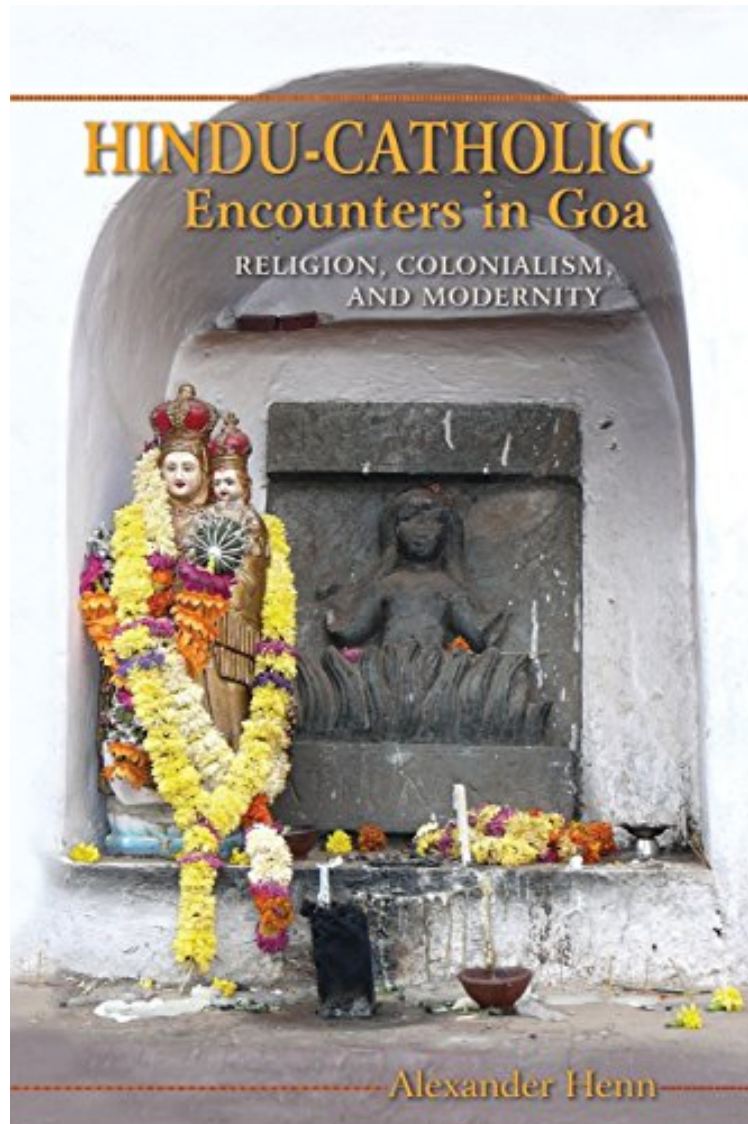


Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa: Religion, Colonialism, and Modernity

Alexander Henn

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#2520737 in Books Alexander Henn 2014-05-27 2014-07-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .52 x 5.981, .75 #File Name: 0253012945230 pages Hindu Catholic Encounters in Goa Religion Colonialism and Modernity | File size: 79.Mb

Alexander Henn : Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa: Religion, Colonialism, and Modernity before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa: Religion, Colonialism, and Modernity:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. .By CustomerLove my candles. The color was perfect. And they

