



Reading New India: Post-Millennial Indian Fiction in English

By E. Dawson Varughese

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Reading New India is an insightful exploration of contemporary Indian writing in English. Exploring the work of such writers as Aravind Adiga (author of the Man-Booker Prize winning White Tiger), Usha K.R. and Taseer, the book looks at how the 'new' India has been recreated and defined in an English Language literature that is now reaching a global audience. The book describes how Indian fiction has moved beyond notions of 'postcolonial' writing to reflect an increasingly confident and diverse cultures.

Reading New India covers such topics as:

- Representation of the city: Mumbai and Bangalore
- Chick Lit to Crick Lit - Call centre dramas and corporate lives
- Crime novels and Bharati narratives
- Graphic novels

Including a chronological time-line of major social, cultural and political reforms, biographies of the major authors covered, further reading and a glossary of Hindi terms, this book is an essential guide for students of contemporary world literature and postcolonial writing.



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Reading New India: Post-Millennial Indian Fiction in English By E. Dawson Varughese Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4278208 in Books
- Published on: 2013-03-14
- Released on: 2013-03-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 231.14" h x .60" w x 6.10" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 200 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

A thoughtful book, laden with insight, at the ways in which a new India is being written and read. -- Namita Gokhale, Writer, publisher and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival Reading New India provides a much needed and timely introduction to postmillennial India and Indian English literature within India as they move beyond the postcolonial past and forward into 'Newness'. Transnational Literature The splendor and the misery of Reading New India is that it whets the appetite for the fiction it introduces but necessarily fails to satiate the appetite thus awakened. LSE Review of Books Varughese's book is a gift for academics teaching Indian writing in English. And perhaps it will outshine all other books in the 'academic' library with its lively and pulpy, Karan Joharesque cover of bright yellow and pink. The Book Review India This is an ambitious and novel project, strenuous though, considering the vast body of literature to be considered. And [Dawson] has done it with a sense of academic objectivity. Reading New India: Post-Millennial Fiction in English - "the first book to focus on fiction at the millennium, the crossroad for India's globalisation" - is not a critique or a collection of reviews of individual novels or a generalised assessment of the oeuvre of individual writers, but a representation of various trends, themes, motifs, lineaments, zeitgeist, dynamic & conflicting cultural mores & values informing the fiction in hand, and an analysis of the core themes of some of the individual typical novels written in different voices. The Hans India The book is racy, giving you a smooth ride peppered with Indian exotica. You can't stop once you hold it in hands. It is a thorough work in itself. And who says, you get to know a place by reading its history and sociology only. Varughese fulfills it through her literary sojourn as well in an impeccable manner. Besides literary archives, you could place it in tourism section also to show the new rising India, in a big stroke. -- Zafar Anjum Kitaab Review

Occasionally there's a book that catches the eye and this expose of post-millennial Indian fiction in English is no exception ... An experienced field researcher of world literature in English, Emma Dawson Varughese has put some painstaking work into her research describing how Indian fiction has moved beyond notions of 'postcolonial' writing to reveal progressively self-assured and varied cultures. -- Rama Gaind PS News [T]his book marks important new interventions into the classification of contemporary Indian literature as moving away from a postcolonial paradigm that axiomatically centralizes the impact of British colonization as the defining Indian legacy. The strengths of the work undoubtedly lie in its ability to identify and delineate new and evolving trends in literature backed up by detailed close readings of selected novels. Furthermore, though the preface envisions the readership as predominantly Indian, a glossary of terms, a timeline, and author biographies open it up to a wider readership, and it will undoubtedly prove to be a useful resource for countless students of contemporary Indian literature. -- Sarah Ilott, Lancaster University, UK Interventions

About the Author

E.Dawson Varughese, author of Beyond The Postcolonial: World Englishes Literature (2012) is an experienced field researcher of world literature in English. She is the editor of numerous anthologies of short stories from such countries as Cameroon, Uganda and Malaysia. See her work at: www.beyondthepostcolonial.com

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Anna Elam:

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Silvia Smedley:

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