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*Rahul Sankrityayan*

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*Rahul Sankrityayan*

?????? ?? ???? Rahul Sankrityayan

Volga Se Ganga is a collection of stories by great scholar and Writer Rahul Sankrityayan. Rahul Sankrityayan was a true vagabond who traveled to far lands like Russia, Korea, Japan, China and many others. He mastered the languages of these lands and was an authority on cultural studies.

It was first published in 1944 and is considered the greatest Hindi Book of modern Indian Literature. It was translated into many languages including English, Tamil, Telugu, Russian, Chinese and many more. This book is now also considered a Classic in History of Indian Literature.

## ?????? ?? ???? Details


Date : Published 2011 by Kitab Mahal (first published 1942)


ISBN : 8122500870

Author : Rahul Sankrityayan

Format : Paperback 396 pages

Genre : History, Historical, Short Stories

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**From Reader Review ?????? ?? ???? for online ebook**

## Swati Agrawal says

Finally done with this epic and I loved it.

I am an absolute no one to write a review for this amazing book.

But I must say, it was an experience in itself.

The way society has changed over the past few thousand years, and why. Can't say I understood all of it but somehow, I felt my own thoughts resonating through major parts of the book.

I would recommend this book to everyone, however would suggest not to take up the original Hindi version as at times it becomes hard to understand.

Try getting hands on the English translation, or any other local languages that it has been translated to.

## Sudeeran Shanmughadoss says

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A worth read...this book takes us back to the old times...as if we are travelling along with the characters of this book.

### Arun Radhakrishnan says

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### Arun Divakar says

By the time a human being says goodbye to this World, he or she would have gone through a varied amount of experiences. A human life viewed in retrospect is an odyssey of sorts, a journey through cultures, lives, relationships and environments. To use a little more decorative language, it can be said that every life is a story that walks on two legs : always exciting and never much of a bore ! Now zoom out that viewing lens a little bit and let's look at a town, then a village and let's go farther to a city, a state, a nation, a continent and at the maximum point of focus let's look at humanity itself. It is a multitude of stories and if we were to borrow a statement from that grand old Greek named Aristotle, then the sum of all these parts is greater than the whole of humanity. Rewind these stories to the dawn of mankind and your book of stories start overflowing. The whole idea of this book is to capture the march of humanity centered around Asia from the first group of hunter gatherer humans to the time of WWII. The timeline as a whole is extremely ambitious and brimming with images and ideas. I am awed by Rahul Sankrityayan who was a tireless traveler in real life and came up with this collection while under incarceration for his participation in the Indian independence movement.

This is not a single story but a collection of multiple vignettes over a gradually unfolding timeline from the time of the first Aryans who migrated from across the Volga till the 1942 Quit India movement. Each chapter focusses on the life of one group of humans who bear witness to a monumental historic/political event of their times. The stories chart the rise of the present day societies which is to say that we see a gathering of humans moving from a matriarchal society to a patriarchal one, we see how sex slowly becomes a taboo subject, the rise of Vedic religions and Gods by suppressing or amalgamating with the pagan gods, how slavery becomes a norm, the first arms race, a consensus driven society becoming a monarchy and later an empire and so on as modern civilization takes root. The Wikipedia entry for the author calls him a polymath and a polyglot and it is by no means an exaggeration for the degree of detail that he captures in these stories are nothing of short of amazing. It is no mean feat to pen your short stories across a vast landscape full of larger-than-life characters who have formed the idea of India across decades.

At a later stage in his life, the author acquired Marxist socialist leanings which tend to rear up all too often in the final chapters of the book. The societal and political unrest of the times are captured in the conversations

A truly one of a kind book and long since out of print. I was fortunate to have come across a Malayalam translation.

?????? ????? says

### Muntasir Wahed says

[illegible]

## Asim Nondon says

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

הנה נא להוסיף את כל המידע הרלוונטי להשלמת המסמך, כולל שמות, תאריכים, מקומות, ופרטים נוספים. המידע צריך להיות ברור, מדויק, ומשקף את המציאות. אין להוסיף פרטים שרירותיים או לשער. המטרה היא להבטיח שהמסמך יהיה מלא, מפורט, ומאפשר הבנה מלאה של הנושא. הוסף את כל הפרטים הרלוונטיים, כולל שמות, תאריכים, מקומות, ופרטים נוספים. המידע צריך להיות ברור, מדויק, ומשקף את המציאות. אין להוסיף פרטים שרירותיים או לשער. המטרה היא להבטיח שהמסמך יהיה מלא, מפורט, ומאפשר הבנה מלאה של הנושא.

[illegible]

### Shrilatha says

highly recommend.. it's difficult to get this book these days i guess (always out of stock). it was written in hindi , n been translated to englsih, n almost all indian languages.. i read the kannada translation.

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## Bhavika says

Even when I had barely read 3 or 4 chapters, I realized that Volga se Ganga was going to be one of those few books that you keep pulling out from the shelf and read again and again. What an exquisite way of writing history!

The concept of the book is very interesting. Man's journey of 8000 years is divided into 20 short stories, from prehistoric times on the upper banks of Volga, to the years of approaching climax of the Indian freedom struggle. I am amazed by the magnitude of details provided in less than 350 pages. While I did feel throughout the book that the stories were heavily loaded with facts and that somewhere in this process, the stories lost the essence of being a story in the traditional sense, but then, as I later discovered, Rahul Sanskritayan himself stated that he would be content even if the book qualified as history written in an interesting manner. Well, that it does, beyond any shadow of doubt.

There is a prominent leftist tilt in the interpretation of history, which was very much expected from the author. The central theme in most stories is the political system of the time and its impact on the social and economic conditions of common man. In this, the perspective appears to be somewhat deterministic.

The extremism is quite apparent and the point of view of the author might appear aggravating to many. The tradition of Vedas, Upanishads and Puranas has been portrayed as systems designed by the rulers and their priests as means to perpetuate their supremacy. Various religious doctrines have been fiercely criticized as the reason for the disparities in the society. He has not even spared Kalidasa who is believed to be praising the Gupta dynasty and its scions in his books like Raghuvansham and Kumarsambhava, in lieu of the Raghukula and Kumara Kartikeya. But if one has even a hint of a liberal nerve, Volga se Ganga is indeed, very gripping.

I personally found the last four stories less appealing. But nevertheless, the delight of reading the other stories does more than just compensate for this. Volga se Ganga is a brilliant piece of work. And of course, the Hindi is beautiful.

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## Syeda Lammim says

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