



Kings, Brahmanas and Temples in Orissa: An Epigraphic Study AD 300-1147

By Upinder Singh

Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 1994. Hardcover. Condition: New. First. 382pp. Royal endowments to Brahmanas have been interpreted either as a factor of political integration or disintegration in Indian history. Through the first thorough presentation and analysis of the epigraphic data from Orissa, this study argues that the period AD 300-1147 was one of intensive state formation and political development in which royal grants played an important integrative role. During this period, Brahmanas, many of whom were ritual specialists associated with the Yajurveda, emerged as land-holders endowed by royal decree with privileged control over land. Despite the consistent appearance of sectarian affiliations in the royal inscriptions, temples did not benefit from royal patronage on a comparable scale. Until the close of the period under review, it was the gift of land to Brahmanas, not the royally-endowed temple establishment that was a major basis of royal legitimation and political integration in Orissa.



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