

PREFACE

The book is the result of my experience as a teacher of the Post-graduate classes since 1936. During the course of these years I happened to lecture students offering such papers as Cultural History of Ancient India, Socio-Economic History of Ancient India and Ancient Indian Art and Architecture. While teaching I felt the desirability of writing a comprehensive work covering all these aspects in one volume by giving equal attention to North and South Indian history. This humble attempt aims to fulfil that desire.

With a view to focus equal attention on North and South Indian history and to recapture the almost forgotten episode of India's colonial and cultural expansion, the book has been divided into three parts. Part I deals with the history of North India; Part II traces the history of South India and Part III details the spread of Indian Culture beyond the seas. Every attempt has been made to bring the book up to date by availing the fruits of recent researches on the subjects. In addition to Post-graduate students the interests of those appearing for competitive examinations have been constantly kept in view.

I am thankful to Shri. N. K. Garuda Prakash who has drawn the maps for the book. My thanks are also due to my children, Kum. Shashirekha Maudgalya, Shri Venktesh S. Maudgalya and Kum. Gayathri Maudgalya, who have typed the manuscript, corrected the typed scripts, read the proofs and prepared the Index.

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I am indebted to all those scholars whose writings I have made use of with great profit. I crave the indulgence of the readers for any short comings in the book.

'SUMANA'
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H. V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

CONTENTS

PART-I

NORTH INDIA

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Pages</i>
I. Introductory	1—51
II. Vedic Age	52—60
III. Pre-Mauryan Period	69—89
IV. Mauryan Period	90—128
V. India from the second century B.C. to third century A.D.	129—153
VI. The Age of the Guptas	154—194
VII. The Age of Harshavardhana	195—211
Appendix-I Kanauj after the fall of the Guptas	212—215
VIII. The Medieval North Indian Kingdoms	218—230

PART-II.

SOUTH INDIA

I. South India from the earliest times to third century A.D.	233—258
II. The Vakatakas	259—262
III. Karnataka history and culture—the Kadambas and the Gangas	314—331
IV. Pallavas of Kanchi	332—335
V. The Pandayas	332—335
VI. The Chola-Chaulukya Period	336—353

PART-III

HINDU CULTURE COLONIES

East Burma—Cambodia—Champa—The Philippines—Formosa and America—South East—Sumatra—Bali—Ceylon—Greece and Rome—Arabia, Syria and Palestine—Medieval Europe—Tibet—Central Asia—China—Korea and Japan.

Index

357—384

385

PART I NORTH INDIA