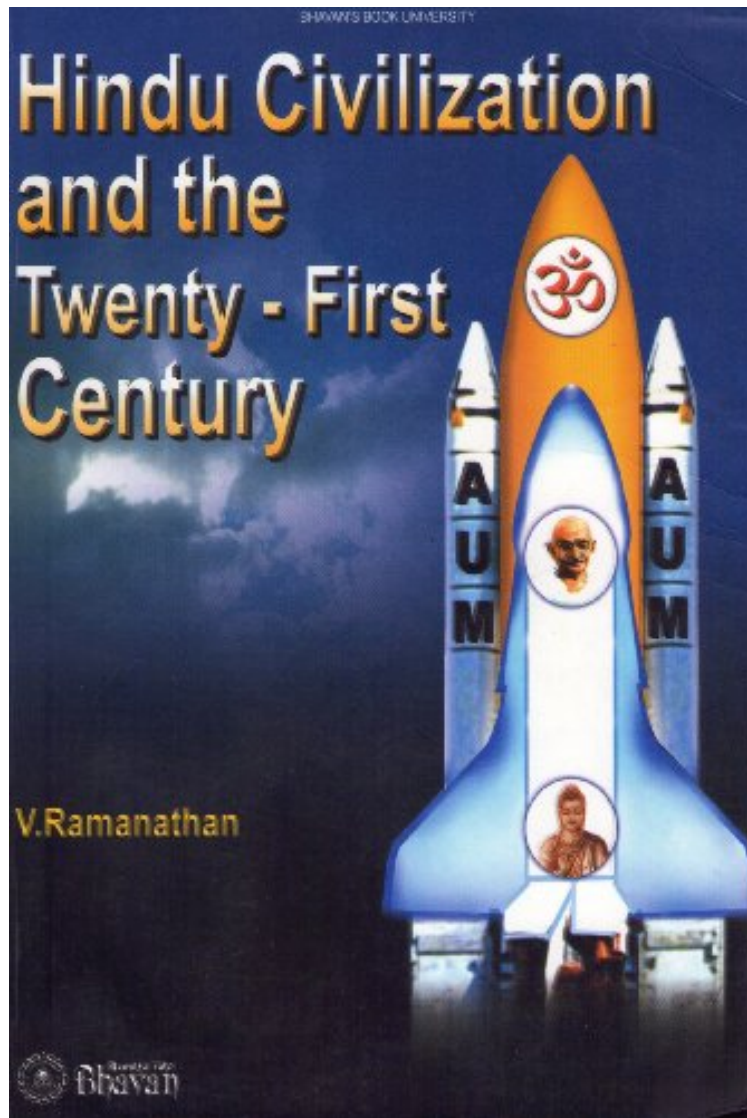


## Hindu Civilization and the 20th Century

*V. Ramanathan*

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**V. Ramanathan : Hindu Civilization and the 20th Century** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hindu Civilization and the 20th Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best book to understand Hindu philosophyBy ChanakyaSeeing my interest in philosophy and religion, I was given this book by a friend and I am very grateful to him. I am not religious or spiritual, but being an Indian, born and grown up in India, I am quite familiar with Hinduism in daily life. I have always been interested in the deeper philosophy behind the rituals and have read quite a bit. This book is the best exposition on Hinduism I have come across. It covers everything - the original principles, the evolution of the thinking, the history and the people, detailed essays on every aspect of major Indian philosophical ideas - it is

complete. All written in a very lucid, non-pompous style. Although very few people will bother reading such a dry subject, for anybody genuinely interested in Hindu philosophy it is the best book to read.

This is a complete guide to Hinduism, not only for the novices but also for the religious minded who still have a lot to learn. Every topic relating to Hinduism has been discussed in the book, including comments by various well known foreigners on the topic. Quotes appearing at the end of the chapter tells the readers what the western world is thinking of Hindus and Hinduism. The book was written since the author strongly felt that the youth of the country were indifferent to the cultural and historical heritage of India. Hinduism has survived the test of time and has survived so many attacks on it down the ages. This is because of its flexibility and its ability to change while keeping its basic principles intact. Ramanathan was a senior executive with the Indian Railways and in this book he combines a lifetime of experience in Management with years of study of the Gita and the Sanskrit language. The author has not treated Hinduism as merely a religion but he has considered it as a manysided civilisation with spiritually oriented values at its core. Hinduism has survived but Greek, Roman, Egyptian civilisations are just names in history. There is an inner strength, something that has made it survive and the author has tried to find out what it is. He has presented to the readers the facts and mythology in Hinduism with reasonable explanations and quotations. It took him 16 years to write the book. The author has enlightened the reader on what is shruti and what is smriti, what are the messages of the Upanishads. He has explained that though Puraanas mean ancient and the events in them are earlier than the itihaas (history), it is a fact that Puraanas are later compositions. There are a lot of comparisons included in the book like those with other civilisations of Egypt, Rome and Greece, with China, with Buddhism, Jainism and Islam. It deals about the present challenges and future prospects of the religion and a strategy for survival has been outlined by the author.

About the Author Ramanathan was a senior executive with the Indian Railways and in this book he combines a lifetime of experience in Management with years of study of the Gita and the Sanskrit language.