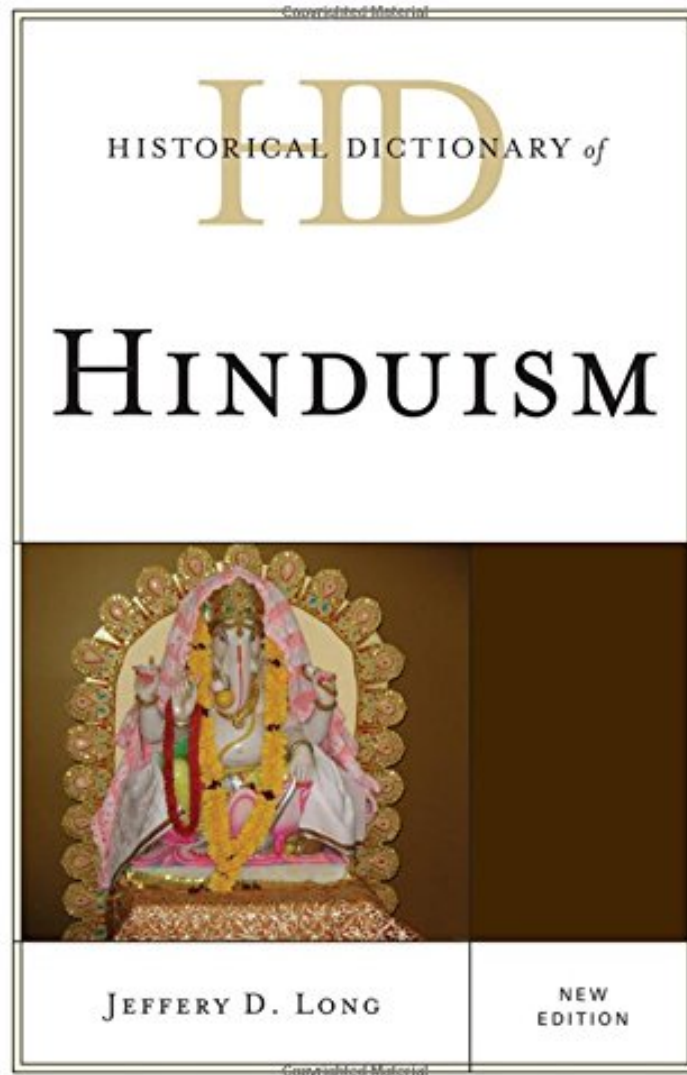


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Historical Dictionary of Hinduism (Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements Series)

Jeffery D. Long

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Jeffery D. Long : Historical Dictionary of Hinduism (Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Historical Dictionary of Hinduism (Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Essential Hinduism Reference--Ancient Indic Concepts through

Modern Philosophical and Religious Movements

By Darren L. Hackler

Professor Jeffery D. Long's new book, *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism: New Edition* (Scarecrow Press), is a major accomplishment and an essential scholarly reference acquisition for libraries, academic institutions, researchers, and any reader interested in learning more about the world's most enduring religious system: Hinduism. Following on the scholarly work of his first two books, *A Vision for Hinduism: Beyond Hindu Nationalism*, and the popular *Jainism: An Introduction* (Introduction to Religion), Long provides readers an essential, understandable reference regarding Indic thought, concepts, writings, religion, myth and history. Professor Long's deft handling of the subjects in this reference includes an introductory essay and chronology covering thousands of years of the evolution of Hinduism, Indic religious and philosophical movements, gods, goddesses, concepts, religious corpus, myth, people, and rich history. *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* includes an essay that places entries into overall context, explores the main theories regarding how the third largest religion in the world evolved--from British colonial rule to Hindu nationalist theories, to modern academic theories about the Indus-Sarasvati, aka Mohenjo Daro-Harappan civilization to classical texts and to the development of India. The *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* contains over 300 pages of terminology (cross-referenced), an extensive bibliography on primary sources, philosophical texts, religious works, an extensive list of secondary sources, and books about various aspects of ancient Hinduism, classical Indian history, colonial rule, to the diversity of modern Hindu sects and movements. Individual entries cover Hinduism through all of its many evolutions, iterations, and interactions with other religions, philosophies, and cultures including Jainism, Buddhism, and even Islam and Christianity. Entries on daily religious practices, devotions, terms, activities, beliefs and about historically important individuals abound. Philosophical references are diverse, ranging from modern Hindu Vedanta (based upon the 8th/9th Century philosopher Shankara, later saints and Ramakrishna's teachings' accepting the scriptural validity of the Vedas with universal tolerance), to yoga to tantra, to philosophies that are popular in the West (e.g. the Transcendentalist Movement, the Theosophical Society, Transcendental Meditation, or even the Hare Krishnas) to specific gurus and important historical figures. Other terminology in *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* covers basic daily rituals, puja (prayers), bhakti devotion to specific devas (deities) or avatars (divine incarnations), to darsan (a blessing while in the presence of a deity, saint or guru), to festivals, holidays, and modern Hindu religious activities. Religious entries and explanations cover rituals, myths, the identities and iconography of gods and goddesses, Vedic and classical religious practices derived from the Rig Veda and later Vedas, Upanishads, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavad Gita, to collections of sutras and commentaries by specific philosophical or religious schools. There is a wealth of terminology regarding persons and concepts associated with the independence movements from the mid-19th Century to Gandhi, to independence and the modern state to the expression of Hindutva (Hindu nationalism). Entries reference important individuals including authors, saints, political figures, writers and national leaders. Terminology explanations associated with Hindu nationalism and various philosophies explain how specific groups identify who a Hindu is. Whether you need a reference for understanding the historical context of India's scriptures, philosophies, ancient Vedic thought, the history of the classical or colonial periods to modern India, Long's *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* is the essential reference monograph. This reference provides a useful pronunciation guide. By using new standard spellings of Anglicized Hindi, Sanskrit, Indic languages, and Devanagari alphabet, this book is extremely useful for casual readers, students or for academic researchers. With the extensive lists of primary and secondary sources, there is enough information to keep a devotee, historian, or a student reading for years to come--hopefully, with a few new works by Professor Long. On a personal note, I was thoroughly impressed (perhaps, daunted is a better description) with the level of scholarship and obvious command of the wide-ranging subjects. Thanks for the great read! Every college, university, municipal library or private collection should acquire the *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* for its scholarly reference value.

