



Exploring Medieval India: Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries (Vol. II: Culture, Gender and Regional Patterns)

By Meena Bhargava (Ed.)

Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi, India, 2010. Softcover. Book Condition: New. Probing different aspects of India's society and culture, this volume comprises four thematic clusters: diverse forms of culture; gender and medievalism; patterns of transition; and region, regional formations and the Mughal Empire. A comprehensive introduction places the essays in perspective showing how the Mughal Empire remained composite, intricate and loosely-structured, perhaps hegemonic but over a disparate, divergent, energetic and lively economy and society. Focusing on culture in its diverse forms, section one brings to the fore the expansion of Persian as the language of power, the development of insha as a literary trend, the nuances of Mughal architecture, the importance of Mughal paintings and how they became a medium of recording the history of the Mughal empire, the various genres of music and their explicit manifestations of the gender politics. Concepts of love, the politics of marriage and reproduction, and the role of women within and outside the confines of the Mughal household, form the second section. The third section discusses the emergence of provincial and regional political configurations, the shifts in the Indian economy and traces the growing European influence in the rise of the East India Company. The last...



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