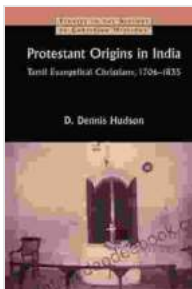


Protestant Origins in India: Tamil Evangelical Christians 1706-1835

The arrival of Protestant missionaries in India in the early 18th century marked a significant turning point in the religious history of the subcontinent. These missionaries, primarily from Germany and England, played a crucial role in introducing Protestantism to India and establishing a strong foothold for the faith, particularly among the Tamil-speaking population of South India.



Protestant Origins in India: Tamil Evangelical Christians 1706-1835 by D. Dennis Hudson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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File size : 2554 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 232 pages



The Arrival of the Halle Missionaries

The first Protestant missionaries to arrive in India were Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg and Heinrich Plütschau, who were sent by the Lutheran Halle Mission in 1706. They established their mission in Tranquebar, a Danish colony on the Coromandel Coast, and began their work among the Tamil-speaking population.

Ziegenbalg and Plütschau were devout Pietists, a movement within Lutheranism that emphasized personal piety and a close relationship with God. They believed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was universally applicable and that it should be preached to all people, regardless of their cultural or religious background.

The Early Years of the Mission

The early years of the Halle Mission were challenging. Ziegenbalg and Plütschau faced opposition from both the local Hindu population and the Danish colonial authorities. However, they persevered in their work, translating the Bible into Tamil and establishing schools and orphanages.

In 1714, Ziegenbalg died of malaria, but Plütschau continued the work of the mission. He was joined by other Halle missionaries, including Christian Friedrich Schwartz, who arrived in India in 1750 and became one of the most influential missionaries of the period.

The Work of Christian Friedrich Schwartz

Christian Friedrich Schwartz played a pivotal role in the spread of Protestantism in South India. He was a gifted linguist and translator, and he produced numerous works in Tamil, including a translation of the New Testament.

Schwartz also established a network of schools and churches throughout the region. He worked closely with local Tamil leaders and played a significant role in the development of a Tamil Christian community.

The Evangelical Revival

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Evangelical Revival swept through Europe and North America. This movement emphasized the importance of personal conversion and a deep personal relationship with God.

The Evangelical Revival had a profound impact on the Protestant mission in India. Missionaries such as William Carey and Alexander Duff arrived in India and established new missions among the Tamil-speaking population.

The Establishment of Protestantism in South India

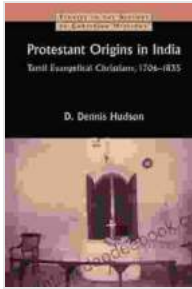
By the mid-19th century, Protestantism had become firmly established in South India. The Tamil Evangelical Christians were a vibrant and growing community, with a strong network of churches, schools, and orphanages.

The Protestant mission in India had a profound impact on the social and cultural development of the region. It introduced Western education, healthcare, and social welfare programs, which had a positive impact on the lives of countless Indians.

The Legacy of Protestant Origins

The legacy of Protestant origins in India continues to this day. The Tamil Evangelical Christian community is now one of the largest and most influential Christian communities in the country. Protestant missionaries played a pioneering role in the of Western education, healthcare, and social welfare programs to India, and their work has had a lasting impact on the social and cultural development of the nation.

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