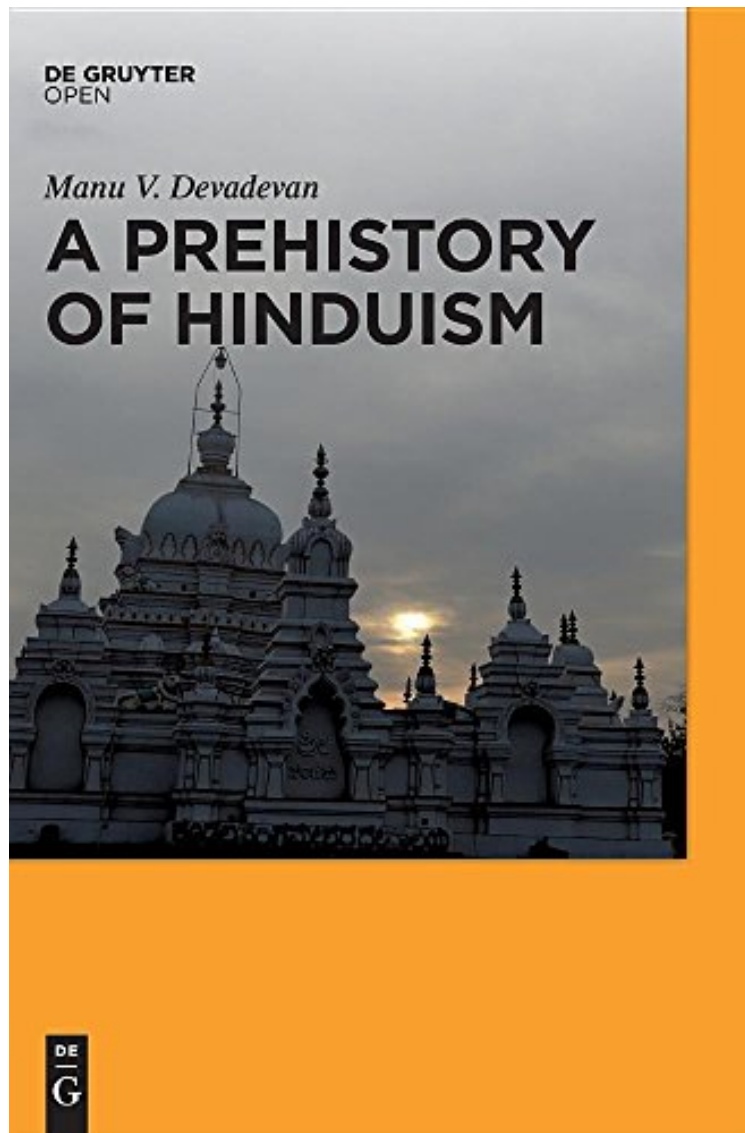


(Library ebook) A Prehistory of Hinduism

A Prehistory of Hinduism

Manu V. Devadevan

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Manu V. Devadevan : A Prehistory of Hinduism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Prehistory of Hinduism:

This book traces a prehistory of Hinduism by exploring religious processes in the Deccan region of South Asia from the eleventh to the nineteenth century. In the light of this prehistory, it proposes an alternative framework for

understanding the making of Hinduism in the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries.

The sterile standoff between constructivists and primordialists on the question of the "invention of Hinduism" has entered a new and fertile phase with Manu Devadevan's *Prehistory of Hinduism*. Unlike most other analysts, the author can actually read precolonial texts--in this case, the very rich archive of Kannada materials--and thereby make real sense of the economic, social, and conceptual changes that with ever-accelerating speed in the early-modern period produced new category-thinking about religion. This new category is based, in Devadevan's analysis, at once on unprecedented developments in economy (class), society (a secular labor market), and ideology (the reified text). Hinduism as a religious community, at least in one South Asia region, was an outcome in the nineteenth century of this complex conjuncture, typified in the abolition of the peasantry and of the living saint. The *Prehistory of Hinduism* is an important work by a remarkable young historian that is going to challenge the way we think about precolonial India. Prof. Sheldon Pollock, Columbia University This book, a scholarly achievement of the first order, offers a radically innovative history of the Western Deccan over the last eight or nine centuries. It is rich in insights generated by profound knowledge of the multi-lingual and multi-cultural worlds of medieval and early-modern Karnataka. Although it purports to be primarily a history of religion in this region, in fact it illuminates political, economic, and social life no less than the astonishing intellectual traditions in medieval Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Sanskrit, Tamil, and Persian. A landmark in the study of pre-modern South India. Prof. David Dean Shulman, Hebrew University Jerusalem About the Author First Name: Manu V.; Surname: Devadevan; Institution: Indian Institute of Technology; City: Mandi; Country: India