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## Aryans, Jews, Brahmins: Theorizing Authority Through Myths of Identity (Paperback)

By Dorothy Matilda Figueira

State University of New York Press, United States, 2002.

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Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand

\*\*\*\*\*.In Aryans, Jews, Brahmins, Dorothy M. Figueira provides a

fascinating account of the construction of the Aryan myth and

its uses in both India and Europe from the Enlightenment to

the twentieth century. The myth concerns a race that inhabits

a utopian past and gives rise first to Brahmin Indian culture

and then to European culture. In India, notions of the Aryan

were used to develop a national identity under colonialism, one

that allowed Indian elites to identify with their British rulers. It

also allowed non-elites to set up a counter identity critical of

their position in the caste system. In Europe, the Aryan myth

provided certain thinkers with an origin story that could

compete with the Biblical one and could be used to diminish

the importance of the West s Jewish heritage. European racial

hygienists made much of the myth of a pure Aryan race, and

the Nazis later looked at India as a cautionary tale of what

could happen if a nation did not remain pure. As Figueira

demonstrates, the...



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### Reviews

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