

The India They Saw: A Comprehensive Review of the Complete Collection

The India They Saw is a 16-volume collection of travelogues written by foreign visitors to India from the 16th to the 20th centuries. The collection was compiled by the historian Percival Spear and first published in 1973. It has since been reprinted several times and is considered one of the most important sources on the history of India as seen through the eyes of outsiders.



The India They Saw Complete Collection (Vol-1 to Vol-4) (Set of 4 Books) by Gerard Colby

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
File size : 15928 KB
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 3317 pages



The volumes in The India They Saw are arranged chronologically, beginning with the accounts of early European travelers such as Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta. The later volumes include the writings of British officials, missionaries, and tourists. The collection provides a fascinating glimpse into the changing perceptions of India over time.

The early travelers were often amazed by the wealth and splendor of India. They marveled at the size and beauty of the cities, the richness of the countryside, and the sophistication of the Indian culture. However, they were also critical of some aspects of Indian society, such as the caste system and the treatment of women.

As the British Empire expanded in India, the tone of the travelogues changed. The British writers were more likely to view India as a backward and barbaric country in need of civilization. They often criticized the Indian people for their laziness, superstition, and lack of hygiene. However, there were also some British writers who were more sympathetic to India and its people. These writers recognized the value of Indian culture and the importance of Indian independence.

In the 20th century, the travelogues began to reflect the growing nationalist movement in India. The Indian writers who contributed to the collection were proud of their country and its culture. They wanted to show the world that India was a modern and progressive nation.

The India They Saw is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of India. It provides a unique perspective on the country as seen through the eyes of outsiders. The collection is also a fascinating read for anyone interested in travel writing, literature, or cultural studies.

Historical Significance

The India They Saw is a significant historical document for several reasons. First, it provides a record of the changing perceptions of India over time. The early travelers were often amazed by the wealth and splendor of India, while the later British writers were more likely to view India as a backward

and barbaric country. The collection also reflects the growing nationalist movement in India in the 20th century.

Second, *The India They Saw* provides valuable insights into the lives of ordinary Indians. The travelers often recorded their observations of Indian customs, traditions, and beliefs. This information is invaluable for historians and anthropologists who are trying to understand the social and cultural history of India.

Third, *The India They Saw* is a reminder of the importance of cross-cultural 交流. The travelers who visited India came from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. Their interactions with Indians helped to shape their understanding of the world and their place in it.

Literary Value

In addition to its historical significance, *The India They Saw* is also a valuable literary work. The collection contains some of the finest examples of travel writing in the English language. Many of the travelers were gifted writers who were able to capture the beauty and complexity of India in their words.

The India They Saw is also a valuable source of information for literary scholars. The collection provides insights into the development of travel writing as a genre. It also sheds light on the relationship between travel writing and other forms of literature, such as history, fiction, and poetry.

Relevance to Contemporary Understandings of India

The India They Saw is still relevant to contemporary understandings of India. The collection can help us to understand the historical roots of some

of the challenges that India faces today. It can also help us to appreciate the diversity and richness of Indian culture.

In a world that is increasingly interconnected, it is important to understand different cultures and perspectives. The India They Saw can help us to do this by providing a window into the world of India as seen through the eyes of outsiders.

The India They Saw is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history, literature, or culture of India. The collection provides a unique perspective on the country as seen through the eyes of outsiders. It is also a fascinating read for anyone interested in travel writing, literature, or cultural studies.

I highly recommend The India They Saw to anyone who wants to learn more about India. The collection is a valuable resource that can help us to understand the historical roots of some of the challenges that India faces today. It can also help us to appreciate the diversity and richness of Indian culture.



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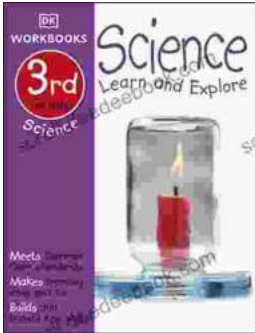
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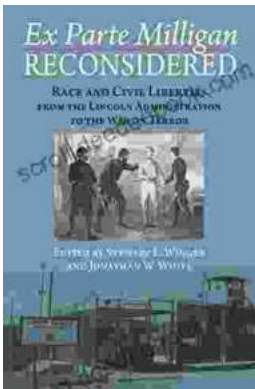
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