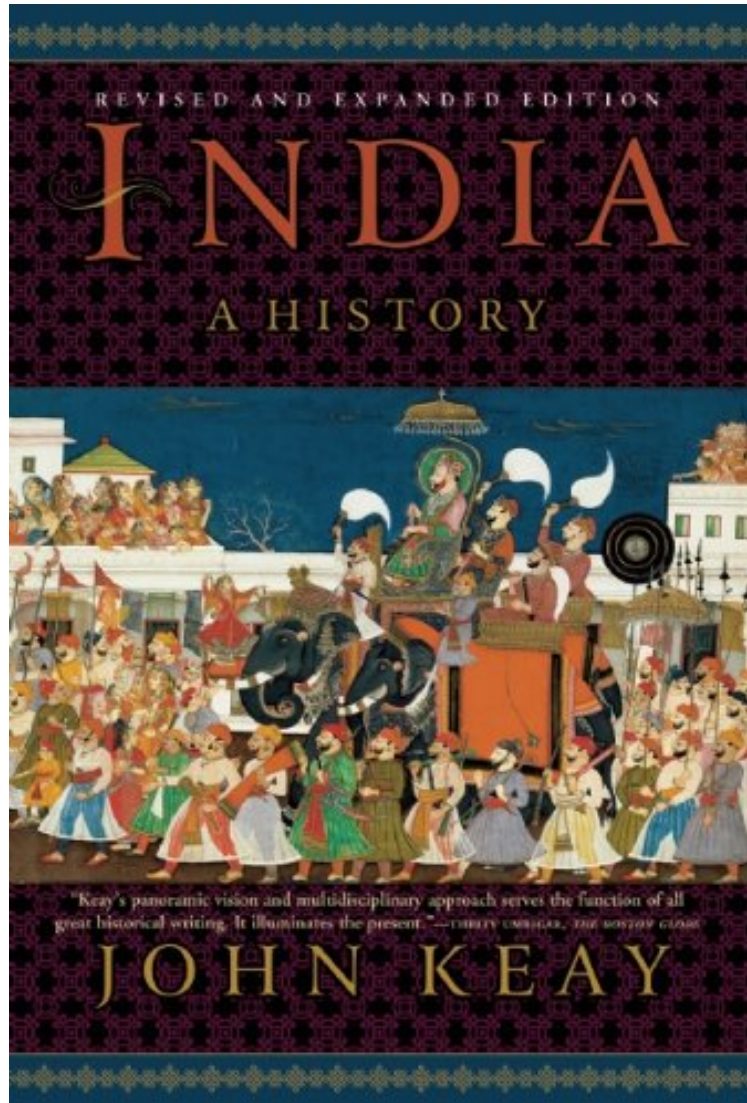


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India: A History. Revised and Updated

John Keay

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John Keay : India: A History. Revised and Updated before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised India: A History. Revised and Updated:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Summary of Complicated HistoryBy Alexander T. BarclayVery well written and thorough given its expansive topic and single volume length. With the kindle version it can be difficult to understand the geography as you have to keep switching back to the maps. The names of places in India have changed a number of times throughout the centuries and it takes some effort to follow at times, for someone who has never been to India and had minimal understanding of its history before reading the book. I do feel like I

