



Brahmanas In Ancient India: A Study In The Role Of The Brahmana Class From C. 200 Bc To C. Ad 500

By Govind Prasad Upadhyay

Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 1979. Hardcover. Condition: New. First. 296pp. Based on a rigorous analysis of the source material, the present work is the first systematic study of the history of Brahmanas in the post-Maurya and the Gupta periods. An attempt has been made to determine and assess their role in the religious, social, and political life of the times. As the custodians of the Vedic tradition, Brahmanas aimed at a socio-religious transformation by trying to grasp both the sources of stability and seeds of change. The author has convincingly argued that the Brahmanas could meet the forces partly by remaining close to the political power and partly through their ingenious acceptance of the psycho-cultural dictates of the Indian masses, whose active involvement in the economic life was vital for the maintenance of social order. He has demonstrated that the institutionalization of a vast body of theoretical provisions and mythologically evolved doctrines helped them in acculturation of the various peoples. The penetrating analysis of the rituals and myths throws welcome light on the socio-economic levels of the patrons of major religious sects, and on the Brahmanical techniques of the social control. The author has made good use...



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