



From Pluralism to Separatism: Qasbas in Colonial Awadh

By Mushirul Hasan

Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2004. Hard Cover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. Few biographical narratives in India use the history of families to map the social and historical context of their times. In this pioneering work, Mushirul Hasan draws on the family history of the Kidwais of Bara Banki district of the United Provinces to provide an engaging and colourful account of Awadh society in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Moving away from an urban-oriented, Lucknow-centric look at Awadh, he studies the unique milieu of qasbas small settlements on the outskirts of Lucknow. In its exploration of qasbati identity, and its inheritance of Indo-Persian culture, this book delves deep into syncretic traditions handed down by families and communities of the qasbas. Hasan reconstructs the history of the Kidwai family in the light of the surrounding political, cultural, and social transformations. He traces a fresh intellectual history of Awadh and takes a critical view of assumptions characteristic of historical writing on Islamic societies in South Asia. Based on a wide range of primary sources in Urdu, the book brings alive the state of inter-community relations in the locality and highlights the pluralism and multiculturalism...

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