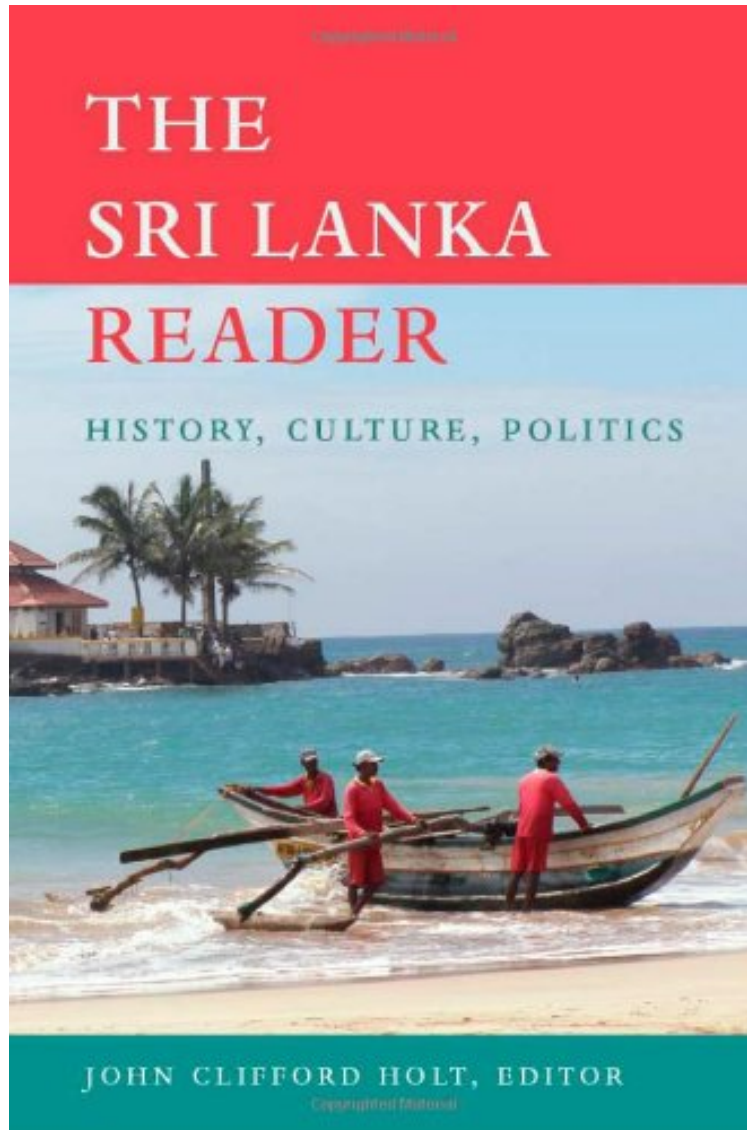


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The Sri Lanka Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The World Readers)

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to scholars, but that's missing a mark: this book was *excellent* preparation for this non-academic's travels in Sri Lanka. It that helped me have a much deeper appreciation of this beautiful and complex country. With a better understanding historical context for the ancient cities, the colonial influence in everything from agriculture to infrastructure, the troubles of the civil war- I could look with more open eyes at the places around me, and more compassion for the people we met. The only problem I had with this book: it's a hefty tome, and I had to get it mailed to Malaysia! Hopefully travelers abroad can easily download a digital edition in the future, this book can only benefit readers (and Sri Lanka!) by being more readily accessible.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommend it!By Ilse H. HeringerSuperior introduction to Sri Lanka's long and complex and often tragic history! A well-balanced selection of key texts including historical reports, socio-political analyses, excerpts of literary texts, inscriptions, ancient and modern poetry -- the voices of Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sinhalese, Tamils, Moors, Malays, Burghers, Portuguese, Dutch, Brits, Indians, and Americans -- "From ancient times" to "Kingship-in-the-making." If you can read only one book about Sri Lanka -- this is it!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful review for my business tripBy ChesterWonderful review of Sri Lanka for my upcoming business visit. The book is a collection of short essays that are arranged by topic in an easy to understand way. Chock full of useful information.

The Sri Lanka Reader is a sweeping introduction to the epic history of the island nation located just off the southern tip of India. The islands recorded history of more than two and a half millennia encompasses waves of immigration from the South Asian subcontinent, the formation of Sinhala Buddhist and Tamil Hindu civilizations, the arrival of Arab Muslim traders, and European colonization by the Portuguese, then the Dutch, and finally the British. Selected texts depict perceptions of the countrys multiple linguistic and religious communities, as well as its political travails after independence in 1948, especially the ethnic violence that recurred from the 1950s until 2009, when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were defeated by the Sri Lankan governments armed forces. This wide-ranging anthology covers the aboriginal Vedddhas, the earliest known inhabitants of the island; the Kings of Kandy, Sri Lankas last indigenous dynasty; twenty-first-century women who leave the island to work as housemaids in the Middle East; the forty thousand Sri Lankans killed by the tsunami in December 2004; and, through cutting-edge journalism and heart-wrenching poetry, the protracted violence that has scarred the countrys contemporary political history. Along with fifty-four images of paintings, sculptures, and architecture, The Sri Lanka Reader includes more than ninety classic and contemporary texts written by Sri Lankans and foreigners.

The Sri Lanka Reader is unprecedented. Never before has there been a book so synoptic in its treatment of Sri Lankan history, politics, and culture. The overall organization, the selections chosen for inclusion, and the introductions to the individual pieces are all of the highest order. This book will be welcomed by specialists in Sri Lankan studies, as well as the more general, educated reader.Roger R. Jackson, John W. Nason Professor of Asian Studies and Religion, Carleton College