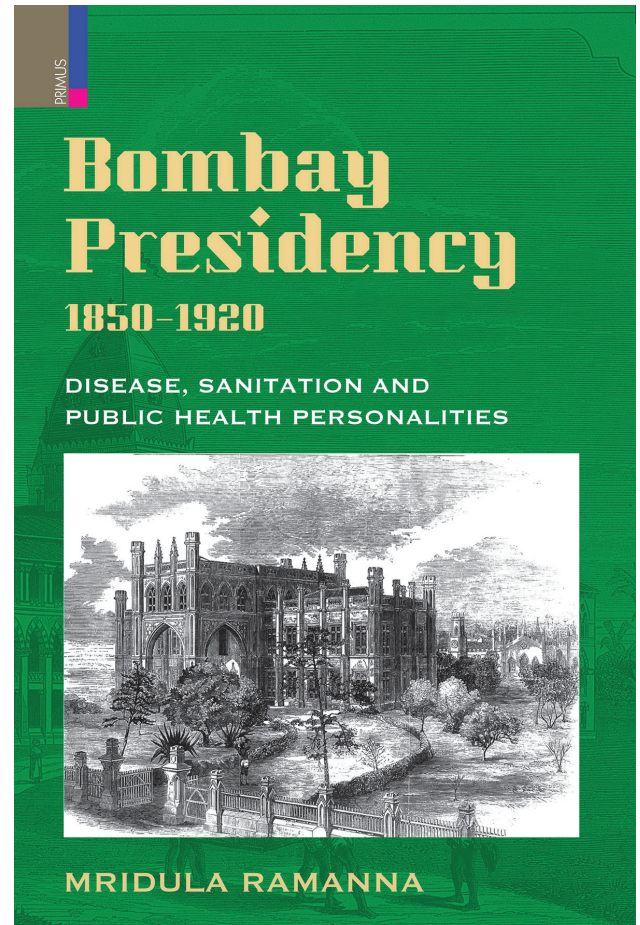
Price: ₹1450/-

Format: Hardback

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Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Bombay Presidency, 1850–1920: Disease, Sanitation and Public Health Personalities examines the defining shifts in health and medicine, in Bombay Presidency, over seven decades. This work focuses on the major health and sanitation problems of the nineteenth century: the health of the European poor, battling alcoholism and venereal diseases; the views of Indian men and women doctors, about diseases, curatives and birthing practices; and Florence Nightingale’s interest in the Presidency, particularly her advocacy of village sanitation. Besides, the contributions of doctors B.K. Bhatwadekar and N.H. Choksy, to public health, through an analysis of their writings, are also explored in this monograph. The themes of the early twentieth century which emerge in this work are the review of sanitary improvements in *Urbs Prima in Indis*, regulations imposed on pilgrims passing through Bombay and at pilgrim sites, and the state of sanitation and disease control in the villages and towns. The book also revisits an important episode, the experience of Bombay in coping with the Influenza Pandemic of 1918, based on contemporary newspaper reports, and on reports of voluntary agencies, which provided relief.

THE AUTHOR

Mridula Ramanna is the former Head, Department of History, South Indian Education Society College, Mumbai. She has been the recipient of the Rockefeller Residency, Rockefeller Archive Centre, New York and has received grants from the Wellcome Trust, London for her research.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of History of Science and Medicine, Modern Indian History, History of Urban Bombay, Disease and Epidemic Studies and Medical Humanities.



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MALIGNED MAVERICK
Michael Madhusudan Datta
Life, Letters and Literature

Author: Nandan Dasgupta

ISBN: 978-93-5852-382-9

Year: 2024

Pages: 400

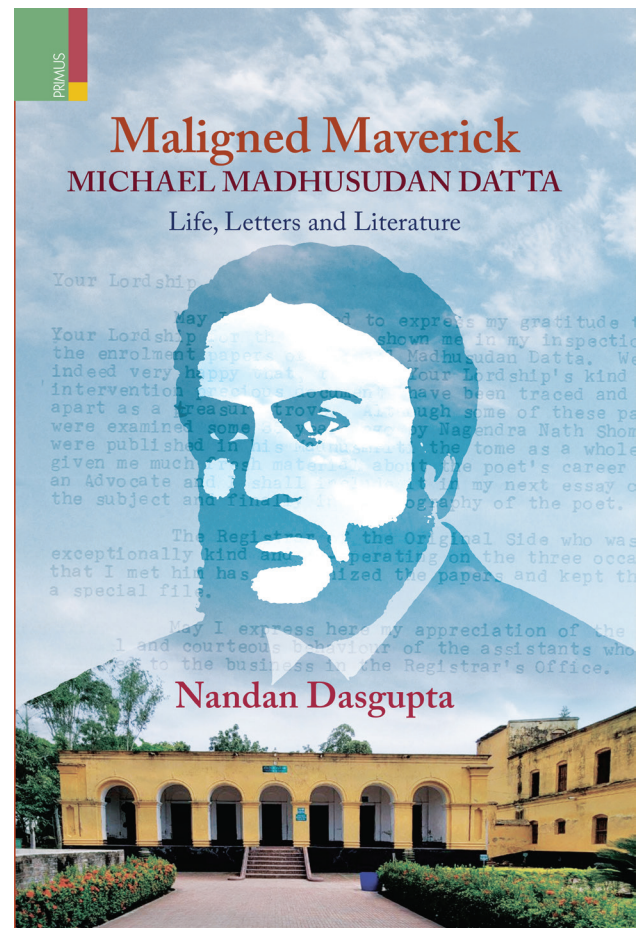
Price: ₹1750/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

