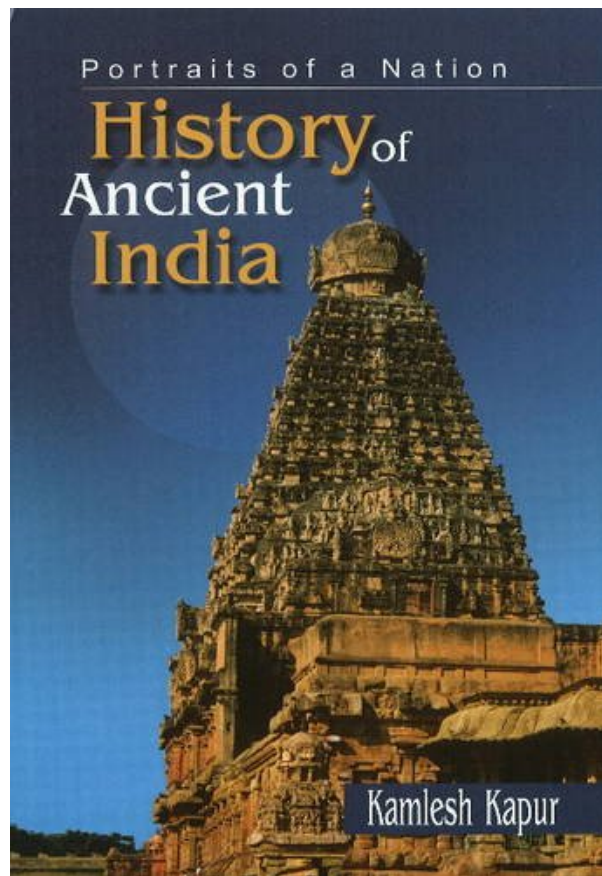
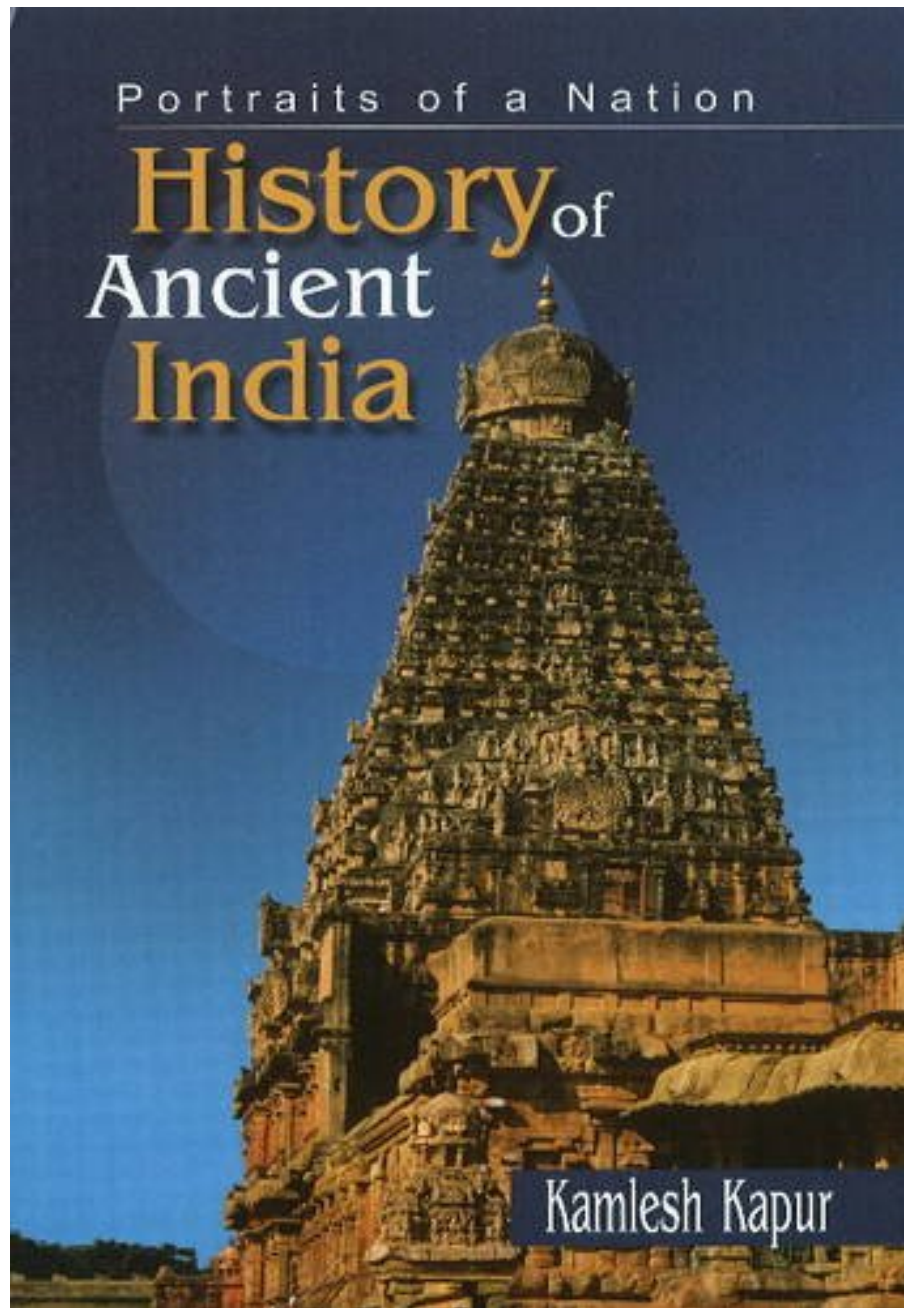


