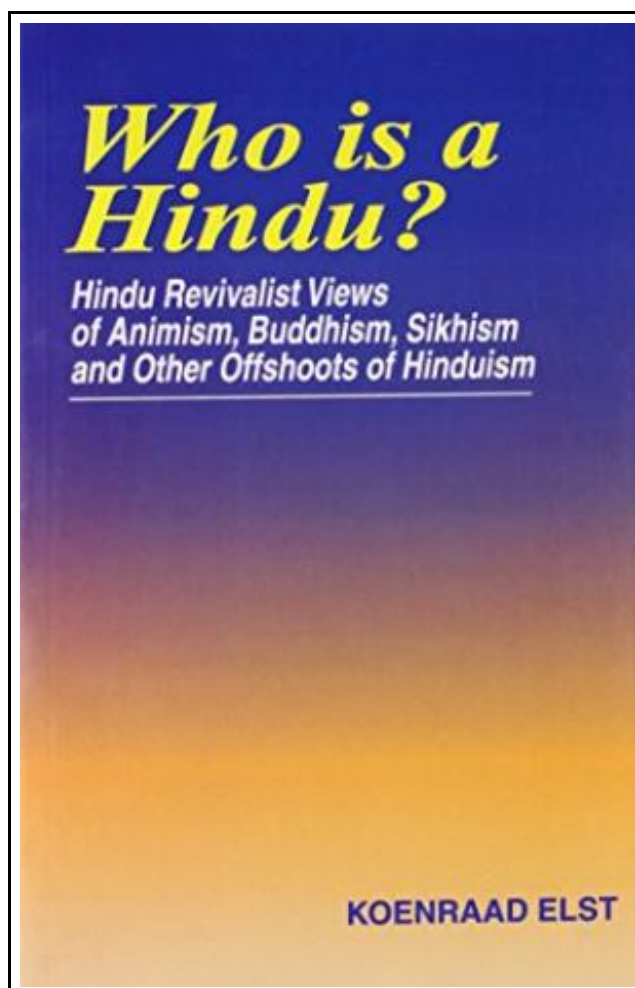


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(Dr. Pat Hegmann)

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Voice of India, New Delhi, 2002. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. 15 x 23 cm. As part of their entrenched power position, the British colonizers and later their Nehruvian successors have always tried to control the discourse on religion. Among other concerns, they have seen to it that the term "Hindu" got divorced from its historical meaning, which quite inclusively encompassed all Indian Pagans, in order to fragment Hindu society. In parallel with their effort to pit Caste against caste, they have tried to pit sect against sect, offering nurture to the egos of sect Leaders by telling them that in fact they were popes in their own right of full-fledged religions, equal in status but morally superior to Hinduism. Hindu revivalists have countered this effort by reaffirming the basic Hindu Character of tribal Animism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and more recent reformist sects. A more practical way of dealing with the question whether given sects are Hindu or not, is to Study the specific claims made by the "separatist" ideologues of the Communities concerned. When we do so, we find that Hindu revivalist Critique has pin-pricked (though not yet exhaustively) some of the cheap modern apologetics by which community leaders want to affirm the uniqueness and superiority of their own Tradition as compared to Hinduism. This is especially true of the number one selling argument of all non-Hindu or would-be non-Hindu Religions in India: that they, unlike Hinduism, are egalitarian. If a man is Poor and without social position, or if he is the target of accusations and the object of contempt, he finds himself quite alone. Even his relatives avoid and disown him. And if later on his name is cleared and his good fortune returns, the fairweather friends will again come flocking to his company. It takes Little more...



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