

HISTORY OF PRE-MUSALMAN INDIA

(In Nine Volumes)

VOLUME I

PRE-HISTORIC INDIA

BY

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To the Editor,
Servant of India
for favour of review.

PREFACE

This book is the first in a series of nine volumes designed to carry the history of India from the earliest times to the Muhammadan conquest. This volume gives a succinct picture of the evolution of India and her races and cultures in the ages which preceded the Vedic Era. It thus provides the background in which the Vedic period of Indian History had its setting. The copious materials in the fields of ethnology, anthropology, geology, folklore and pre-historic antiquities, which have been made available in recent years, have been utilised in the preparation of this volume; and it is hoped that the attempt to correlate the results of the studies of these materials has been so successful as to leave in the mind of the reader a picture of what India was before the commencement of the Vedic age of her history.

The other volumes in the series which are about to be sent to the press are :—

- Vol. 2. Vedic India.
- Vol. 3. India from 650 B.C. to 320 B.C.
- Vol. 4. The Mauryan Empire.
- Vol. 5. India from the fall of the Mauryas to the rise of the Guptas.
- Vol. 6. The Gupta Empire.
- Vol. 7. North India from 600 to 1200 A.D.
- Vol. 8. Dakkan from 600 to 1310 A.D.
- Vol. 9. The Tamil States from 600 to 1310 A.D.

The present volume has had to be printed in a hurry and in the midst of heavy college work; and consequently, though The Huxley Press have done their work neatly and rapidly, a few typographical errors have crept in.

No arrangements have been made in this volume for the diacritical marks; but the coming volumes are free from this defect.

I have not included any maps as it is my object to publish a separate little Atlas of Indian History to illustrate the whole series, to be, in fact, a companion to them.

I am thankful to Mr. R. Rama Aiyar, M.A., Assistant Professor of History, Presidency College, for occasional help in reading the proofs and in preparing the index slips.

Madras, Octr. 1929

V. RANGACHARYA

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ERRATA

Page	Line		
4	23	for consisting	read consisting
13	26	.. than	.. then
20	Last	Drop the word	his
58	26	for graves	read caves
80	18	.. kinsman	.. kinsmen
84	5	.. soventies	.. seventies
..	34	.. holiolithie	.. heliolithic
86	8	.. the general	.. general
..	27	.. in	.. in
100	8f.	.. conditioes	.. conditions
101	29	.. miscalled)	.. (miscalled)
103	17	Drop the word	theory
104	3	for divisions	read divisions
..	29	.. century	.. centuries
108	4	.. stationary !	.. stationary ;
118	30	.. the	.. The
144	25	.. adornedtheir	.. adorned their
153	24	.. Indian south	.. south
176	17	.. taat	.. that
..	25	.. seem	.. seems
186	30	.. an	.. and
188	3	.. no by	.. by no
..	28	.. opinion	.. of opinion
194	3	.. came from	.. came
..	7f	.. is the	.. is in the
198	5	.. Asura	.. Sura
203	32	.. Arcadian	.. Accadian
206	24	.. !	.. ?
211	15	.. so-collid	.. so-called
212	32	.. across to	.. across
213	12	.. Nabhanadishtha	.. Nabhanadishtha
216	5	.. Now	.. Now, as
220	19	.. or	.. of
223	2	.. form	.. from
..	6	.. comes	.. comes
..	13	.. commenced	.. commenced
.. Megha	.. Magha
234	20	.. cen-zoic	.. Cen-ozoic

Owing to oversight the names of books and authors in pp. 162-163 have not been included in the Index.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE TO CHAPTER VIII

In his elaborate work "The Ruling Races of Pre-historic Times" J. F. Hewitt traces the ethnology of the Dravidians and Aryans in the course of which he incidentally refers to the settlement of another non-Aryan people in the delta of the Indus. The views of Hewitt, though very inaccurate in the light of later researches, are interesting for the theory that there was a close connection between the Sumerians and some sections of the Indian population of later times. Lewis Rice summarises Hewitt's views in these sentences: "The Dravidians were connected with Turvasu "the name of a star-worshipping people whose god (Akkadian *vasu*) was the meridian pole (*tur*), which stood for the Linga or the phallus, being evolved from the fire-drill and socket, its revolution amid the circumpolar stars of the Great Bear being considered the cause of the rains. They may be identified with the Zend Turanians (*an* signifying god in that language) and with the maritime traders called Tour-Sha and Tour-Sene or Tyrrheneans mentioned in Egyptian and Greek records. Their first great trading port was Dvaraka in the peninsula of Kathiawar; other exporting harbours being Surparaka (Surat) at the mouth of the Tapti, and Baragyza (Broach) at the mouth of the Narmada. They made settlements at the holy island of Dilmun (now Bahrein) in the Persian gulf, and at Eridu, near the mouth of the Euphrates.

"In course of time migration set the other way, and we meet with a race, also non-Aryan, who revered the moon (*sin*) and brought in the year of 13 lunar months. These were the Hus, Shus or Sus, the yellow race from the sources of the Tigris and Euphrates (and later of Shushorn) who settled in the delta of the Indus—the Suvarna from whom Sindh was called Sindhu-Suvarna, part of Bengal Karna-Suvarna, and Gujerat and Kathiawar received the name of Sau-rashtra. They correspond also with the Sabaroe of Ptolemy, the Suari of Pliny and the Sauviras of Baudhayana. They were the great Sumerian and Vaisya traders of Western Asia and India (if not China), the progenitors of the modern Saukars. Their capital was Patala (Haidarabad in Sindh), then a sea-port, though now 150 miles from the sea. They gave to the river its name Sindhu or Hindhu, which has come to designate the whole of India and its inhabitants. They are referred to as Yonas by Asoka and as Yavanas in the Mahabharata." (Rice's *Mys. Gazr.*, I, 109—110).

These views, it will be recognized, are very speculative and positively incorrect in some respects, but they are daring, original and suggestive. The derivation of *Sindhu* and *Hindu* from the immigrants from Mesopotamia is worth noting. The question will receive detailed attention in the second volume.

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