

LOOKING AT THE PAST WITH FRESH LENSES

Satish Chandra's History Of Medieval India delves into the historical landscape of the Indian subcontinent over a period of a thousand years

HISTORY OF Medieval India is the second book in a series written to provide a comprehensive overview of the history of the Indian subcontinent. Written by Satish Chandra, India's most well known historian. The book covers the historical landscape of the Indian subcontinent over a period of a thousand years, between the eighth and eighteenth century AD. The book starts off with a bird's eye view of the state of the world during the medieval period, before dwelling on the rise and fall of empires in the Indian subcontinent.

Writing about the history of India is a daunting task, but the author has attempted to carry out the task with the eye of an inquirer and the pen of a scholar. The book has been written keeping in mind readers who may have some basic knowledge of the political situation in medieval India and would like to pursue the knowledge further. The book elucidates the beginnings, growths and deaths of many a dynasty, including but not limited to the Cholas, Rajputs, Vijayanagara kings, Bahmanids and the Marathas.

History Of Medieval India's primary merit lies in the fact that it departs from the well-worn path of writing about dynastic history alone and looks at the social, political, cultural and economic developments that the period gave rise to. Some of these developments still have significance in contemporary relevance, such as the caste system which seems to have been born around this period.

The author has done a great job in condensing such a large amount of subject matter in such a small space. He is a marxist Indian historian and best known for his works on Indian medieval history. The book starts off with a bird's eye view of the state of the world during the medieval period, before dwelling on the rise and fall of empires in Indian subcontinent. To tell the history of a land spanning the geographical dimensions and the political divisions of the Indian subcontinent in itself is a formidable task. He execute this difficult mission with the eye of an enquirer and the pen of a scholar.

