



## La India: Retrato de Una Sociedad



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# La India: Retrato de Una Sociedad

*Senior Fellow Sudhir Kakar, Katharina Kakar*

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In this bold, enlightening, and readable study, psychoanalyst Sudhir Kakar and anthropologist Katharina Kakar investigate the nature of "Indian-ness," that sense of unity that underlies modern India's tremendous diversity, beyond ethnic or social differences. Focusing on what constitutes a common Indian identity, the authors examine in detail the complex hierarchical organization of Indian social life, based on the caste system; strong familial ties, founded upon the concept of extended family; the ayurvedic influence on health and body image; the modest attitude toward sex and marriage; the role of women in society; and the concept of the "other," especially as it applies to Hindu-Muslim relations. Drawing upon three decades of research and sources as varied as the Mahabharata, the Kama Sutra, the writings of Gandhi, Bollywood movies, and popular folklore, the Kakars have created here a rich and colorful portrait of Indian society. "En este solido, esclarecedor y ameno estudio, el psicoanalista Sudhir Kakar y la antropologa Katharina Kakar investigan la naturaleza de la "indianidad," esa unidad que subyace en la gran diversidad de la India moderna, mas alla de las diferencias etnicas o sociales. Centrandose en lo que constituye una comun identidad india, los autores examinen en detalle el complejo mundo jerarquico de las relaciones sociales indias, basado en la institucion de la casta; la particular concepcion de los vinculos familiares, derivada de la idea de familia extensa; la influencia del ayurveda en la imagen del cuerpo humano y la salud; la pudorosa actitud hacia el sexo y el matrimonio; el papel de la mujer en la sociedad; y la percepcion del "otro," con especial enfasis en el conflicto hindu-musulman. Apoyados en tres decadas de investigacion y fuentes tan variadas como el Mahabharata, el Kamasutra, los escritos de Gandhi, las peliculas de Bollywood y el folclore popular, los Kakar han creado con esta obra un riquisimo y cromatico retrato de la sociedad i

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272 pages

About the Author

**Sudhir Kakar** is a psychoanalyst, a writer, and an adjunct professor of leadership at INSEAD business school in Fontainebleau, France. He has been awarded Columbia University's Kardiner Award, the American Anthropological Association's Boyer Prize for Psychological Anthropology, and Germany's Goethe Award, among others. He is the author of *Shamans, Mystics, and Doctors: A Psychological Inquiry into India and Its Healing Traditions*. **Katharina Kakar** is a writer and former lecturer in comparative religion at the Free University in Berlin, as well as a former senior fellow at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School. She is the founder of the NGO Tara Trust, an organization that promotes the education and empowerment of children and women in India. They live in Goa, India."

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