The playwright and poet, Michael Madhusudan Datta is easily one of the most important and controversial literary figures of nineteenth-century South Asia—characterized by radical socio cultural transformation. Despite countless discussions by commentators and biographers he remains an enigma among the literary giants who straddled nineteenth-century Bengal. By demystifying Datta’s conversion to Christianity and by debunking myths of disinheritance, the alleged ‘desertion’ of his wife, misogyny, womanizing, alcoholism, and British sycophancy, *Maligned Maverick* re-examines the life and work of the pioneer of modern Bangla literature. This book delves into unexplored areas of his writings and quotes profusely from poems, plays, letters and articles, including Michael’s journalistic writings and his best-known controversial English prose piece *The Anglo-Saxon and the Hindu*, providing new insights into the mind of the maverick genius.

Analysis of the role of another towering personality of those times, the social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, also leads to some intriguing propositions. This book, the only biography available in English, discusses Michael’s varied encounters and the resultant range of reactions towards the British Empire. His aspirations in a colonial context and his disillusionment with it make for an interesting subject of investigation and in-depth study.

THE AUTHOR

Nandan Dasgupta is a Delhi-based attorney-at-law, and has edited bilingual (English and Bengali) literary magazines for over a decade.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students interested in Michael Madhusudan Datta, Literature, Bengali Literature, History of Bengali Literature & Modern Bengal, Women’s Studies and Indian Nationalism.



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THE OBSERVANT OWL
Hutom's Vignettes of
Nineteenth-century Calcutta
(Second edition)

Translated by Swarup Roy

ISBN: 978-93-5852-029-3

Year: 2024

Pages: 338

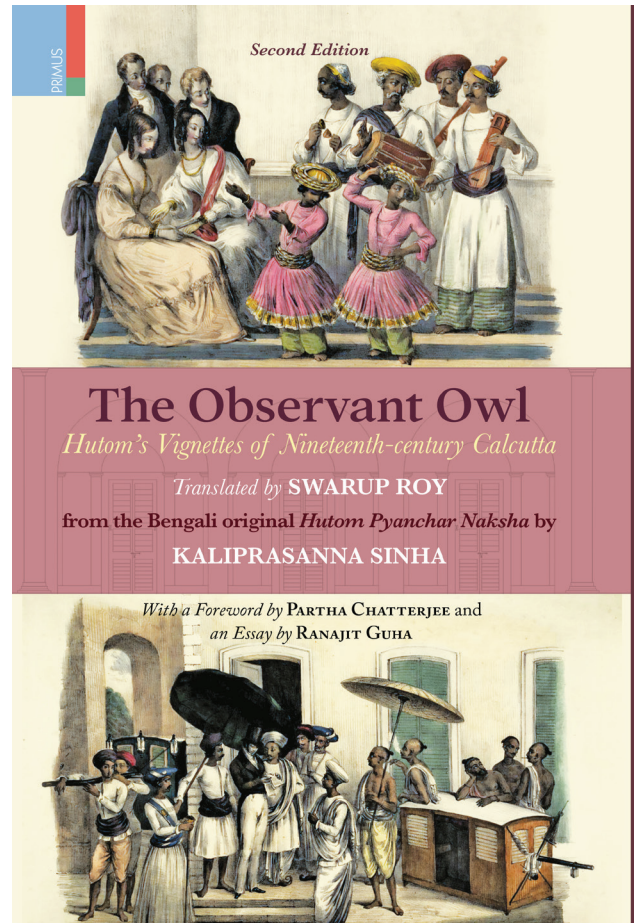
Price: ₹1095/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Hutom Pyanchar Naksha (literally, 'Sketches by Hutom the Owl'), a set of satirical portraits in Bengali about ordinary life in the nineteenth century, is so popular that it has never been out of print since its publication in 1861–2. The author of the sketches, Kaliprasanna Sinha (1840–70), ran several literary journals, founded the Bidyotsahini Sabha (Association for the Cultivation of Knowledge), established a theatre house named Bidyotsahini Theatre to promote Bengali drama, published the Bengali translation of the *Mahabharata*, and donated generously to social causes and projects of social reform.

The Observant Owl, originally published in 2008, is the first ever English translation of Kaliprasanna's work. It presents a joyously irreverent portrait of the city he lived in. The writing is so vivid that one finds within these pages a sense of walking through a nineteenth-century city as fishwives call out their wares, housewives hurry to the river for baths, thieves pick pockets, and carriages creak through slush and rotting banana peels, carting passengers high on ganja.

