



BOOK REVIEW

Builders of Indian Anthropology by Gaya Pandey, Concept Publishing Company (P) Ltd., New Delhi, pp. 274, bibliography, and index, 2022. Hardcover. Price: 1200. ISBN: 978-5594-537-2.

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The book “Builders of Indian Anthropology” deals with the profiles and contributions of Indian anthropologists and foreign anthropologists who attempted to lay the foundation of Indian anthropology in our country and endow the subject by exploring and studying interesting features of Indian tribes, castes, village studies, urban areas, and cities. They started with research work on different branches of anthropology i.e., social-cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, linguistic anthropology and prehistoric anthropology in India. Later, Indian anthropology began to be studied as a full-fledged subject at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the departments of anthropology at various colleges and universities in our country. The young anthropologists are thankful to them for their devotion and obligation to the subject.

The author has dedicated this book, especially to the young anthropologists who are now responsible for carrying forward Indian anthropology to the next level. When we discuss the future of anthropology in India, we should remember our forefather anthropologists, who made tremendous efforts for the development of the discipline in India. The present generation of anthropologists has a lot to learn from the works of the great anthropologists regarding methodological and applied aspects of the discipline. Anthropologists apply a holistic approach to perceiving different dimensions of human experience.

This book begins with a short tribute message from Prof. G. Pandey to our forefather anthropologists for their praiseworthy work in the anthropology

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fraternity. The book "Builders of Indian Anthropology" is an attempt to highlight the biographical sketches and contributions of anthropologists to strengthen the foundation and build a pathway to move ahead with a vision. The book also contains a good collection of books in the bibliography and index. The author has divided the book into two chapters, i.e., Indian anthropologists who were builders of Indian anthropology and foreign anthropologists who were builders of Indian anthropology. The first chapter covers thirty-two Indian anthropologists, and the second chapter covers thirty-five foreign anthropologists, who put their best effort into the growth of the discipline in India.

The author begins his first bio-sketch with L.K. Ananta Krishna Iyer, who was born in Kerala. He was one of the pioneer anthropologists India. The legacy was carried forward by other eminent scholars, like L.A. Krishna Iyer, S.C. Roy, B.S. Guha, K.P. Chattopadhyay, N.K. Bose, D.N. Majumdar, I. Karve, A. Aiyappan, M.N. Srinivas, S.C. Dube, Sachchidananda, L.P. Vidyarthi, R.K. Mukherjee, G.S. Ghurye, S.C. Sinha, B.K. Roy Burman, R.D. Singh, R.S. Khare, G. Chattopadhyay, K.S. Mathur, B.R. Chauhan, Y. Atal, Y.V. Lakshmana Rao, H.S. Dhillon, K. Ishwaran, K.N. Dikshit, H.D. Sankalia, N. Prasad, K.S. Singh, and R.S. Mann.

The second chapter covers foreign anthropologists who did noteworthy work for the growth and development of Indian anthropology. The author starts his writing with the work of the first foreign anthropologist, Sir William Jones. Sir Jones put his best effort into studying man, society and culture in India. He established the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal in Kolkata, which contributed a lot to Indian anthropology. This tradition was continued by different foreign anthropologists like J. Princep, A. Cunningham, Sir J. Marshal, Sir M. Wheeler, H.H. Risley, J.H. Hutton, V. Elwin, C. Vor Furer Haimendorf, A.C. Mayer, O. Lewis, M. Marriott, D.C. Mandelbaum, M.E. Opler, H.A. Gould, M. Singer, A.R. Beals, W. McCormack, E.B. Harper, T. Scarlett Epstein, G.P. Steed, E.K. Gough, F.G. Bailey, W.H. Wiser, G.M. Carstairs, H. Orenstein, L. Dumont, P.G. Herbert, T.D. Patterson, J. Mencher, D.S. Sen, A. Beteille, B.F. Beck, C. Bougle, and T.O. Beidelmen.

The 19th century anthropologists belonged to other disciplines, but their interest in the subject made them eminent anthropologists. These anthropologists were, however, arm-chair anthropologists who concluded their results without going to the field. Earlier anthropology as a discipline was recognised as a social science, but now it ranges across the scope of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

The textbook, *Builders of Indian Anthropology*, has an academic orientation, making it ideal for readers interested in anthropology. The chapters of the book are well organised, striking a balance between the description of the historical journey of anthropology and the contributions of eminent anthropologists. The book fills in as an excellent beginning stage for further exploration and urges the readers to dive deeper into the discipline. This book is an essential asset for anyone with an interest in the humanities, Indian history and extensive fieldwork, and should be regarded as a significant contribution to the anthropological discourse.

I would personally, highly recommend this book to anyone who desires to know the history and development of anthropology in India. I am eagerly looking forward to more books from this author. However, one small drawback of the book is its expensive price which may be heavy on the pockets of the learners of anthropology, especially the student fraternity. But this shortcoming can easily be overlooked when we see the meticulously detailed chapters on the contributions of both Indian and foreign anthropologists who laid the groundwork for the discipline. It serves as a foundational text for both, students and scholars.