



Hindu-Catholic Engagements in Goa: Religion, Colonialism and Modernity

By Alexander Henn

Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi, India, 2014. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. HinduCatholic Engagements in Goa offers a novel perspective on the Portuguese empire and Catholic hegemony in Asia that for almost half a millennium from 1510 to 1961 had its capital in Goa. Based on fresh archival studies and extensive ethnography, it reveals the dramatic role of religion at the beginning of colonialism and modernity and provides insight into Goas intricate Hindu-Catholic syncretism today. Vasco Da Gamas celebrated passage to India (1497/99) not only initiated a period of Christian expansion, in which Jesuit missionaries declared war to the alleged idolatry of Hindus. The engagement with the until then largely unknown and unexpectedly rich culture of Hinduism was also part of profound modern transformations that, in the long run, lead Christian Europe to recognize the plurality of religions around the globe. Hindu village gods and Catholic patron saints commonly attract veneration from people of the respective Other religious community and, yet, do not create confusion between the distinct identities of Hindus and Catholics. At the core of this seeming syncretistic paradox lies a communal concern for neighborhood, genealogy, protection and health that, at times, overrules doctrinal divides in the village communities....



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