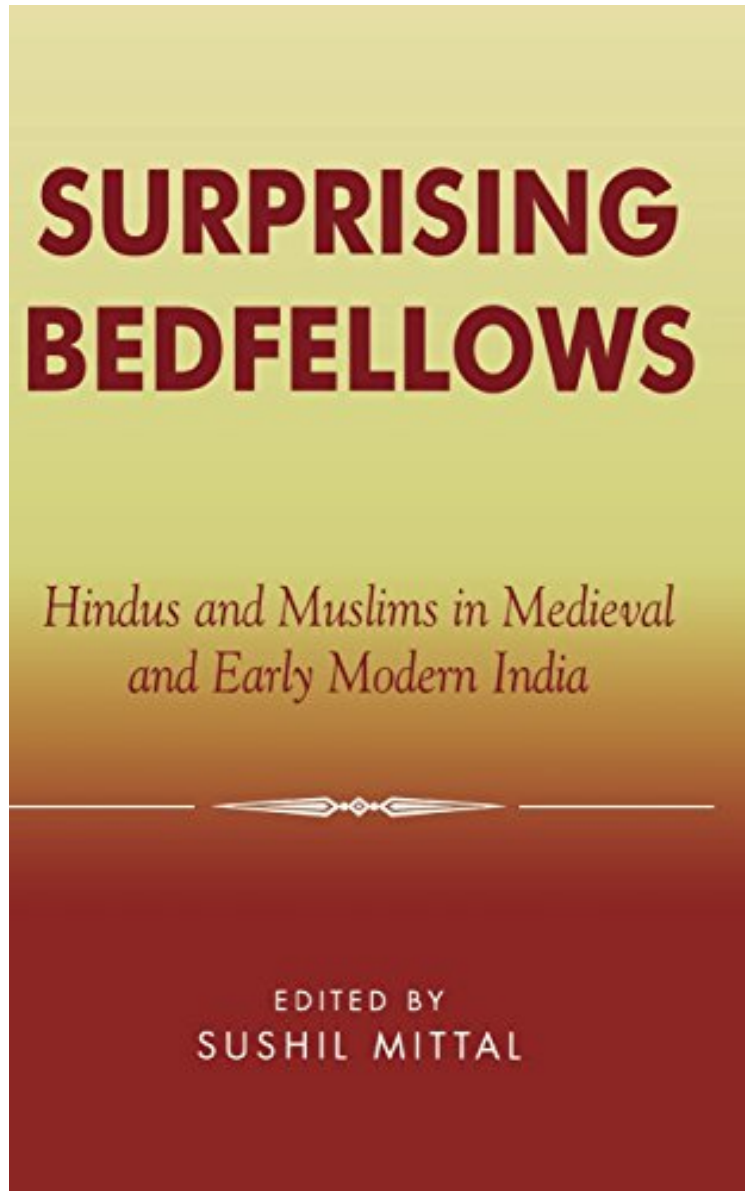


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# Surprising Bedfellows: Hindus and Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern India

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Bedfellows: Hindus and Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern India:

*Surprising Bedfellows: Hindus and Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern India* argues that religious and cultural identities in medieval and early modern India were marked by fluid and constantly shifting relationships rather than by the binary model of opposition that is assumed in so much scholarship. Building on the pioneering work of scholars such as Cynthia Talbot and Brajadulal Chattopadhyaya, these chapters seek to understand identity perception through romances, historical documents, ballads and historical epics, inscriptions and even architecture. The chapters in this volume urge readers to reconsider the simple and rigid application of categories such as Hindu and Muslim when studying South Asia's medieval and early modern past. It is only by doing this that we can understand the past and, perhaps, help prevent the dangerous rewriting of Indian history.

This collection of essays will be extremely useful to scholars seeking specific examples of cases where the Hindu/Muslim binary simply does not work-and given the constant reinforcement for mass media and academic institutions today, such examples are welcome, and worthy of being propagated. (Travis L. Smith, Columbia University *Intenerario 2G:1*, (2005))  
About the Author Sushil Mittal is Assistant Professor of Religion and the John C. Griswold Distinguished Professorship in Religion at Millikin University.