Contents

	INTRODUCTION	1
I.	A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE	
	ON PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE IN INDIA	14
	Epic and Puranic Material	15
	Medieval Sources Based on Puranic Material	17
	Travel and Related Literature	20
	Twentieth-Century Studies	21
	Pilgrims' Travel Guides and Related Literature	26
	Gazetteers	27
	Pilgrim Registers and Records kept by Priests	28
II.	DISTRIBUTION OF HINDU PLACES OF	
	PILGRIMAGE ACCORDING TO THE	
	MAHĀBHĀRATA	29
	Analysis of the Distribution	29
	Relative Importance of Tirthas and Cults	
	according to the Mahābhārata	40
III.	A GRAND PILGRIMAGE OF INDIA	
	ACCORDING TO THE MAHĀBHĀRATA	43
	Introduction	43
	The Route of the Pilgrimage	45
	Conclusions	56
IV.	SACRED PLACES ACCORDING TO THE	
	PURĀŅAS AND SOME LATER SOURCES	58
	Introduction	58
	Places of Pilgrimage according to the Purāṇas	61
	Distribution of Hindu Places of Pilgrimage in	
	the Early Part of the twelfth Century A.D.	73
	Distribution of Hindu Places of Pilgrimage Based	
	on Some Non-Hindu Medieval Sources	75
	Conclusions	79
V.	TĪRTHAS: THEIR RELATIVE IMPORTANCE,	
	SITE CHARACTERISTICS, AND PRINCIPAL	
	DEITIES	80

	Distribution of Sacred Places	80
	Classification of Present-Day Tirthas	82
	Stoddard's Attempt to Account for the	
	Distribution of Holy Places	94
	Conclusions	95
VI.	PERCEPTION OF THE RANKS OF SACRED	
	PLACES	97
	Introduction	97
	Ranking of Sacred Places in Traditional Hinduism	97
	Perception of the Rank Order of Sacred Places	100
	Perception of "The Most Sacred Place" as Related	
	to Caste	105
	Conclusions	115
VII.	DETERMINATION OF LEVELS OF SACRED	
	PLACES	116
	Introduction	116
	Ranking of Sacred Places According to Average	
	Distance Traveled	116
	Levels of Sacred Places Based on the Cultural	
	Diversity of the Field of Pilgrimage	124
	Conclusions	145
VIII.	THE LEVEL OF SACRED PLACE AND THE	
	PURPOSE AND FREQUENCY OF	
	PILGRIMAGE	148
	Introduction	148
	Purposes of Pilgrimage in General	148
	Purposes of Pilgrims in Field Sample	153
	Relationship between the Level of Sacred Places	
	and Purposes of Pilgrimage	158
	Deities and the Purposes of Pilgrimage	160
	Frequency of Visits to Sacred Places	160
~~.	Conclusions	162
IX.	LEVEL OF SACRED PLACE AND THE	
	RELIGIOUS TRAVELS OF PILGRIMS	163
	Introduction	163
	Aspects of Religious Travel Considered	163
	Two Basic Patterns of Pilgrim Circulation	168
	Implication of Religious Circulation at	,
37	Different Levels	173
Χ.	SACRED PLACES AND THE CASTE	
	COMPOSITION OF PILGRIMS	175

Introduction	175
General Findings on Caste Composition	176
Relationship of Castes of Pilgrims to the Level	
of Sacred Places	184
Relationship between the Pilgrims' Castes and	
the Distance Traveled to the Sacred Place	
in the Sample	188
XI. SACRED PLACES AND THE DIFFUSION	
OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS	201
The Diffusion Mechanism in General	201
Specific Examples of Incipient Stage of Diffusion	204
Diffusion from High-level Sacred Places	206
Conclusions	215
XII. PILGRIM INTERACTION AT SACRED	
PLACES: THE CASE OF HARDWAR	216
Introduction	216
Regional Seasonality of Pilgrimage	217
Regional Biases in the Residential Pattern	
of Pilgrims	222
Caste Biases in the Residential Pattern	
of Pilgrims	223
Conclusions	223
XIII. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS	225
APPENDIX PILGRIM SAMPLES AND CASTE	
GROUPINGS	229
Pilgrim Samples	229
The Questionnaire	229
Categories of Castes or Comparable	
Groups	230
BIBLIOGRAPHY	233
Published Works	233
Unpublished Sources	247
INDEX	249
LIST OF MAPS AND GRAPHS	
1-1 Study Area	10
2-1 Tirthas according to the Mahābhārata	30
2-2 Scheduled Tribes and Corridors of Southward	
Aryan Expansion	38