In this second edition, the translator has revised the text to make some minor modifications, particularly with regard to the tense and aspect of the verbs. He has also added a new Introduction and more annotations to bring to date the discussion around this fascinating text and its context.

THE TRANSLATOR

Swarup Roy is Associate Professor in English at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Belur Math, West Bengal. His areas of interest are postcolonial studies and translation studies.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Literature, Literary Studies, Translation Studies, Bengali Literature and History of Modern Bengal.



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THE SHATTERED EARTH
Histories of Climate,
Catastrophe and the Wilderness

Edited by Mili Ghose

ISBN: 978-93-5852-903-6

Year: 2024

Pages: 370

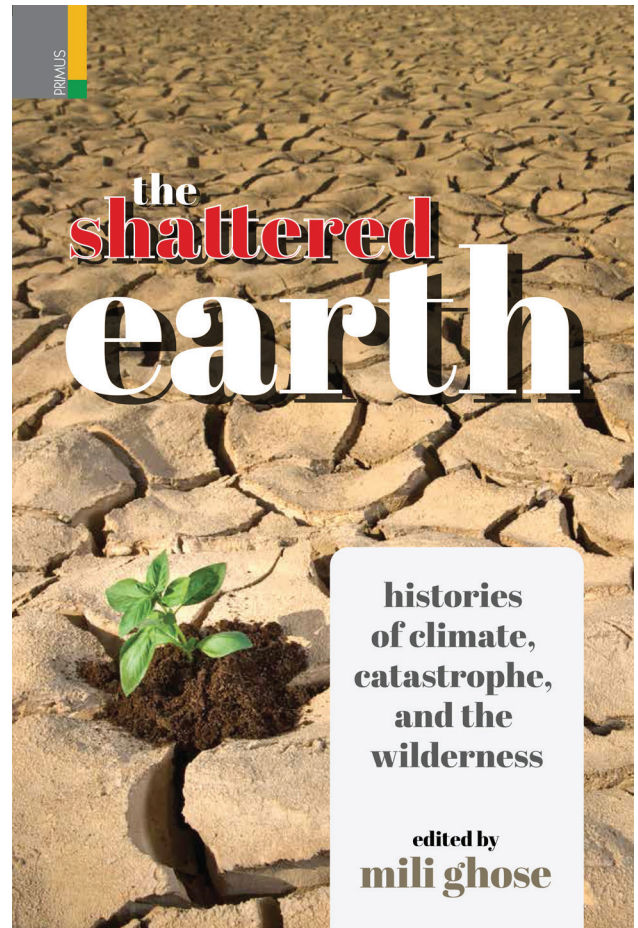
Price: ₹1750/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Global climate change poses a genuine risk to the survival of the human species and raises questions regarding human existence on the planet. *The Shattered Earth* brings together the writings of scholars who investigate global and local questions related to critical environmental issues including global warming and anthropogenic climate change. If we look at the history of global climate change, we can discern the areas where humans have been responsible for disrupting the environment. Humans have already shattered the earth through their lust for power and profit, and have eliminated a number of species for the sake of industries, construction of roads, and for countless other commercial purposes which resulted in the loss of biodiversity. Examining diverse aspects in three sections, this volume deliberates on historical aspects, ecology, and the wild as well as catastrophes as markers of this climate change and its reverberations in planetary life.

THE EDITOR

Mili Ghose teaches at Jadavpur University as a guest faculty. She was a Fellow at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata and a University Grants Commission Fellow at Jadavpur University.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Environmental History, Climatic History, Anthropocene, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Colonial History and International Relations.



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WAITING TOWN
Life in Transit and Mumbai's
Other World-Class Histories