were delivered very quickly and we couldn't be more pleased. Thanks so much Debra Finn! of 1 people found the following review helpful. Understanding Goa By Bob Newman Can you imagine describing a Van Gogh painting as being "yellow, blue, green, and white"? How about Beethoven's Ninth as being "made up of eight notes in various octaves with a few sharps and flats tossed in"? No, right? So, then how can we describe Goa, an Indian region, a very small state OK, as being composed of Catholics, Hindus, and Muslims with a few castes or tribes tossed in? You definitely need a sharper, deeper mode of description. People have been trying to do this for some decades. Alexander Henn's new book tries to describe Goan reality in a new way and I would say it is brilliantly successful. If it veers more to "religious studies" modes of description then probably that is what it takes. He covers several topics including the fascinating question of why the Portuguese seemed to have mistaken Hindu religious sites and practice for Christian when they first arrived in 1498. While this might seem tangential to a discussion of modern Goa, it underlines the long, complicated nature of the Christian-Hindu encounter over 500 years. Then there is a wide-ranging and thoughtful analysis of the relationship of the two religious traditions in Goa as seen by Henn himself over many years of research. He looks at the Hindu-style Christian "puranas" written long ago and he goes deeply into the inseparable ties of land, people, and gods in Goan villages. These ties may have changed religion in many cases, but they remained as close as ever. Religious festivals in which people of both religions participate have long been noted in Goa. Henn discusses some in detail, especially the Jagar of Siolim village of which he has made films also. And finally, he turns to the whole question of "syncretism". Whether this word (which others have used as well) should be applied to Goa is a question. Is it actually helpful in description? After all, what culture is not a product of syncretistic patterns? It is only a question of whether they were observed by our contemporaries or not. Certainly a Goan culture exists, even if all Goans belong to one or other of the great religious tradition and no one to both. Others have written about Goan culture, but I think, with this book, the exploration has been taken to a much higher level. If this volume is not exactly "bedside reading" for most people, it is not less valuable a contribution. I think in future, people seriously interested in Goa and its fascinating history and culture must read HINDU-CATHOLIC ENCOUNTERS IN GOA.

The state of Goa on India's southwest coast was once the capital of the Portuguese-Catholic empire in Asia. When Vasco Da Gama arrived in India in 1498, he mistook Hindus for Christians, but Jesuit missionaries soon declared war on the alleged idolatry of the Hindus. Today, Hindus and Catholics assert their own religious identities, but Hindu village gods and Catholic patron saints attract worship from members of both religious communities. Through fresh readings of early Portuguese sources and long-term ethnographic fieldwork, this study traces the history of Hindu-Catholic syncretism in Goa and reveals the complex role of religion at the intersection of colonialism and modernity.

[T]his is a refreshing and inspiring book, necessary to this ongoing debate on the Goan religious experience, and it should be read as a challenge and a complement to other recent literature that has the religious history of Goa as an object of analysis. (Studies in History) Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa is a tour de force, full of detailed, careful scholarship, and cogent, conceptually nuanced, and innovative arguments. It is clearly the work of a seasoned scholar adept in both the archive and the field. (Asian Ethnology) Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa is a rich work in which the author shows the processes of religious interaction and development. The writing is clear and concise and would be great required reading for upper division undergraduate courses on religion that could easily range from courses on South Asia, Christianity, Hinduism, Religion and modernity, and a whole host of others. (newbooks.asia) [A] number of fine monographs have added further depth and nuance to questions of syncretism and hybridity . . . Alexander Henn's 'Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa' stands in this scholarly trajectory, and contributes significantly to it. March 2016 (Journal of Hindu Studies) This is a passionate and honest book in its approach and contents. And it is worth reading for that very reason. Henn's account is at its best in the detailed anthropological and ethnographic descriptions of his chosen and obviously much cherished field: Goan village culture. (Journal of Jesuit Studies) [A]n important, persuasive, and enduring work for its primary audience, as well as engaging reading for Christians and Hindus interested in learning from a painful moment of cultural encounter. (Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies) An original, groundbreaking book that shows impeccable scholarship, conceptual innovation, and a deep knowledge of the context. . . . It will bring fresh ways of engaging questions not only about Goa and India but also about religious pluralism, the variations in the colonial experience, and the textures of memory. . . . A splendid achievement. (Veena Das Johns Hopkins University) About the Author Alexander Henn is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He is editor (with Klaus-Peter Köpping) of *Rituals in an Unstable World: Contingency, Hybridity, Embodiment*.