

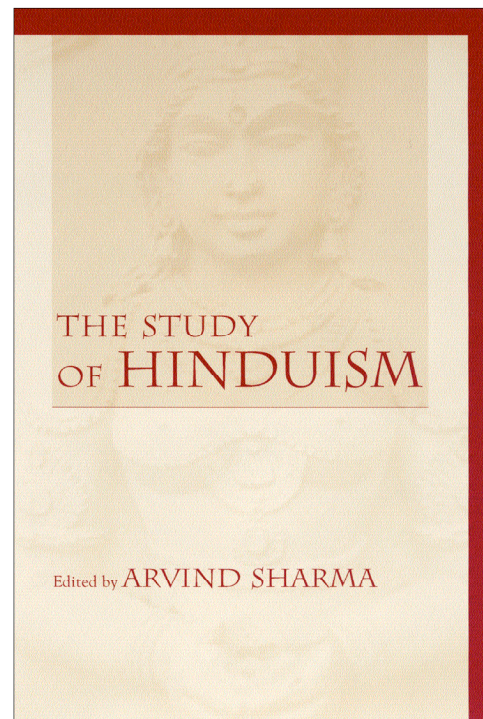
THE STUDY OF HINDUISM

Edited by Arvind Sharma

In *The Study of Hinduism*, leading scholars from around the world take stock of two centuries of international intellectual investment in Hinduism. Since the early nineteenth century, when the scholarly investigation of Hinduism began to take shape as a modern academic discipline, Hindu studies has evolved from its concentration on description and analysis to an emphasis on understanding Hindu traditions in the context of the religion's own values, concepts, and history. Offering a needed assessment of the current state of Hindu studies, the contributors to this volume identify past achievements and chart the course for what remains to be accomplished in the field.

Casting a tripartite net, the contributors collaborate to achieve an analytical, historical, and topical perspective upon Hindu studies. Among other topics, they evaluate the continuing debates surrounding the meaning of the word Hinduism and the different methods that have been employed in studying the religion. Arvind Sharma, as editor, lays the groundwork for the volume by defining both Hinduism and the role of methods—including historical, anthropological, sociological, and psychological—in its study. Eric J. Sharpe adds to the opening analysis with his consideration of the importance of setting in Hindu studies.

Other contributors review the ways in which Hinduism has been studied. Stephanie W. Jamison and Michael Witzel examine the scholarship about pre-Vedic and Vedic Hinduism and the rituals, mythology, and religious life associated with it; Alf Hiltebeitel, Gregory Bailey, and Milton Elder consider scholarly attention to the writing, orality, and divinity of India's epics—the Puranas and the Bhadagvīta, respectively—in classical Hinduism; Philip Lutgendorf surveys the recent study of medieval Hinduism, especially its devotional traditions; and Robert D. Baird addresses the work of disciplines such as anthropology, history, and the history of religions as they bear on the investigation of modern Hinduism. Within this broad framework, the contributors also address academic responses to the regional forms of Hinduism and the position of women within the religion.



ARVIND SHARMA is the Birks Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He has taught in Australia and in the United States. Sharma is the editor of two books widely used in teaching world religions, *Women in World Religions* and *Our Religions*. He is also the author of *Classical Hindu Thought: An Introduction*. Sharma lives in Montreal.

Method of payment:*

☐ **Check or money order:** (payable to USC Press in United States dollars)

Credit Card: ☐ Discover ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Account number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Exp. Date

--	--	--	--

Month/Year

Signature: _____

Name (please print): _____ Phone: _____

Shipping Address: _____

THE STUDY OF HINDUISM

SEND ME _____ COPY/COPIES
(CL, #3-449-4 AT \$49.95 EACH) \$ _____

SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS ADD 5% \$ _____

SALES TAX

SHIPPING AND HANDLING: \$ _____

ADD \$5.00 FOR FIRST BOOK,
\$1.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK

TOTAL \$ _____
CODE 3449

*ORDER FORM FOR UNITED STATES ORDERS ONLY. FOR INFORMATION
ON ORDERING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, PLEASE CONTACT THE
APPROPRIATE SALES REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BACK.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS

718 Devine Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29208

800-768-2500 • 803-777-5243 • fax 800-868-0740 • www.sc.edu/uscpres

FOREIGN SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Asia & the Pacific

(including Australia & New Zealand)
East-West Export Books (EWEB)
Royden Muranaka
University of Hawaii Press
2840 Kolowalu Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: (808) 956-8830
or (808) 956-8697
Fax: (808) 988-6052
E-mail: eweb@hawaii.edu

Canada

Scholarly Book Services, Inc.
Brian Donat
473 Adelaide St., West
4th Floor Rear
Toronto, Ontario M5V1T1
Phone: (416) 504-6545
Fax: (416) 504-0641

Europe & United Kingdom

The Eurospan Group
Andrew Wong, Marketing Manager
3 Henrietta St.
London WC2E 8LU, UK
Phone: +44 (0) 20 7845 0819
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7379-3313
E-mail: andrew.wong@eurospan.co.uk

Central & South America

University of South Carolina Press
Business Office
718 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29208, USA
Phone: (800) 768-2500
Fax: (800) 868-0740
E-mail: lmack@sc.edu