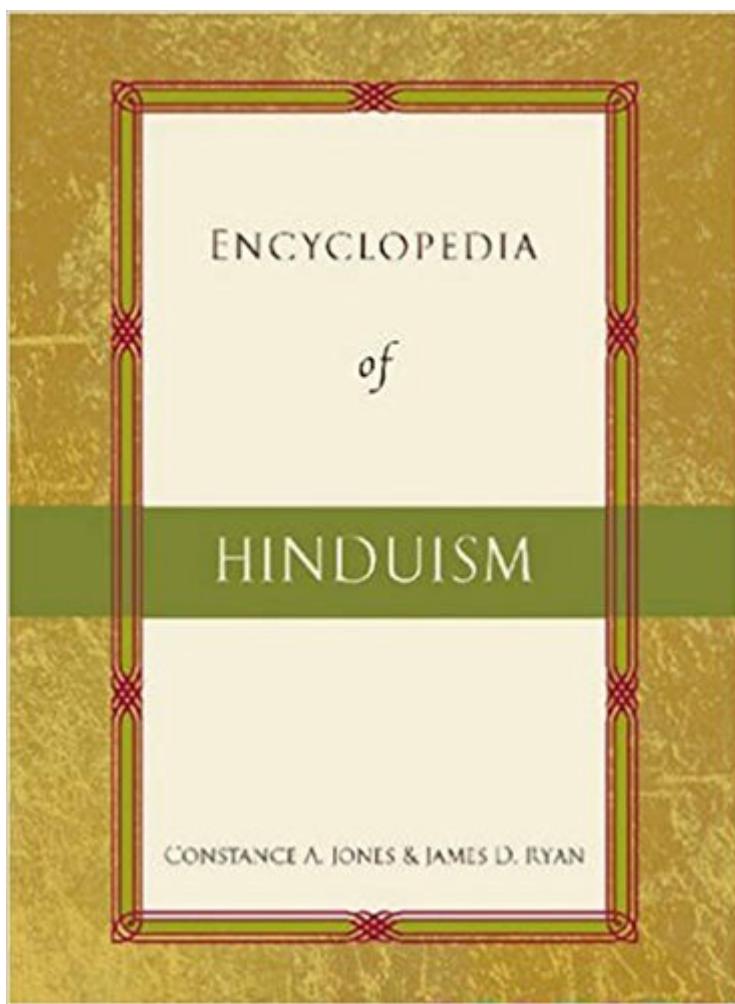


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# **Encyclopedia Of Hinduism (Encyclopedia Of World Religions)\*\*OUT OF PRINT\*\***



## **Synopsis**

"Encyclopedia of Hinduism" explores a religion that emerged from prehistory and lives today in astonishing variety. Offering approximately 700 A-to-Z entries, this accessible encyclopedia focuses on the most significant groups within this religion, noteworthy teachers and their contributions, the religions and cultural movements that enriched its history, and the diaspora of Hindu thought and practice around the world. Two major religious traditions that sprang from Hindu influence, Jainism and Sikhism, also have many related entries. Entries include: Ancestor worship, Ayodhya, Ayurveda, Benares, Bhagavad Gita, Brahman, Caste, Christian-Hindu relations, Divali, Durga, Ellora, Funeral rites, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Hindu nationalism, Indus Valley Civilization, Kama Sutra, Meditation, Mirabai, R.K. Narayan, New moon/full moon ceremonies, Om, Puja, Reincarnation/rebirth, Sacred thread, Sadhu, Sikhism, Rabindranath Tagore, Theosophical Society, Untouchability, Vegetarianism, Vishnu, World Parliament of Religions, and more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The Encyclopedia of World Religions series (J. Gordon Melton, series editor) turns its attention to Hinduism. The series, which will eventually include 6 of the world's major religions, complements more general resources, such as The HarperCollins Dictionary of Religion (1995), with a highly focused, contemporary approach. Packed into this trim volume are more than 600 A-Z entries with enough information for most users, without overwhelming anyone. For those wanting more, suggestions for further reading accompany almost every entry.