Author: Lisa Björkman

ISBN: 978-93-5852-019-4

Year: 2024

Pages: 172

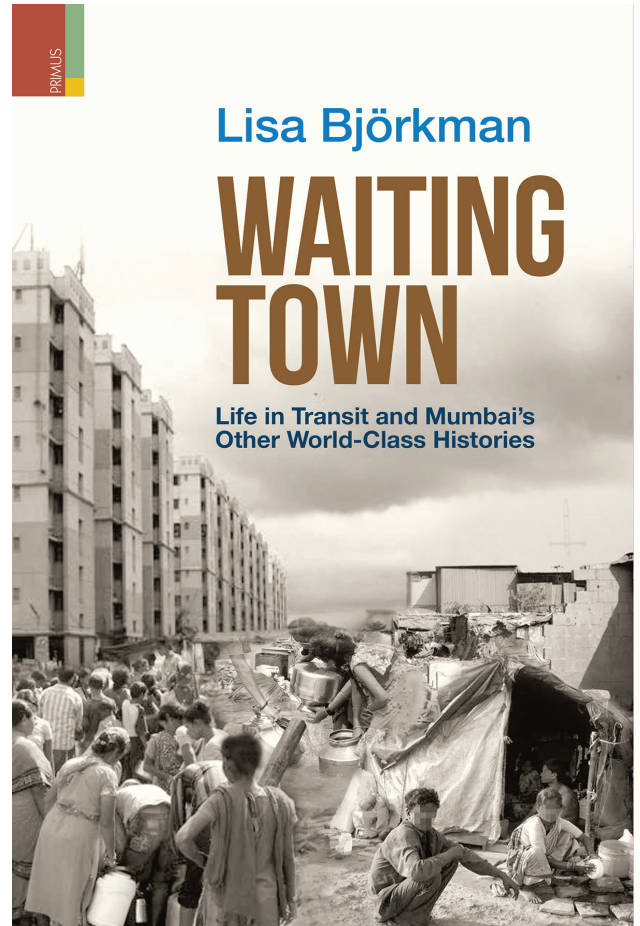
Price: ₹1595/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Drawing on a decade of ethnographic research in the Indian city of Mumbai, *Waiting Town* is an unconventional little book—experimental in form—about how we come to know the worlds about which we write. The narrative follows the author’s fieldnotes diaries as they wend their way through a series of ethnographic puzzles that emerge in the wake of a high-profile mega-infrastructure project that became an internationally celebrated prototype and model. *Waiting Town* complicates this celebratory narrative by revealing the conflicting temporalities and procedural pretensions of ‘world class’ developmentalism. On one level, *Waiting Town* is a book about Mumbai—about housing schemes and scams, about ‘duplicate’ documents (and ‘duplicate duplicates’), and about the material wreckage wrought by the city’s ‘world-class’ ambitions. And at the same time, it has a larger story to tell about truth and falsehood, time and memory—and about the promises and pitfalls of knowledge production, interpretation and representation more generally.

THE AUTHOR

Lisa Björkman is currently a senior research associate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Germany, and an Associate Professor of Urban Affairs at the University of Louisville in the United States.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Urban History, Modern History, Ethnography, and Sociology.



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THE DYING LINEAGE
The Crisis of Political Power in
the *Mahabharata*

Author: Uma Chakravarti

ISBN: 978-93-5852-928-9

Year: 2024

Pages: 260

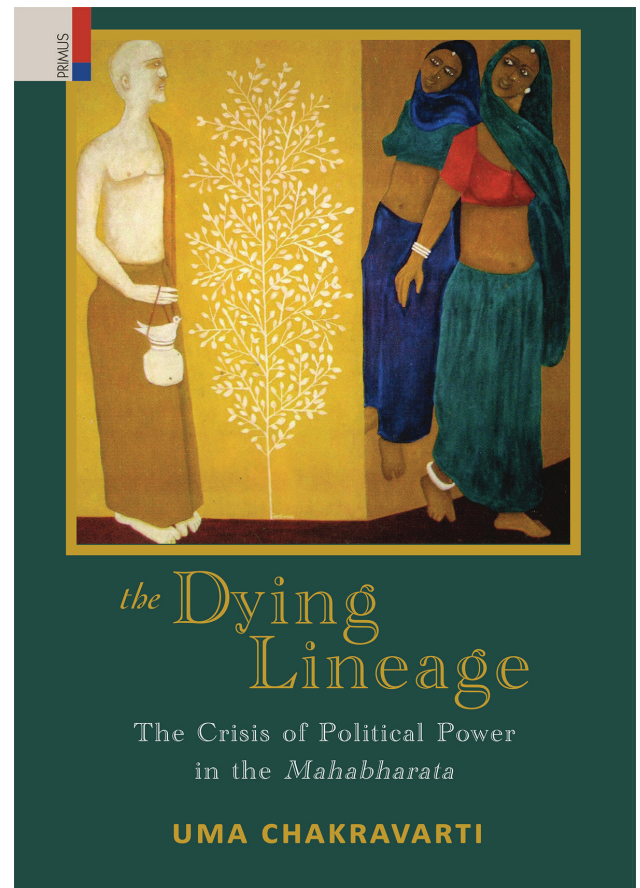
Price: ₹950/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

The Dying Lineage has at its core the crises of reproduction that underwrite Vyasa's *Mahabharata*, a text that best exemplifies the transitional moment from kin-based chiefdoms to monarchical kingdoms in the Indo-Gangetic doab in the mid-first millennium BCE. However, lineage building and putting orderly norms of succession into place was a fraught process. The Bharata patriline stared at its imminent extinction at least once every generation, barely perpetuating itself, and always faced with anxiety over its future. This feminist reading 'peoples' this story by bringing into its frame those who are on the margins of the royal household but cannot claim kingship. Reading against the grain, the book explores the link between caste, class and gender in a varna-ordered society. It examines how all three colluded with the patriarchs (and the occasional matriarch) to ensure the survival of the lineage. The fallout was the denial of women's sexual autonomy and the reifying of their wombs to create a field for the seeds of the Bharata men or their proxies. Consequently, an already imperilled and blighted Kuru lineage is torn asunder by fratricidal contradictions, leading to death and destruction, and the end of an era.

