



Each year hundreds of thousands of pilgrims belonging to all castes and creeds converge towards the village of Velankanni to participate in the feast of its Virgin. This important mobilization is in keeping with the thaumaturgical power of Our Lady of Good Health called Arokkiya Mata. It is not the sole explanation and other factors explain this attraction. The social and economic relations between different castes and communities residing in the village, the organization of the festival, the representations of the Virgin are analysed to enlighten the complexity of the phenomenon of "indigenization" of Catholicism in India and the plurality of its expression. They also highlight the federal qualities of the Virgin and the shrine.

Keywords: missionary, indigenisation, Virgin Mary, Pattanavar, goddess

Des Intouchables aux Dalit : les errements d'un mouvement d'émancipation dans l'Inde contemporaine.

Djallal G. Heuzé. IFP/Aux Lieux D'Être, 2006, 143 p.

Language : French. 550 Rs (20 €)



In India, the term Dalit is claimed by those who were earlier called untouchables. They have created a movement of emancipation that reveals worrying tensions on its margins. The campaign of a journal that, in 1981, took on the title of *Dalit Voice*, bears testimony to this fact. Agitating against the caste system and for statutory equality, this journal, which is influential among the small elite originating from the lower castes, constitutes a remarkable example of the drift

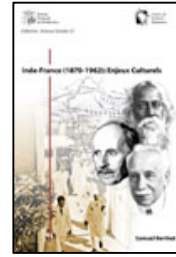
in the discourse of the oppressed towards a hatred of the Other and a fantasy of domination. By shedding light on this little-known face of contemporary India, this book makes a fundamental contribution to the understanding of the communal question in the subcontinent.

Keywords: Dalit, militant, social emancipation, communal questions

Inde-France (1870-1962): enjeux culturels.

Samuel Berthet, IFP/CSH, 2006, viii, 676 p., 8 p. of photos, 3 folded maps. (CSS n°12)

Language: French. 800 Rs (29 €)



In the early nineteenth century, the elites of the sub-continent ruled by the British started to conceive French culture as an instrumental factor in modernity-making. From 1870 onwards, the attempts of the British authorities to contain their emancipation increased the interest of the Indian elites in the French language and culture. If this effort towards emancipation from British rule took the Indian elite closer to the country of the Revolution and of the lingua franca of the cosmopolitan elite, the Third Republic led the French nation irrevocably towards the colonial path. By the time of Independence and in the following years, the perception of India and of the relations between the two countries was considerably altered by the French colonial experiment of the past decades.

Keywords: Indology, diplomacy, nationalism, colonialism