understand the history, culture and current state of affairs much better. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I ENJOYED the most of the book. By P. Rao I thought of reading Indian History after reading the Roman history to understand how different it is from others. When looked for a books, only few books came out on Indian History including Nehru's book. Since I want to remove nationalistic narrations and I want a comparative view. so I chose this book. I ENJOYED the most of the book. Some interesting topics I liked are VERY LONG history, Aryanization process, LONG secularist traditions practiced by empires until British started muddying the water in early 20th centuries(which continue to burn even to this day), origins of the so called Hindu religion. Though most of the dots are taught in the history lesson, it is the connecting narration the creates the perspective. Author has done a good Job, though he seems to have softened British involvement(understandable as he is British author and have career in British main stream media). Author thinks Pakistan has no involvement in khalistan saga, which is not true. Leaving aside those minor issues, I recommend it for people who enjoy the history from sidelines or wants a different perspective. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A well researched book, free from the prejudices we ...By Deepak Kamath A well researched book, free from the prejudices we Indians would have from growing up in India and having our own mix of history plus mythology tutored from a young age. His unbiased reading of Indian history ensures that the glorious past that Nationalists proclaim and the barbaric practices that apologists talk about are are portrayed in a realistic manner, and what emerges is a very balanced, indeed moderated account of our history. Chronicling Indian history is beset with the problem of lack of written evidence (surprisingly Key is silent on the burning and destruction of the Universities) and the plethora of the opinions / memories / legends, but the little that is being slowly unearthed is presented well, its interpretations are also projected with restraint.

Fully revised with forty thousand new words that take the reader up to present-day India, John Keays *India: A History* spans five millennia in a sweeping narrative that tells the story of the peoples of the subcontinent, from their ancient beginnings in the valley of the Indus to the events in the region today. In charting the evolution of the rich tapestry of cultures, religions, and peoples that comprise the modern nations of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, Keay weaves together insights from a variety of scholarly fields to create a rich historical narrative. Wide-ranging and authoritative, *India: A History* is a compelling epic portrait of one of the worlds oldest and most richly diverse civilizations.

.com The history of what is now India stretches back thousands of years, further than that of nearly any other region on earth. Yet, observes historian John Keay, most historical work on India concentrates on the period after the arrival of Europeans, with predictable biases, distortions, and misapprehensions. One, for example, is the tendency to locate the source of social conflict in India's many religions--to which Keay retorts, "Historically, it was Europe, not India, which consistently made religion grounds for war." Taking the longest possible view, Keay surveys what is both provable and invented in the historical record. His narrative begins in 3000 B.C., with the complex, and little-understood, Harappan period, a time of state formation and the development of agriculture and trade networks. This period coincides with the arrival of Indo-European invaders, the so-called Aryans, whose name, of course, has been put to bad use at many points since. Keay traces the growth of subsequent states and kingdoms throughout antiquity and the medieval period, suggesting that the lack of unified government made the job of the European conquerors somewhat easier--but by no means inevitable. He continues to the modern day, his narrative ending with Indian-Pakistani conflicts in 1998. Fluently told and well documented, Keay's narrative history is of much value to students and general readers with an interest in India's past and present. --Gregory McNamee From Publishers Weekly Sweeping from the ancient brick cities of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, built in the Indus Valley around 2000 B.C., to modern India's urban middle class armed with computers and cell phones, this erudite, panoramic history captures the flow of Indian civilization. No apologist for Britannia's rule, British historian Keay (*Into India*, etc.) gives the lie to comforting fantasies of the British Raj as the benevolently run "Jewel in the Crown." For most Indians, "Pax Britannica meant mainly "Tax Britannica," he writes. Nor was British-ruled India peaceful, he adds, because India became a launch pad for British wars against Indonesia, Nepal and Burma, for the invasion of Afghanistan and the quashing of native revolts--often with the coerced participation of Indian troops. Finally, the Raj was "Axe Britannica," beginning the extensive deforestation of the subcontinent and the systematic suppression of its rural economy. Keay challenges much conventional scholarship in a dispassionate chronicle based largely on a fresh look at primary sources. For instance, the Mauryan emperor Ashoka, enthroned in 268 B.C., is revered because he preached tolerance and renounced armed violence, yet Keay notes that, contrary to popular opinion, Ashoka never specifically abjured warfare nor did he disband his army. Keay concludes this illustrated history by astutely surveying India's erratic progress in the half-century since independence, marked by communal violence, resurgence of regional interests and the rise of Hindu nationalism. This careful study serves up a banquet for connoisseurs and serious students of India. (Mar.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal India's sprawling history in one volume, with 60 maps, tables, and charts to boot. From a noted historian of Southeast Asia, this is touted as the first single-volume study in over 20 years. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.