The tone and diction of the writing are nontechnical and well-suited for the target audience of high school and up. As with most specialized works, some of the encyclopedia's major topics (for example, the Kama Sutra and Mahatma Gandhi) are also found in more general works. However, examples abound of lesser-known Hindu personalities and concepts that are not adequately covered elsewhere. For instance, approximately one-fourth of the volume's entries are biographical, covering more than 150 yogis, gurus, teachers, and saints. Many of these are late-twentieth-century figures who are not household names outside of the Hindu community. A significant portion of the volume's more than 70 black-and-white photographs accompany these biographical profiles. More than a dozen geographical treatments are highlighted through some of the work's longer entries. Most notable are the entries for Africa, Bali, Scandinavia, Trinidad, and the U.S. The encyclopedia functions, in part, as a glossary as well, defining many Hindu terms. Lesser-known concepts (e.g., Punya, or karmic merit) are explained in entries that are several sentences in length and include brief bibliographies. Intermixed with the people, places, and technical terms are entries for festivals, deities, organizations, key sites, locations, and more. Jainism and Sikhism, two religious traditions with roots in Hinduism, also receive attention with frequent references. The encyclopedia opens with a full but concise introduction to Hinduism, followed by an 11-page Hindu chronology that covers the most notable events in the 3,000 years of Hindu history. A thorough index provides the perfect finishing touch to this user-friendly encyclopedia, which is an ideal fit for large or small public and academic libraries. Osburn, Wade

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Constance A. Jones is currently a professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology, has published numerous articles on religious studies, and was a Fulbright scholar in India. She is also the author of *The Legacy of G.I. Gurdjieff*, as well as editor of *Scholarly Perspectives on the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness*. James D. Ryan is the codirector of Asian and Comparative Studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. He earned a Ph.D. in Tamil literature at the University of California, Berkeley, and has translated and annotated the medieval epic *Civakacintamani* by Tiruttakkatevar.

This book could be so useful. And instead of feeling excited i feel totally frustrated because when you buy the kindle edition there is no way to access the pages of the book other than by chronological order.....so if i want something under V, say for vishnu i have to go page by page until i get to V. this would take hours. it is incredible to me that someone would sell an

encyclopedia when i have to read all the A's before i get to the B's., page by page fingering each one in anticipation of, for example the V.this is a phenomenal error on the part of the publisher because for my needs it is relatively useless and very annoying!!!! who reads an encyclopedia chronologically through the english alphabet?!i find this unbelievable...and although i rarely write reviews if i can help someone else not have this frustration then it is good that i write.Unbelievable.....at least they could order subjects chronologically. My i ching books have at least one chapter for each of the 64 categories...so it can be done. what an unfortunate oversight....and sad for the authors because the distribution of such important work gets eclipsed for so many people.

I had high expectations of this book, which sadly did not deliver. Comprehensive information on a variety of topics but it seemed a bit dated and not in touch with current Hindu culture. There were many entries that were omitted and I feel would have been useful, but since I bought used and at a rock bottom price, I'm not disappointed!

This is an immensely important book for WesternersAs a Westerner who became interested in Eastern spiritual teachings thirty years ago, I was appalled to discover then, my own ignorance and the ignorance of others in the West about Hinduism and its spinoff, Buddhism, the principal Eastern religions.There is even today in the West, thirty years later, a vacuum of knowledge about Hinduism. The Encyclopedia of Hinduism by professors Jones and Ryan helps to fill this vacuum in a simple, straightforwsrd way.The entries are arranged alphabetically, and one can find information on the key concepts in Hinduism along with biographical and other information about the key historical and contemporary figures in this great world religion.Of even more importance for the Westerner, in my view, is the ten page introduction explaining Hinduism's origins, its sacred texts, its contemporary situation, and its esoteric aspects sometimes known as Vedanta or Advaita which carry their own entries and typify the thorough nature of this Encyclopedic work.You will not regret owning this book. Highly recommended.

For scholars and writers like myself, or just folks with curious minds, there is nothing quit like an easy to access and reasonably thorough encyclopedia of information on a topic of interest. Constance Jones and James Ryan have given us just that, in detail and with a reliability that we can depend on. If you have a question about Hinduism and want find a reliable answer quickly, don't go to Wikipedia: find it quickly in this single-volume authoritative work.Allan Combs, Ph.D.Professor of

This is a very important book. A concise explanation of Hinduism in an easily understood format that is not an ordeal to read. This Encyclopedia takes the reader through the historical origins of Hinduism and its evolution to the present day. It has a comprehensive index of all the saints, sages and personalities associated with the subject and a wonderful bibliography. If people read this book there will be greater understanding between peoples of different religious beliefs and consequently greater tolerance. This book should be on all shelves along with the others in the series.

This book is a must for anyone who is interested in Hinduism. Finally, there is a place to go for answers about who, what, and when in the Hindu world, as one makes one way through various Hindu writings. Having a reference like this is extremely valuable for the western reader. It covers everything!

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