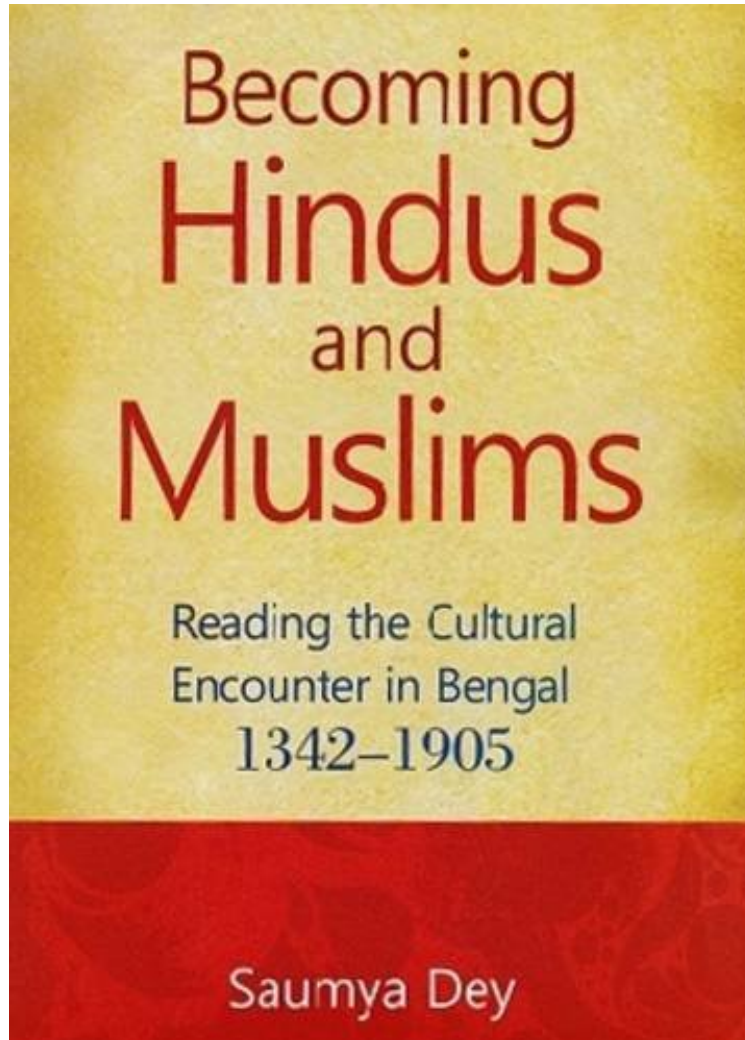


(Library ebook) Becoming Hindus and Muslims

## Becoming Hindus and Muslims

Saumya Dey

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**Saumya Dey : Becoming Hindus and Muslims** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Becoming Hindus and Muslims:

This book begins by interrogating the assumption that coherent religious identities emerged in the Indian subcontinent only in the nineteenth century, when the colonial state initiated the census and made it necessary for Indians determinately to identify themselves as Hindus or Muslims. The author studies the medieval Bengali kavyas and discerns the beginnings of religious identities in them. The kavyas, thus, he argues, formed an emotional inheritance which impacted the literature and sense of history which emerged in colonial Bengal under European influence. In the

second-half of the nineteenth century, this new literature, teamed with a freshly acquired historical consciousness, demonstrated the various ways in which the contemporary Hindu and Muslim intelligentsia tried to make sense of each other. In the process, the literature of the period, the book suggests, both reflected and aided the gradual becoming of Hindus and Muslims as political communities.