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## **Review**

This kind of constructive work, and I include Michel Danino's just released book on Sarasvati is what we need more. Simply to react to other people's work and engaging in polemics doesn't build anything. It seems appropriate as a text book with supplementary reading. After reading the entire book Dr. N.S. Rajaram wrote, "Because of its recent history of colonization, Indian history has suffered more distortions and misrepresentations than that of other great civilizations. At the same time, because of its great antiquity as well as abundant literary and archaeological records, correcting these distortions has proven a major challenge. Portraits of a Nation- History of Ancient India by Kamlesh Kapur addresses this challenge admirably by taking a multidisciplinary approach to history by looking at natural history, genetics, and archaeoastronomy in addition to the usual sources like archaeology and literary records. In the process, the author succeeds in building sound foundation in historiography not only for her book but for all future students of Indian history. It is an invaluable source on ancient India that no library should be without." --Dr. N.S. Rajaram Adjunct Professor of Science and Philosophy Center for Indic Studies University of Massachusetts

"Portraits of a Nation -- History of Ancient India" is a timely book. Recent archaeological findings, scientific analysis and reconstruction of the movements of ancient people using DNA studies have shown that the assumptions on which ancient India and her civilization were studied in school textbooks for several decades were incorrect. Kamlesh Kapur's pioneering book brings together latest scholarly findings to provide a rational understanding of Indian civilization. I recommend it strongly for use in schools and for self-study." -Subhash Kak, Oklahoma State University, and co-author of "In Search for the Cradle of Civilization"

India being the oldest living civilization today, and Indian diaspora increasing dramatically in the United States, a need for an authentic book with accurate and contextualized information has long existed. Portraits of a Nation History of Ancient India is a very timely book that meets that need. --Bal Ram Singh, Ph.D. Director, Center for Indic Studies University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 285 Old Westport Road

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#### About the Author

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The history of India has been written and rewritten several times, each time with a different context. Historical narratives act as a powerful vehicle of culture and tradition from generation to generation. Therefore it is essential to give an authentic narrative of India's past using all the new evidence which has surfaced through archaeological excavation in the Indus-Sarasvati region. Researches in the field of ecology, natural history and genetics have given us enough pointers enabling us to write a fairly accurate history of Ancient India. This book ties up all this new evidence with the internal evidence from the literary sources. Discarding several theories and assumptions, it focuses attention on the contributions of Indian civilisation and culture to mankind. It is a comprehensive work highlighting those historical events and developments which left significant impact on the heritage of mankind. Presented in a non invasionist model, this book attempts to reclaim the accurate chronology of Ancient Indian history and do away with many myths and prevailing misconceptions surrounding it. Supplemented by numerous photographs and illustrations of ancient relics, inscriptions and maps, it makes an interesting read meant for students and general readers.

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It is a useful text book to learn current thoughts on ancient history of India

By Ramaswamy H. Sarma

It is a straight forward text book written for high school students in India, and reflects the current thoughts on the evolution and history of Indian civilization. It clearly summarizes the evidence against Aryan invasion theories. It also marshals clearly that the vedic way of life in ancient india did not originate from central asia; on the other hand there was diaspora from India into Iran and to the middle eastern countries catalyzed by events such as battle of Ten Kings.

Unfortunately I found some factual errors in the book which can be corrected in a new edition: for example, the book says the battle of Ten Kings happened in Kurkshetra; indian itihas reports it to have taken place on the banks of the river Ravi. The book says that Vivas Manu had five children Ila, a daughter, and four sons Pururavas , Ayus, Nahusha and Yayati. My understanding is that Pururava was the son of Ila and Buddha II who together established lunar dynasty in Pratisthan, presentday Allahabad at the confluence of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. And Ayu was the son of Pururava, Yayathi is the grand son of Ayu. Also something is wrong in the dates calculated for Krishna's trips to Hastinapur and Balrama's pilgrimage. These dates are in 3067 BC, and the arrival dates are later than departure dates. Either the astronomical calculations are wrong or the people who published these dates forgot that in reporting events in BC, the dates go backwards. These are only some of the inaccuracies I happened to run into. The author should thoroughly check for other errors before the next version is published.

Nevertheless I believe that the book will be very useful to students and others interested to learn an accurate description of the historiography of ancient India.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant Exposition

By Prashant Parikh

This is an amazing book that gives a brilliant, non biased understanding of history, debunking some of the popular myths such as the decrepit Aryan Invasion Theory, or the Aryan-Dravidian divide and so on. This book is designed to be used as a college level Textbook. I hope that it someday takes off as one and becomes a staple in the Indian school curriculum.

The book is replete with facts and sufficient references to establish authenticity. It is not a hidden fact that there are certain think-tanks funded to re-interpret our past, this book is an excellent response and puts all such aspersions to rest.

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