

**Religion, Law and Power**

Tales of Time in Eastern India, 1860–2000

*Ishita Banerjee-Dube***Pub Date:** January 2007**Binding:** Hardback**Price:** £50 / \$80**ISBN:** 9781843312345**Category:** HISTORY / Asia / General**BISAC code:** HIS003000**BIC code:** HRAM2**Extent:** 243 pages**Size:** 234 x 153mm; 9.2 x 6**Illustrations:** 6+ figures, maps and photographs**Rights Held:** World**Description**

Examines the interplay of distinct yet overlapping facets of history, Hinduism, the state and nation in Eastern India.

'This is a lucid and richly documented account of the mutual penetration of religion and politics; it should be read both by historians of religion and by historians of South Asia.' —*Richard M. Eaton, Professor of History, University of Arizona*

This book constructs an anthropological history of a subaltern religious formation, Mahima Dharma of Orissa, a large province in eastern India. Tracking the contingent making of a critical community over a hundred and forty year period, **Religion, Law and Power** explores the interplay of distinct expressions of time and history, innovative reformulations of caste and Hinduism and distinct engagements with state and nation. This serves to unravel the wider entanglements of religion, history, law, modernity and power.

Ishita Banerjee-Dube provides a situated and critical analysis of the different trajectories of Mahima Dharma, bringing to the fore a clutch of empirical and theoretical issues. Understandings of the articulation and institutionalization of a subaltern religious order are not marked off from, but reveal the techniques and textures of, the modern state and dominant Hinduism. Such moves foreground subaltern and ascetic expressions and negotiations of modernity in institutional and everyday arenas, and further question widespread propositions of a singular Hinduism, especially in India today.

Readership: Of major import to both students and general readers interested in South Asian history and culture. Also a key text for historians, anthropologists and religious studies scholars who wish to examine the nexus of religion, politics, state and community.

Contents

Preface; Maps; Introduction: Tales of Time; Formations of Fate; Poets and Texts; Ascetics, Histories and the Law; Contemporary Contours; Epilogue; Bibliography; Appendix; Glossary; Index

About the Author

Ishita Banerjee-Dube is Professor of History at the Centre for Asian and African Studies, El Colegio de México. Her several authored and edited books include *Divine Affairs* (2001), *Unbecoming Modern* (2006), *Caste in History* (2008), *Ancient to Modern* (2009), and *Understanding Modern India* (forthcoming).

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