



# India: Brief History of a Civilization

By Thomas R. Trautmann

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**India: Brief History of a Civilization** By Thomas R. Trautmann

India: Brief History of a Civilization 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.

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## India: Brief History of a Civilization By Thomas R. Trautmann Bibliography

- Rank: #645963 in Books
- Published on: 2010-07-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.50" h x .60" w x 8.25" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 248 pages

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#### Review

Trautmann largely succeeds in his ambitious goal, producing a compact, readable narrative that makes 5,000 years of Indian history accessible to undergraduates and the interested lay-reader alike. ... this book is a remarkable achievement, and will certainly go a long way towards meeting the needs of the target audience.  
Emma J. Flatt, Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies

#### About the Author

Professor of History at the University of Michigan; specializes in Ancient India. Books include: Languages and Nations (UC Press, 2006) Aryans and British India (Yoda Press 2004), and editor of Aryan Debates (OUP, 2008).

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