Involuntary Labour in Ancient India The history of marriage is viewed as social history related to custom and law, but it is also a reflection of an inner life—one that contains tales of joy, suffering, and the mundane—most of it hidden from the historian's eye. Analyzing the institution of marriage in medieval Rajasthan, Singh reconstructs the regional social structures and cultures of the time. The history of Rajasthan has always been romanticized, especially the legends of Sati and Jauhar, both of which along with the rituals related to widowhood are seen as institutional forms of women's oppression. Singh offers a fresh perspective on these customs, often challenging the conventional narrative and unraveling the complex motives behind them. Referring to extensive archival and literary sources, the author derives deep insights into practices such as polygamy, dowry, and child marriage which are situated in the changing socio-political structures. As the author takes care of the regional variations with respect to cultural norms, what becomes unequivocally clear is the multicultural ethos of India and the fact that history cannot be interpreted in monolithic universal terms.

Fortified Cities of Ancient India "Encyclopedia of World Religions" explores the major religions of the world, emphasizing the living faiths and their background. Each illustrated volume provides access to the theological concepts, personalities, historical events, institutions, and movements that helped shape the history of each religion and the way it is practiced.

Muslim Saints of South Asia Encyclopedia of Textile Terms is a reference dictionary with a short explanation of textile terms in spinning, weaving, processing and garmenting fields. The book is meant for all textile related persons, especially for textile students, textile processors and garmenting technicians. It will be an asset for merchandisers and buying offices for quick reference. It is a handy reference book for students as well as the faculty.

An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Indian Culture This is the second volume of a translation of India's most beloved and influential epic saga, the monumental Ramayana of Valmiki. Of the seven sections of this great Sanskrit masterpiece, the Ayodhyakanda is the most human, and it remains one of the best introductions to the social and political values of traditional India. This readable translation is accompanied by commentary that elucidates the various problems of the text—philological, aesthetic, and cultural. The annotations make extensive use of the numerous commentaries on the Ramayana composed in medieval India. The substantial introduction supplies a historical context for the poem and a critical reading that explores its literary and ideological components.

Encyclopaedia of North-East India Delhi in Transition, 1821 and Beyond A unique and refreshing contribution to studies in South Asian History, Governance and Imperialism. This book offers a new way of interpreting the colonial state's origins in north India. It examines how the service and cultural histories of various Hindu scribal communities fit within broader changes in political administration, taxation, patterns of governance and a shared Indo-Islamic administrative culture. The author argues that British power after the late eighteenth century came as much through bureaucratic mastery, paper and taxes as it did through military force and commercial ruthlessness. The book draws upon private family papers, interviews and Persian sources to demonstrate how the fortunes of scribes changed between empires, and the important role they played at the height of the British Raj by 1900. Offering a detailed account of how agrarian wealth provided the bedrock of the colonial state's later patterns of administration, this book is an up-to-date, authentic and comprehensive dictionary of religion, which recognises that religion is a field in its own right and with its own language. It aims to provide clear, concise, and current definitions and descriptions of the terms used in all world religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Shintoism, Confucianism, Zoroastrianism, Animism and so on. This work is designed to be a comprehensive reference tool for researchers, students, religion practitioners and all who are interested in religion and religious practices. It is earnestly hoped that it will be an authoritative source which can serve as a social point of reference for readers who want to know more about the dynamic of pre-modern history and culture.

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