

## Recent Books from Nepal – May 2021

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### Biography/Memoir

The Fifth Dalai Lama And His First Three Administrators /  
Sean Jones

Kathmandu: Vajra Publications Inc. Pvt Ltd., 2021

xl, 478p.

Includes Index

9789937624046

\$ 70.00 / PB

798gm.

This book is an attempt to elucidate some aspects of the political life of the Fifth Dalai Lama (1617-1682) who established the Ganden Phodrang, his government in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Tibet, and especially his relations with the first three administrators (Desi). For the elucidation the book draws mainly from the English translation of the autobiography of the Fifth Dalai Lama (*The Illusive Play*, Serindia Publications 2014) and contains a vivid account of the lives of the first three administrators of the Fifth Dalai Lama that had remained until now very little known.

The author's historical account of the lives of these monk officials is based on the personal observations made by the Fifth Dalai Lama in his autobiography.

Desi Sonam Rabten, the first administrator, the architect of the Gelug rise, was doctrinaire and sectarian. He was succeeded by Depa Norbu, next of kin, who rebelled against the Ganden

Phodrang government. However, Desi Trinle Gyatso, the third one, was a faithful follower of the Fifth Dalai Lama's non-sectarian ecumenical policy.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=762462>

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The Perfect Liberation of the Mahasiddha Chunga Rinpoche (1899-1980) / Michael Pahlke

Lumbini: Lumbini International Research Institute, 2020

x, 266p.

9789937078771

\$ 99.95 / PB

442gm.

A biography of Chunga Rinpoche, a mahasiddha born in Eastern Tibet in 1899.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=762463>

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## **History**

Military History and Heritage of Nepal / Prem Singh Basnyat

Nepal : Rajendra Chhetri, 2021

324p.

9789937082839

\$ 25.00/PB

425gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=762464>

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## **Religion - Buddhism**

Svayambhupurana : Translation of

Svayambhucaityabhattacharakoddesa / (Translator) Kamal

Prakash Malla

Kathmandu: Ratna Pustak Bhandar, 2021

xviii, 106p.

Includes Index

9789937332545

\$ 15.00 / PB  
148gm.

This volume provides a translation of one of the most important texts in the history of the Newar Buddhist tradition. As rendered into clear English by one of Nepal's greatest modern scholars, Kamal Prakash Malla, its 10 chapters recount the origin of the Kathmandu Valley as a sacred Buddhist territory, how this holy Himalayan oasis became a center of Mahâyana-Vajrayana tradition arrayed around the great Svayambbu Stūpa. The text also reveals the visits of various Buddhas, bodhisattvas, and sage- teachers who became central figures in local history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=762465>

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### **Sociology**

Empowering Dalits Through Knowledge / Tulsî Ram Pandey,  
Tika Ram Gautam & Madhusudan Subedi

Kathmandu: Vajra Publications Inc. Pvt Ltd., 2021

xxii, 250p.

9789937624053

\$ 25.00 / PB

365gm.

It is most welcome to have this stimulating collection of essays on the Dalits, the most underprivileged and discriminated caste/class in Nepali society. Written by academics and social activists, these well-researched essays challenge our thoughts and actions. The essays deal with a phenomenon that is at once harsh and cruel and yet enigmatically elusive and persistent. This book deserves a wide readership from among those interested in inequality and social change in Nepal today.

– KEDAR BHAKTA MATHEMA, Former Vice-Chancellor,  
Tribhuvan University, and Former Ambassador of Nepal to  
Japan

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=762466>

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Practices of Sociology in Nepal / (Ed) Pranab Kharel & Gaurab  
KC

Kathmandu: Vajra Publications Inc. Pvt Ltd., 2021

xiv, 212p.

9789937624060

\$ 22.00 / PB

304gm.

Sociology and anthropology in Nepal have so far shrugged off identifying its Nepali identity. One of the reasons for this lackluster is Nepali practitioners' relentless reliance on the west. The cookie-cutter approach of disciplinary history writing tradition is so worn out that competing perspectives and alternative narratives are still sparse. The Practices of Sociology in Nepal is both a representative and reflective dialogue that analytically submerges into the sociology 'of' and 'on' Nepal. In assessing and reassessing Nepali sociology and anthropology, the centrality of this book revolves around the idea of practice. All seven chapters are congruent in charting out the different shades of practices within the university set up. The book raises pertinent questions on the need for cross-fertilization of ideas and methodologies among and between various social sciences. It also points towards the neoliberal pressure exerting at the social sciences at the universities in Nepal. The book makes an honest plea for reexamining both pedagogic and epistemic issues facing Nepali sociology and anthropology. The first-hand experiences of all the contributors have brilliantly kindled the fresh and critical debates on disciplinary history, teaching, supervision, research, writing, allied publications and actor/ institutional politics. Indeed, the thoughts and reflections provided here have seriously given a new direction for Nepali sociology and anthropology. This book is an invaluable resource to students, professionals, practitioners and social science enthusiasts who

are interested in the sociology and anthropology of Nepal. Additionally, the book will also serve as a reference for any other South Asian practitioners of sociology and anthropology in identifying similar issues in their respective contexts.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=762467>

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