THE AUTHOR

Uma Chakravarti taught history in Miranda House, University of Delhi from 1966 to 1998.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Ancient Indian History, Gender Studies, the *Mahabharata*, Women's Studies, and Social History.



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PURE ENTERTAINMENT
Parsi Theatre, Gender, and
Performance

Author: Kathryn Hansen

ISBN: 978-93-5852-790-2

Year: 2024

Pages: 472

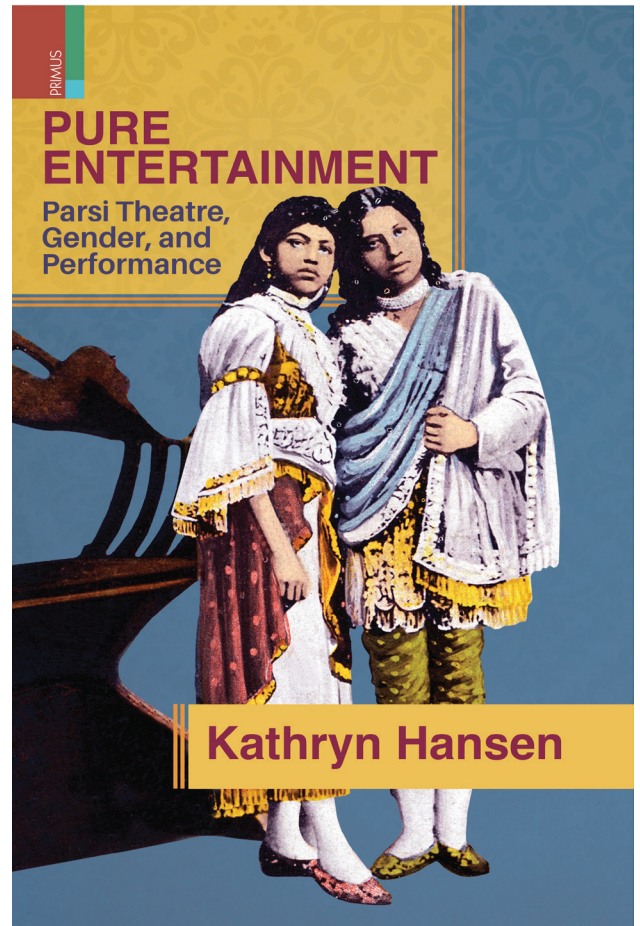
Price: ₹1495/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

For over fifty years Parsi theatre was famous for the sheer pleasure it brought to audiences in colonial India. It transformed the enjoyment of drama into a modern pastime. This cosmopolitan entertainment lured crowds to urban playhouses night after night with its passionate refrains of Urdu poetry and the melodious voices of cross-dressed youths.

Pure Entertainment traces how Parsi theatre wedded vernacular narrative and musicality to new stage technologies to create an aesthetic that appealed across classes and communities. Its performing women and female impersonators became the first media stars. It expanded the mythological, historical, and social genres, preparing the ground for the emergence of cinema. By running profitable companies, Bombay troupes travelled to ports like Madras and Rangoon, leaving behind an unmistakable legacy.

The fourteen essays in this volume represent Kathryn Hansen’s decades of research on the Parsi theatre. Her pioneering scholarship unites lifelong immersion in Indian languages with deep appreciation of oral performance culture and promises fresh insights for both, the general reader and the theatre specialist.

THE AUTHOR

Kathryn Hansen is a cultural historian and has worked extensively on Indian theatre.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Performing Arts, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Community Studies, Cultural History, Social Anthropology, Studies in Theatre.



**THE CEREMONIAL OF
POWER**
**The Mughal Empire under Shah
Jahan**

Author: Harit Joshi

ISBN: 978-93-5852-905-0

Year: 2024

Pages: 527

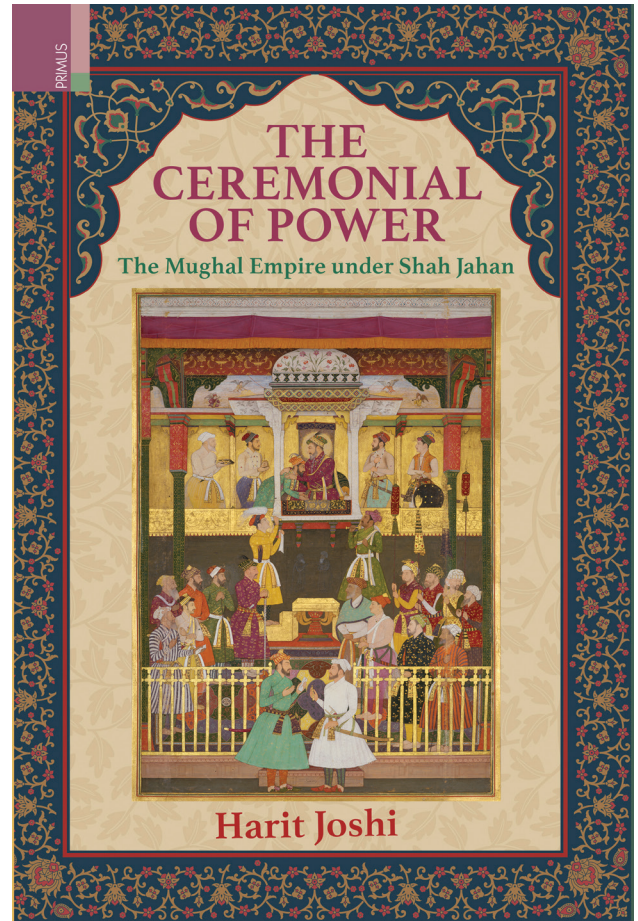
Price: ₹1995/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

