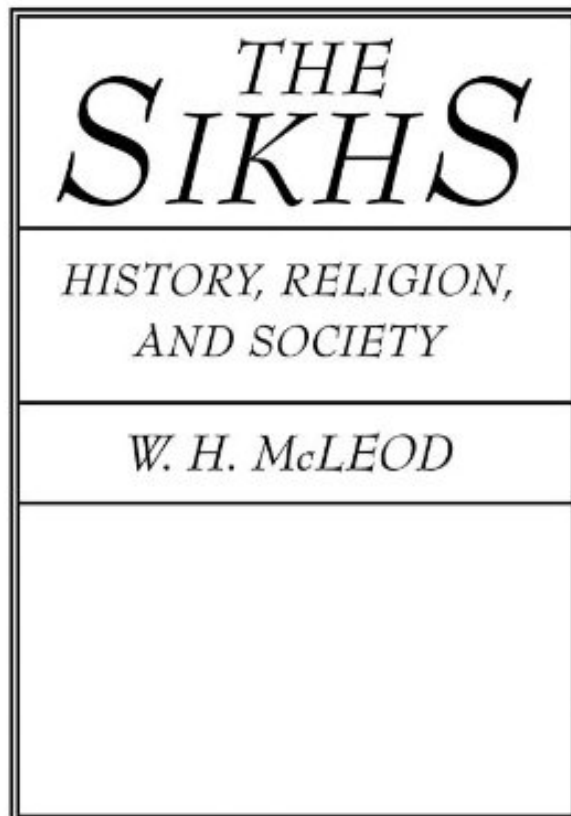


The Sikhs: History, Religion, and Society

W. H. McLeod

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W. H. McLeod : The Sikhs: History, Religion, and Society before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sikhs: History, Religion, and Society:

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not too much about Sikhs here By Evelyn Sue Coon I wanted to learn more about Sikh history and current situation, I did not find it here. The Sikh's have been and currently involved in their regions and it would be very helpful to know more

The Sikhs, a colorful and controversial people about whom little is generally known, have been the subject of much

hypothetical speculation. Their non-conformist behavior, except to their own traditions, and their fierce independence, even to demanding autonomy, have recently attracted world-wide attention. Hew McLeod, internationally known scholar of Sikh studies, provides a just and accurate description in his introduction to this religious community from northern India now numbering about sixteen million people, exploring their history, doctrine, and literature. *The Sikhs* begins by giving an overview of the people's history, then covers the origins of the Sikh tradition, dwelling on controversies surrounding the life and doctrine of the first Master, Guru Nanak (1469-1539). The book surveys the subsequent life of the community with emphasis on the founding of the Khalsa, the order that gives to Sikhs the insignia by which they are best known. The remaining sections concern Sikh doctrine, the problem of who should be regarded as a Sikh, and a survey of Sikh literature. Finally, the book considers the present life of the community its dispersion around the world to Asia, Australasia, North America, Africa, and Europe, and its involvement in the current trials of the Punjab. Sikh culture is believed to have been settled and unchanging from the time of the Gurus onwards. *The Sikhs*, a major new work by a leading authority, reveals that this is a very misleading view. McLeod treats a variety of questions sympathetically and in so doing he establishes a new understanding for students of religion and for all those interested in current events in India.

McLeod takes the reader through a number of issues that have been sharply disputed both within the Sikh community and by outsiders, constantly clarifying what is at stake among alternative accounts of the history of this increasingly important religion. A masterly survey. -- Willard G. Oxtoby University of Toronto
About the Author
W. H. McLeod is Professor of History at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He has lived for over nine years in India and is a world-renowned scholar of Sikh studies.