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among the various communities of south india the nadars have perhaps most clearly evidenced the impact of change over the past 200 years considered by high caste hindus in the early nineteenth century to be of extremely low status the nadars toddy tappers climbers of the palmyra palm suffered severe social disabilities and were among the most depressed communities in the tamil country because of their sensitive response to social and economic change over the past century and a half the nadars have today become one of the most successful groups in the south in both economic and political terms and considerable command respect from among their numbers have come leaders in business industry and the professions and in politics kamaraj their illustrious son brought fame to the caste as chief minister of madras and as president of the indian national congress the nadars have had a turbulent and colourful history their struggle to rise above their depressed condition assumed dramatic forms in a series of escalating confrontations between the caste and its antagonists from the breast cloth controversy through the sack of sivakasi to the nadar mahajana sangam the nadars rise exemplifying the processes of mobilization in indian society provides rich material for an analysis of the political life of a community in change when the book was first published in 1969 lloyd rudolph wrote hardgrave illuminates in ways hitherto unexplored the processes of social and political change that have so profoundly affected india i judge his book to be one of the most important and exciting studies in the indian field in recent years with this reissue the nadars of tamilnad is again available and its compelling portrayal of a caste in transition stands as one reviewer wrote one of the landmarks in south indian social history

dennis templeman examines the changes in the northern nadars local caste associations in the twentieth century in an effort to analyze the upward mobility of the nadars in terms of status power and wealth

making up approximately 20 percent of south india s protestants pentecostals are an influential part of india s christian culture yet there is a distinct lack of scholarly focus on this increasingly large group this careful well informed study by michael bergunder ably fills that gap after a brief historical introduction to the worldwide growth of pentecostalism bergunder delves into the history of the south indian pentecostal movement in the first section the second section gives a systematic profile of the current movement in south india based on a wide range of source materials and on formal interviews with nearly two hundred leading pastors and evangelists bergunder finishes his work with prospects for the future three appendixes and an extended bibliography offer ample ground for further research

muthuraj swamy provides a fresh perspective on the world religions paradigm and interreligious dialogue by challenging the assumption that world religions operate as essential entities separate from the lived experiences of practitioners he shows that interreligious dialogue is in turn problematic as it is built on this very paradigm and on the myth of religious conflict offering a critique of the idea of dialogue as it has been advanced by its proponents such as religious leaders and theologians whose aims are to promote inter religious conversation and understanding the author argues that this approach is elitist and that in reality people do not make sharp distinctions between religions nor do they separate political economic social and cultural beliefs and practices from their religious traditions case studies from villages in southern india explore how hindu muslim and christian communities interact in numerous ways that break the neat categories often used to describe each religion swamy argues that those who promote dialogue are ostensibly attempting to overcome the separate identities of religious practitioners through understanding but in fact they re enforce them by encouraging a false sense of separation the problem with interreligious dialogue plurality conflict and elitism in hindu christian muslim relations provides an innovative approach to a central issue confronting religious studies combining both theory and ethnography

history of nadars of tamil nadu a study

study on contribution of swami ramalinga 1823 1874 hindu religious leader and poet founder of samarasa suddha sanmarga to sati child marriage widow remarriage slavery and temple entry in tamil nadu

compilation of papers presented at the diamond jubilee conference on movement and campaigns for the empowerment of marginalised groups organized by tata institute of social sciences in november 1996

collection of papers presented in a series of seminars

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