The Ceremonial of Power studies the court ceremonial during the reign of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (1628–58) and its use as an indispensable tool in asserting imperial authority. It examines Shah Jahan's portrayal in contemporary and later historiography through an analysis of the writings of the court chroniclers, the colonial administrator-historians, and their Indian counterparts. The volume sheds light on different features of the emperor's personality that emerge from the official discourse as well as other significant aspects of his reign: Shah Jahan's passion for architecture and the layout of his court; the emperor's relationship with his courtiers and their daily interactions; Shah Jahan's religious views and their influence on court proceedings; the ceremonial nature of his diplomatic exchanges with the other major empires of the contemporary Islamic world; and finally, how Mughal court ceremonial was reappropriated in the following centuries, first by the successor states, and then by the British.

THE AUTHOR

Harit Joshi is Maître de Conférences (Associate Professor) in the Department of South Asian and Himalayan Studies of the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris, where he has taught since 2002.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Medieval Indian History, and Mughal History.



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THE MONSOON CLOUD

Poet Kālamēkam and His Irreverent Poetry

Author: Suganya Anandakichenin

ISBN: 978-93-5852-833-6

Year: 2024

Pages: 140

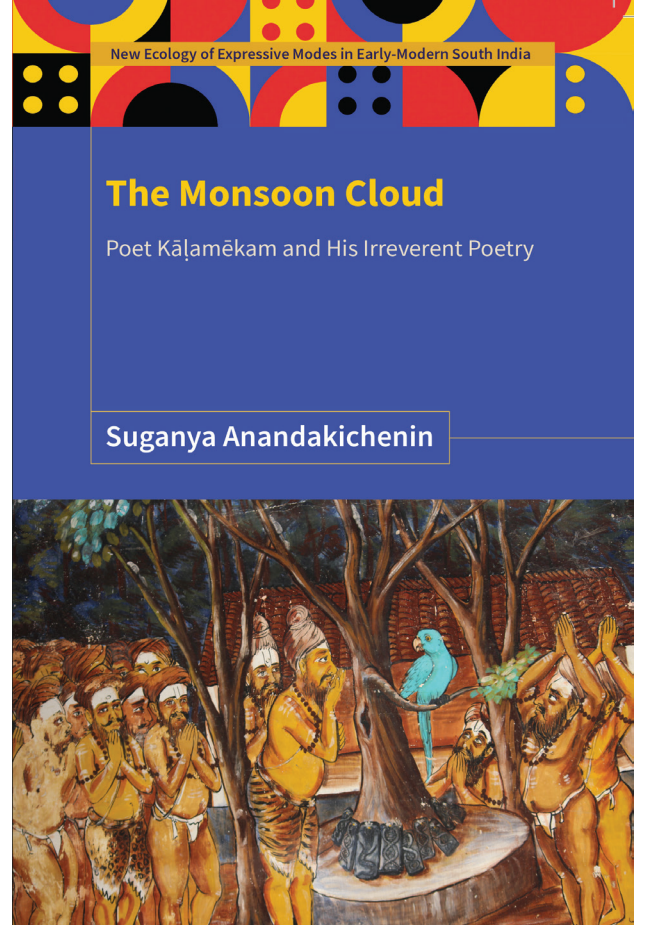
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Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



THE BOOK

A wordsmith, an extempore poet and a satirist, Kālamēkam (also known as Kālamēka Pulavar; fifteenth century) is widely known for his *tanippāṭals* or 'self-contained verses', on a panoply of topics. These splendid but notoriously provocative verses were composed during a transitional phase of Tamil literature, by now in deep conversation with Sanskrit poetics and poetic language, thereby yielding an incredibly rich and innovative poetry. Kālamēkam sings of courtesans, fellow humans, of gods, of animals, praises them, derides them, and insults them, using sarcasm, dry wit, and criticism, combined with *śleṣas* and *yamakas*, *samasyās* and *nindāstutis*. *The Monsoon Cloud* seeks to introduce this brilliant poet and his timeless and influential poetry, while analysing his humour, worldview, personal values, and devotion.

THE AUTHOR

Suganya Anandakichenin is a research scholar affiliated with the Universität Hamburg (Germany), who mainly works in the field of Tamil Vaiṣṇava literature and theology.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Literature, Sanskrit, Classics and Cultural Studies, Tamil Literature and Medieval South Indian History.

