



FROM:

Hindupedia, the online Encyclopedia for Hinduism
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TO:

Instructional Quality Commission
1430 N Street, Suite 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 6, 2016

Re: Endorsement of letter from Scholars for People to IQC re. Representation of Ancient India and Hinduism in California textbooks

We welcome the decision of the IQC to review all proposed edits and revisit previous decisions. The review on March 24th gave undue weight to the "South Asia Faculty Group" and ignored the Oberoi Foundation's submissions, HEF submissions and almost all of the public commentary. There were many times when the members of the IQC and the publisher teams were unclear and gave undue deference to the scholars of the "South Asia Faculty Group" and ignored the scholars of the Oberoi Foundation and individual submissions.

As a result of this bias, many edits were accepted that are factually incorrect or confuse political, geographic and civilizational references. The review also ignored many positive edits proposed by the Oberoi Foundation scholars and the Hindu community of California.

Among other things, the result of this undue deference was that the IQC decided to add "(South Asia)" after "India" in most cases. South Asia is not a historical term – rather it is a cold-war term. During the discussion, the committee felt compelled to compromise by adding "(South Asia)" as they could not drop the term India (it is a part of the content standards). It is unclear why such a compromise is being made on a topic for ancient history of India but a similar treatment is not being made for other ancient but still living civilizations (e.g., China).

We have reviewed a letter sent by the group of academics and scholars known as Scholars for people and recommend that the IQC review their letter. We whole heartedly endorse their recommendations.

Best Regards,

The Hindupedia Team:

- Vishal Mehta, editor

न हि ज्ञनेन स्ट्दशं पवित्रमिह विधते ।
na hi jñānēna sadṛśaṅ pavitramiha vidyatē
In this world, there is no purifier equivalent to knowledge
Bhagavad Gita 4.38

- Shankara Bharadwaj Kandavelli, resident scholar
- Dr. Namyata Pathak, resident scholar
- Niraj Mohanka, resident scholar
- Anant Saraswat, attorney

The India Heritage Research Foundation (which among other things, published the Encyclopedia of Hinduism):

- **H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Founder**
- **Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati**, Managing Editor of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism

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Adjunct Professor, Saurashtra University
Adjunct Professor, Drexel University
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Alex Hankey
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Dr. Chhaya Godse
Researcher, Medical Research Center
Kasturba health Society

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