
Contents

Introduction: Looking at Ancient Social Formations	1
1. Sources and Review of Early Socio-Economic History	23
2. Exploiting History through Archaeology	46
3. Writings on Early Indian Polity	55
4. Studies in Ancient Polity	63
5. Early Story of Oriental Despotism: A Critique	75
6. Writings on Śūdras	85
7. Historiography of the Ancient Social Order	92
8. Light on Sati System	112
9. Some Western Views on the State and Economy in Early India	123
10. Mode of Production in Ancient India	132
11. Stages in Ancient Economy	140
12. Transition from Ancient to Medieval	169
13. Introducing Early Medieval Indian Society	193
14. How Feudal was Indian Feudalism?	206
15. Historical Archaeology and Urban Decay	237
16. Social Changes in Early Medieval India (circa AD 500–1200)	247
17. Need for an Integrated Approach	266
18. Main Trends in Indian History	270

19. From Kin to Class	276
20. Rahula Sankrityayana and Social Changes	282
21. Rethinking the Past	288
<i>Index</i>	295