**ECONOMIC TRANSITION IN
EARLY MODERN INDIA
Production, Subsistence and the
Market in Eighteenth-Century
Bengal**

Author: Rajat Datta

ISBN: 978-93-6177-402-7

Year: 2024

Pages: 308

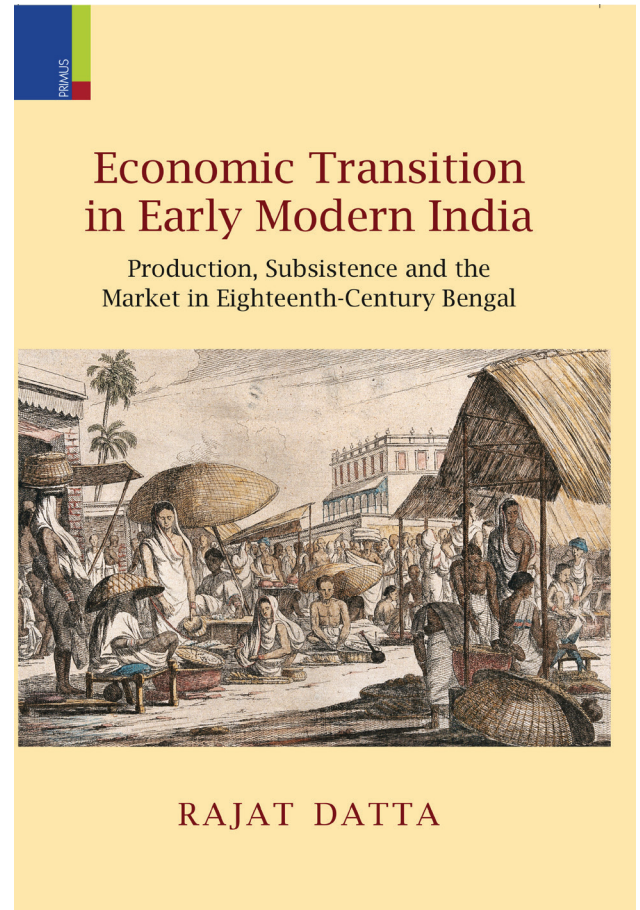
Price: ₹1050/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

This book examines how the agrarian society of Bengal was transformed in the decades after the British conquest. While the focus is local, the arguments have a wider resonance. Datta revisits old debates, re-examines established orthodoxies, offers provocative arguments, and persuades us to rethink the history of late Mughal and early modern India. His arguments proceed at two levels. At one, he explores the working of markets: estimating bullion influx, trade fluctuations, price movements, and commodity flows. He shows how the internal trade between Bengal and other regions expanded, *bazars* and *haats* proliferated, with merchants and markets creating an interlocking network tying the towns to the countryside. At another level, Datta zooms into the rural areas to recover the lives of peasants. We see them engaged in intensive cultivation of their land with domestic labour, producing rice, lentils, mustard, mulberry and cotton, participating in an increasingly complex market network, negotiating monsoons and fluctuating harvests. Through a close study of the 1769–70 famine, Datta explores how such cataclysmic crises were produced, and what they meant to different sections of rural society. Deeply researched and engagingly written, *Economic Transition in Early Modern India* is an outstanding contribution to the history of early modern India.

THE AUTHOR

Rajat Datta (1956–2021) retired as Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Medieval Indian History, History of Bengal, Economic History, Early Modern History, Labour History, Agrarian History and Environmental History.



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LABOUR, DIASPORA AND MARGINALITY

Essays in Honour of Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

Editors: Yagati Chinna Rao and Hitendra K. Patel

ISBN: 978-93-5687-004-8

Year: 2024

Pages: 612

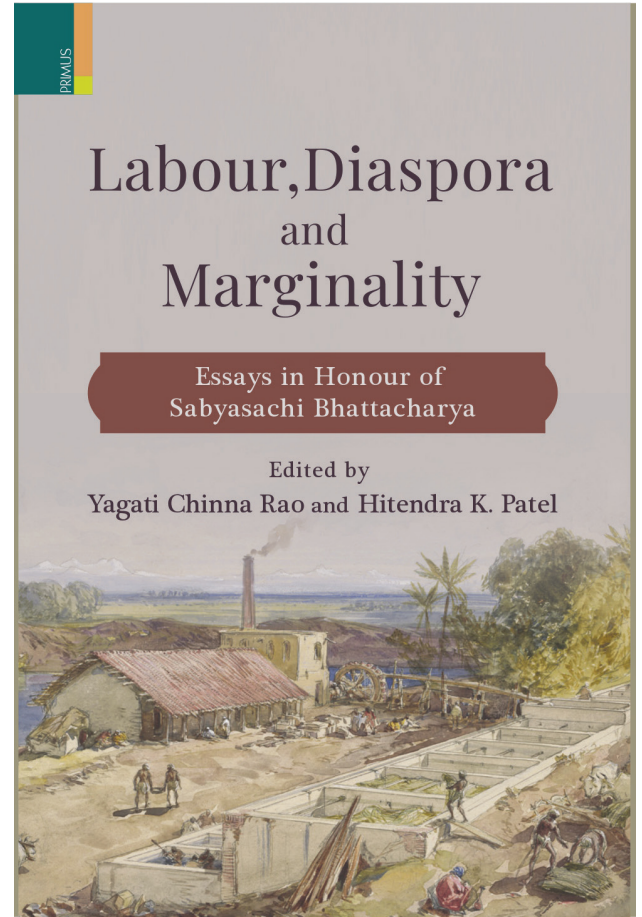
Price: ₹1500/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Labour, Diaspora and Marginality traces the intellectual legacy of Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya (1938–2019), a towering figure in the field of Indian history. He was an exceptional intellectual, infused with ethical sensibility and humanism. Beginning with his earlier forte in economic history, he eventually contributed to a significant trend in labour studies and gave shape to that turn within the specific context of India and other postcolonial nations. He left an indelible impression across the subfields within history such as education, and political, sociocultural and intellectual histories of India.

