



The Wonder That Was India: A Survey of the History and Culture of the Indian Sub-Continent from the Coming of the Muslims to the British Conquest 1200-1700 Volume-2.

S.A.A. Rizvi

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Based on thorough research and exploration into the past, Rizvi brings out the political, societal, economical, religious, art and architectural and other facets of India under the Islamic rule. This work, along with A. L. Basham's book, *The Wonder That Was India*, provides a comprehensive and riveting outlook of the pre-colonial times in the history of India. While the first volume by Basham covers the period between ancient India and the arrival of the Muslims, Rizvi's second volume covers the period between 1200 and 1700 AD.

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From Reader Review The Wonder That Was India: A Survey of the History and Culture of the Indian Sub-Continent from the Coming of the Muslims to the British Conquest 1200-1700 Volume-2. for online ebook

Abhijeet says

Read the book. Author has written it in simple lucid language, has given insight into Islamic law, state, religion, society. Though at times author seem to be biased to me. Nevertheless it is good book for those who wish to know more about Islamic rule in medieval India & its impacts on indian society. Maps are missing so read it with a historical atlas.

Karn Satyarthi says

Had high hopes after the excellent first volume, this one leaves me slightly disappointed.

Alex Baker says

The Wonder that Was India Vol. I by A.L. Basham was a perfect example of a comprehensive survey written for the interested layperson. I'm happy someone decided to pick up where the first left off, covering the politics, culture, and religion following the Muslim invasions. Unfortunately Volume II, by S.A.A. Rizvi, shares little of the eloquence and readability of the first. This book is a real slog, grinding through an endless lists of sultans, Sufi saints, and Mughal officials with little memorable commentary to distinguish them. If you're looking for that accessible single volume history of the Muslim period in India, you may need to look further...

Linda Umstead says

Very well written and engaging history - however the maps leave something to be desired. Major reference points are not included which forces one to go elsewhere for geographic information, v. frustrating.

Saravana Sastha Kumar says

Brilliant read without any biased views

Palak Mathur says

#Cross-posted from my blog.

Read the book named *Wonder That Was India Vol 2* by SAA Rizvi second time since 2008. It is the second volume of the series of which the first volume is famously known by the name of its author A.L.Basham. Second Volume is famous for the coverage of Medieval Indian History.

This book is a fantastic enquiry into the history of India during the period of Islamic political dominance in the subcontinent. S A A Rizvi arranges the pieces of history together and gives a comprehensive account of the five hundred years between the thirteenth and eighteenth centuries, detailing the political histories of the Arbas.

From social and economic conditions to the state, religion and the fine arts, a vibrant picture emerges of a massive and fertile exchange that would influence the destiny of more than billion people.

It is wonderfully written book divided into VII units. The first unit takes you to the foundation of Islam, how it institutionalized and what led to the rivalry between Shia and Sunni. It is such greatly written that you feel part of the story watching everything in history happening in front of you. This is the level of vibrancy of the book.

I, II and III unit cover the Indian political history of the Medieval Period. Part IV deals with State where it deals with Theory of Kingships and methods of administration. Part V deals with Social and Economic Conditions in the period which covers social structure, women, slavery, trade, etc in a comprehensive way. Religion is dealt in Part VI and here you will learn about philosophical movements, Sufi movements, etc. It comprehensively covers the Hindu impact on Sufism. Finally in part VII the author deals with Fine Arts and explains the architecture, paintings and music.

It is one of the most comprehensive and well-written book on history by an Indian Author.

Note for UPSC aspirants: If someone is preparing for civil services, then I would suggest to go through it, but one needs to take care that he/she doesn't gets entrapped in the story and read selectively from Part I, II and III. Other parts aptly cover the syllabus and the book can be a good reference book or a supplementary book with other books like Satish Chandra.

Riju Ganguly says

The book is very good as a primer, but its rather abridged view of history of a highly controversial and "loaded" period eventually gets in its way of becoming a classic.
