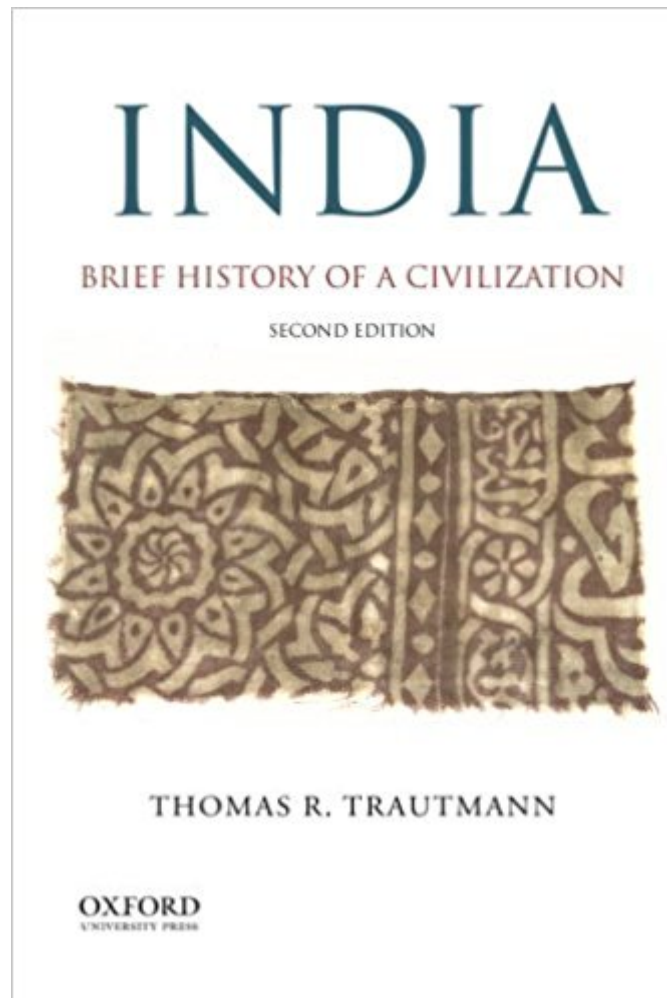




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# **India: Brief History Of A Civilization**



## Synopsis

India: Brief History of a Civilization, Second Edition, provides a brief overview of a very long period, allowing students to acquire a mental map of the entire history of Indian civilization in a short book. Most comprehensive histories devote a few chapters to the early history of India and an increasing number of pages to the more recent period, giving an impression that early history is mere background and that Indian civilization finds its fulfillment in the nation-state. Thomas R. Trautmann believes that the deep past lives on and is a valuable resource for understanding the present day and for creating a viable future. The result is a book that is short enough to read in a few sittings, but comprehensive in coverage--5,000 years of India in brief.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is comprehensive, yet short; scholarly, yet accessible. It is the one book I would recommend to anyone who would like a great introduction to Indian history."--Sylvia Gray, Portland Community College "Thomas R. Trautmann has produced the rarest of birds: a lucid, compelling, and yet sophisticated introductory text. Trautmann provides the kind of long historical sweep--from the ancient past to the present--that serves as the perfect foil for understanding the historical dynamics of the region. There is simply no other single guide to South Asia that matches either his fine balance of coverage between different historical periods or his signature combination of enormous erudition with absolute clarity. This book synthesizes and distills the lifetime's understanding of a master historian."--Mrinalini Sinha, University of Michigan "Trautmann is one of the few scholars qualified to speak with authority on the entire span of Indian civilization, from its

ancient roots to its modern present. He has done so in a masterly fashion, without sacrificing sophistication to brevity."--Sumit Guha, University of Texas at Austin "This book does what few other introductory texts on South Asian history do--renders all 5,000 years of India accessible to undergraduates--not just the last few hundred or so. It is written with a vision and elegance that are the hallmark of Trautmann's scholarship. His mastery of the history and anthropology of India--both ancient and modern--is subtly distilled into this readable gem of a book. It is an invaluable contribution and a pleasure to teach."--A. Azfar Moin, University of Texas at Austin

Thomas R. Trautmann is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Michigan. He is the editor of *The Aryan Debate* (OUP, 2008) and the author of *Elephants and Kings: An Environmental History* (2015), *Arthashastra: The Science of Wealth* (2012), *Languages and Nations* (2006), and *Aryans and British India* (2004).

THE definitive concise introduction to the history of India - thoroughly researched, authoritative, comprehensive in scope, interesting, informative, well-reasoned and well-told.

Great book, Trautmann is really good at explaining things without making his writing super dense and boring. Very interesting.

So far, the book is pretty good, and I say that outside of the need to read this for a class. It's very informative, and flows wonderfully.

Great for an introduction.

nice book

This is a solid book and a very succinct historical introduction to India, from the time of the Indus Valley civilization to the present. The opening is a bit dry and academic, focusing on climate and geography, but the overall presentation is an effective and engaging introduction to the history of India for beginning students. If you know nothing about India, or need an introductory text to its overall history, this book will do. There is religious, political and historical, as well as cultural information that will prove valuable to you. I only knocked off one star because, as I said, the beginning was somewhat dry. That should not, however, change my recommendation that this is a

good introductory college-level book.

Some of the chapters are captivating. Others are dry and leave out exciting details---like Aurangzeb's execution of Dara Shikoh, sending his head to their imprisoned father. Trautmann just says that they were competing for the throne and Aurangzeb won. Rather disappointing shrug that "partition was the only remaining option." Overall, it is useful for such a short overview of 5,000 years.

Nice book

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