

Against Ecological Romanticism: Verrier Elwin and the Making of an Anti-Modern Tribal Identity

By Archana Prasad

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The essays in this book develop a systematic critique of the romanticised notions of tribal life, identity and ecology that informs so much of today s scholarship as well as the popular perceptions and everyday commonsense relating to these themes. The author has examined genesis of certain visions found in the work of Verrier Elwin, the grand old man of Indian anthropology and tribal policy, and has shown how it links up with the contemporary realities of ethnicity, caste and community in India. The revised and updated version of this book also explores the gender dimension within tribal societies to strengthen its argument. The framework advanced in this book contests the hegemonic neo-liberal and hindutva visions of these decades of economic reforms.

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Editorial Review

About the Author
Archana Prasad is Associate Professor at the Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, and was earlier a fellow of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. She has written extensively on tribal development, identity formation and local systems of natural resource conservation for scholarly as well as popular journals. Her books include 'Environmentalism and the Left: Contemporary Debates and Future Agenda in Tribal Areas' (2004); 'Tribal Livelihoods and Globalisation: Exploring the Potential of Non-Timber Forest Produce in Eastern and Central India' (2005), and an edited volume on 'Environment, Development and Society in Contemporary India: An Introduction' (2009).

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