3-1	A Grand Pilgrimage of India according to the	
	Mahābhārata	44
4-1	Tirthas according to the Garuda Purāņa	62
4-2	Tirthas according to the Matsya Purāṇa	66
4-3	Tīrthas according to the Agni Purāṇa	69
4-4	Tīrthas according to Kṛtyakalpataru,	
	Tīrthavivecana Kāṇḍam	72
4-5	Tīrthas according to 'Ain-i-Akbari	78
5-1	Places of Pilgrimage Based on a Consensus of	
	Modern Sources	81
5-2	Chief Deities at Sacred Places	89
7-1-7	7-13 Origin of Pilgrims by District 1968:	
7-1	Badrinath: Annual Yātrā	126
7-2	Hardwar: Ardha Kumbha	128
7-3	Ujjain: Simhastha	129
7-4	Kangra: Navarātrās of Caitra	131
7-5	Jwalaji: Navarātrās of Caitra	133
7-6	Chintpurni: Navarātrās of Caitra	134
7-7	Chintpurni: Śrāvaņa Astamī	135
7-8	Naina Devi: Navarātrās of Caitra	136
7-9	Naina Devi : Śrāvaņa Aṣṭamī	137
7-10	Mansa Devi: Navarātrās of Caitra	139
7-11	Mansa Devi : Śrāvaņa Astamī	140
7-12	Rewalsar: Sissoo Fair	142
7-13	Rewalsar: Vaiśākhī	143
10-1-	-10-12 Caste Composition of Pilgrims:	
	Key to Figures 10-1 through 10-12	193
10-1	Badrinath: Annual Yātrā	194
10-2a	a Baijnath : <i>Śivarātri</i>	194
10-21	Baijnath: Monday of Śrāvaņa	194
	Bhagsunag: Śivarātri	195
10-4a	a Chintpurni: Navarātrās	195
	Chintpurni: Śrāvaṇa Astamī	195
10-5	Hardwar: Ardha Kumbha	196
10-6	Jwalaji : Navarātrās	196
10-7	Kangra: Navarātrās	196
	a Naina Devi : Navarātrās	197
	Naina Devi, Śrāvaņa Astamī	197
	a Rewalsar, Sissoo Fair	197

6-8	Pilgrims of Selected Caste Groups at Jwalaji Who Consider Amritsar or Hardwar or Jwalaji the Most Sacred Place	109
6-9	Pilgrims of Selected Caste Groups at Kangra Who Consider Hardwar or Kangra the Most Sacred	
	Place	110
6-10	Two-Caste Comparison of the Perception of the Most Sacred Places	113
7-1	Ranking of Sacred Places according to Average	115
/-1	Distance per Pilgrim	118
7-2	Levels of Sacred Places Studied on the Basis of	110
1-2	Average Distance Traveled by Pilgrims	119
7-3	Average Pilgrim Field at Two Different Occasions	
1-3	for Six Sacred Places	120
7-4	Standard Deviation of Pilgrim Distances	124
7-5	Levels of Sacred Places on the Basis of Dispersion	
, ,	of Their Fields	125
7-6	Levels of Sacred Places	146
8-1	Levels of Sacred Places and the Purposes of	
		155–57
8-2	Pilgrims Who Paid Four or More Visits to the	
	Sacred Place	161
9-1	Number of Sacred Places Visited by Pilgrims in	
	Their Lives	164
9-2	Pilgrim Visits to First-level Sacred Places	166
9-3	Pilgrim Visits to First-level Sacred Places in Both	
	the Indo-Aryan and the Dravidian Language Areas	168
10-1	Level of Sacred Places and the Proportion of	
	Scheduled-Caste Pilgrims Thereto	185
10-2	Level of Sacred Places and the Proportion of	
	Brahmans and of Pilgrims of the Four High	
	Castes Thereto	187
10-3	Pilgrims of Selected Castes at Selected Sacred	
	Places and Their Mean Range	189–90

189-90