

**Confronting the Body****The Politics of Physicality in Colonial and Post-Colonial India***Edited by James H. Mills and Satadru Sen***Pub Date:** January 2004**Binding:** Hardback**Price:** £50 / \$85**ISBN:** 9781843310327**Extent:** 212 pages**Size:** 234 x 156mm / 9.2 x 6.1**Category:** HISTORY / Asia / General**BISAC code:** HIS003000**BIC code:** HBTQ**Rights Held:** World**Description**

A fascinating study on the politics of the body and the way in which it has been manipulated in the colonial and postcolonial era.

The human body in modern South Asia is a continuous political enterprise. The body was central to the project of British colonialism, as well as to the Indian response to colonial rule. By constructing British bodies as normative and disciplined, and Indian bodies as deviant and undisciplined, the British could construct an ideology of their own fitness for political power and defence of colonialism itself. The politics of physicality then manifested in reverse in many ways, not least through Gandhi's use of his body as public experiment in discipline, as well as becoming a living rejection of British rule and norms of physicality. This unique collection makes for fascinating reading.

Readership: Of interest to anyone involved in the teaching or studying of colonialism and South Asia.

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