Professor Bhattacharya remains a great inspiration to generations of historians. This volume puts together articles by his former students and admirers that focus upon economic and cultural histories, labour migration, Indian diaspora, Dalit pasts, and Dalit identity through various protest movements and patterns of caste structure. The volume also delves into some social, cultural, literary and political trends in Indian history, such as the different versions of the revolt of 1857 as reflected in literary texts, historical studies on Indian education, and Gandhi’s idea of the Champaran Satyagraha.

THE EDITORS

Yagati Chinna Rao is Professor and Chairperson, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Hitendra K. Patel is Professor and Head, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati, Kolkata.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Economic History, Cultural History, Indian Diaspora, Dalit History, Migration Studies, Labour History and Modern Indian Historiography.



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NĀLANDĀ A Glorious Past

Author: Anand Singh

ISBN: 978-93-5852-951-7

Year: 2024

Pages: 674

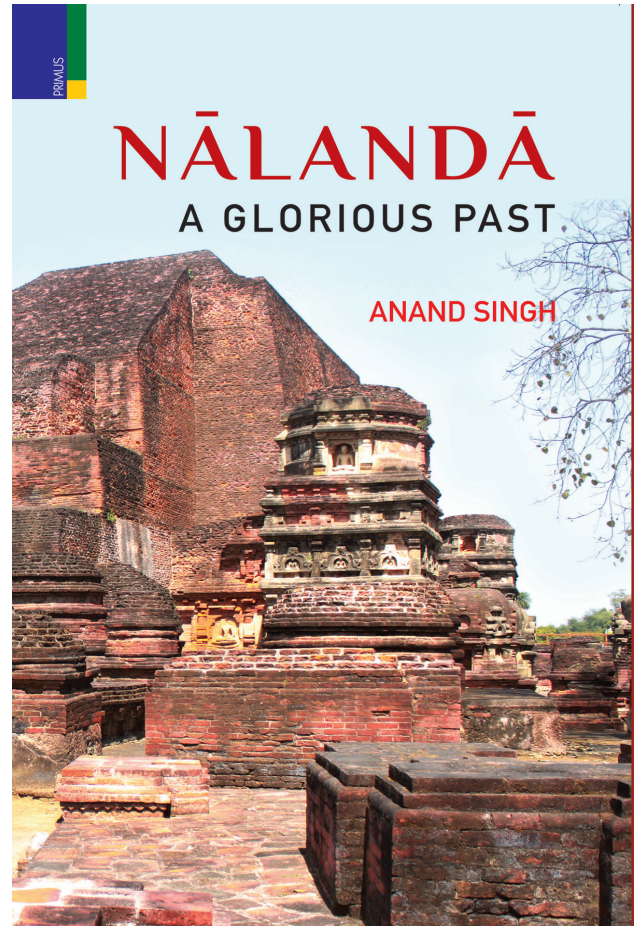
Price: ₹2250/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

This book deals extensively with various facets of Nālandā Mahāvihāra and its contribution to the vast expanse of knowledge and arts of Asia. Some of the important facets of the book are the origin and transformation of Nālandā from Vihārato Mahāvihāra, a brief sketch on Nāgārjuna, father of Nālandā scholasticism, formation of an academic culture at Nālandā, emergence of a book cult in Nālandā, worship of Tārā and the cult of Nāgas. Apart from this it also includes an analysis of financial management, water management, monastic structures, as well as Ārogyavihāra and school of medicine at this centre. Examining the maritime contacts between Jāvā-Sumātrā (Suvarṇadvīpa) and Nālandā as well as Nālandā's connections with ancient China, this work explores the efflorescence and decline of Nālandā Mahāvihāra.

THE AUTHOR

Anand Singh teaches in the Department of History, at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. Formerly he was a Professor in the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy, and Comparative Religion at Nalanda University, Rajgir, and the Dean, School of Buddhist Studies and Civilization at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to South Asianists specialising in Buddhist Studies, Ancient Indian History, Indian Archaeology and Religious History.