Hinduism is the world's third largest religion and still growing. It is the oldest major religion with a tradition reaching back millennia and having many notable peaks and periods of glory. It has influenced and been affected by other world religions, including Islam and Buddhism, as well as Christianity. Despite repeated attempts to contain it, it has maintained an exceptional vigor and boasts a rich spiritual culture with celebrated thinkers and teachers and an extensive literature. The *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* relates the history of Hinduism through a chronology, an introductory essay, photos, an extensive bibliography, and over 1,000 cross referenced dictionary entries on Hindu terminology, names of major historical figures and movements, gods and goddesses, prominent temples, terms for items used in Hindu practice, major texts, philosophical concepts, and more. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about Hinduism.

Before delving into the dictionary's entries, Long (religious studies, Elizabethtown Coll.; *A Vision for Hinduism: Beyond Hindu Nationalism*) provides a detailed introduction to Hinduism's origins, various periods, culture connections, and other topics. Preliminary material also includes a pronunciation guide, a useful source when attempting to decipher the various vowel sounds and certain nuances concerning consonants contained in the dictionary's approximately 1000 terms; a short list of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout; and a chronology

running from 50,000 B.C.E. to the present. Each entry in the main body of the dictionary is a paragraph or two in length, and important terms within the definition are bolded, drawing attention to the concepts associated with the primary definition. This feature is helpful for users seeking to locate quickly a person or concept that is tied to other principles of Hinduism. Occasional black-and-white photos or sketches appear throughout the text. Though not particularly detailed, they provide some visual enhancement to the associated entries. A comprehensive bibliography, divided into primary and secondary sources and then subdivided by format, appears after the entries. **BOTTOM LINE** This impressive collection of terms and concepts essential to understanding Hinduism will be useful to researchers, students, and those interested in learning more about the many facets of this ancient practice. The dictionary does a great job of comprehensively presenting the facts essential for an introduction to the topic as well as providing enough source material for further study and exploration. (Library Journal)Hinduism is one of the worlds oldest religious traditionsthough the term itself is of more recent originand is generally understood to refer to the subset of indigenous Indic traditions that observed the sanctity of the Vedas. Presenting these ancient beliefs and practices and their development over millennia, all in a single volume, is a tall order, indeed. Yet the Historical Dictionary of Hinduism succeeds quite well in doing just that. The introductory essay, which precedes the more than 1,000 alphabetically arranged entries, provides a nice historical overview of Hinduism. The entry for Veda, Vedas presents the four basic collections of sacred texts, though separate entries exist for each (e.g., Rg Veda). Hinduisms two great epic poems, the Mahabharata and Ramaya?a, have their own articles, with additional entries for many of the characters mentioned in them. The main sectarian groups within Hinduism are described in the entries for Vai??avism, Saivism, Saktism, and Smarta. Most of the remaining entries discuss important historical figures, rituals, deities, sacred places, and philosophical concepts and systems. Coverage extends to topics drawn from Sikhism and Jainism, two related religious traditions, as well as the issues and groups associated with the Hindu nationalism movement....The shorter entries of the Historical Dictionary of Hinduism allow specific mention and a brief description of more minor characters, shrines, festivals, and the like. Recommended for theological libraries, research collections, and large public libraries. (Booklist)Hinduism is the oldest major living religion in the world, dating back to India's Iron Age. At present Hinduism has more than 900,000,000 followers worldwide. This new edition by Long (Elizabethtown College) updates Bruce Sullivan's *The A to Z of Hinduism* (2001) and his *The Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* (CH, Jan'98, 35-2467). It is a comprehensive dictionary of all aspects of Hinduism, including the religion, culture, customs, festivals, scriptures, and traditions. Short biographies of many religious leaders, saints, and Hindu gods and goddesses are featured. Divided into 26 chapters, it features alphabetically arranged entries ranging from one sentence to one page, along with many see and see also references. The well-written introduction traces Hinduism's history and growth from its birth to Vedic and Classical periods of Indian civilization to global Hinduism. An up-to-date chronology emphasizing the last 100 years, an extensive bibliography with primary, secondary, and Internet sources, and a list of abbreviations/acronyms add quality to this well-prepared dictionary. It will be an excellent addition to all collections on Hinduism in academic libraries; all types of readers will find the information presented useful. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through researchers/faculty. (CHOICE)About the AuthorJeffery D. Long teaches in the Department of Religious Studies at Elizabethtown College. He is the author of *A Vision for Hinduism: Beyond Hindu Nationalism* and *Jainism: An Introduction*, as well as a variety of articles and essays.