

## Author of the week: Romila Thapar



### About the Author

Romila Thapar (born 30 November 1931) is an Indian historian. Her principal area of study is ancient India, a field in which she is pre-eminent. Thapar is a Professor of Ancient History, Emerita, at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Thapar's special contribution is the use of social-historical methods to understand change in the mid-first millennium BCE in northern India.

### Work

She was a reader in Ancient Indian History at Kurukshetra University in 1961 and 1962 and held the same position at Delhi University between 1963 and 1970. Later, she worked as Professor of Ancient Indian History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where she is now Professor Emerita. Thapar's major works are *Aśoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*, *Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations*, *Recent Perspectives of Early Indian History (editor)*, *A History of India Volume One*, and *Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300*. Her historical work portrays the origins of Hinduism as an evolving interplay between social forces

Some important links

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romila\\_Thapar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romila_Thapar)

<https://www.business-standard.com/about/who-is-romila-thapar>

<https://scroll.in/author/428>

<https://scroll.in/article/977026/interview-romila-thapar-on-the-history-of-dissent-and-how-it-shaped-hinduism-and-india>

### Works of Romila Thapar

(Available in Library)

1. Thapar, Romila. (1975). *Past and prejudice*. New Delhi: National Book Trust  
954 THA CC0245
2. Thapar, Romila. (1992). *Interpreting early India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press  
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3. Thapar, Romila. (2003). *Penguin history of early India: from the origins to AD 1300*. New Delhi:  
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4. Thapar, Romila. (2004). *Somanatha: the many voices of a history*. Haryana: Penguin Books  
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5. Thapar, Romila. (2006). *India: historical beginnings and the concept of the Aryan*. New Delhi:  
National Book Trust  
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6. Thapar, Romila. (2012). *Asoka and the decline of the Maurya*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press  
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7. Thapar, Romila. (2013). *Past before us : historical traditions of early north India*. Delhi: Permanet  
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8. Thapar, Romila. (2013). *Readings in early Indian history*. New Delhi:Oxford University Press  
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9. Thapar, Romila. (2014). *Past as present: forging contemporary identities through history*. New  
Delhi: Aleph Book Company  
909 THA 017952
10. Thapar, Romila. (2015). *Public intellectual in India*. New Delhi: Aleph Book Company  
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11. Thapar, Romila. (2018). *Indian cultures as heritage: contemporary pasts*. New Delhi: Aleph Book  
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954 THA 026446
12. Thapar, Romila. (2019). *Which of us are Aryans? rethinking the concept of our origins*. New Delhi  
: Aleph Book Company  
934.02 THA 027629
13. Thapar, Romila. (2020). *Book of Indian kings*. New Delhi: Aleph Book Company  
954.02 RUS 028712

#### **Some articles written by Romila Thapar**

1. Thapar, R. (1987). Cultural Transaction and Early India: Tradition and Patronage. *Social Scientist*, 15(2), 3–31. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3520436>
2. Thapar, R. (1989). Imagined Religious Communities? Ancient History and the Modern Search for a Hindu Identity. *Modern Asian Studies*, 23(2), 209–231.

3. Thapar, R. (1996). The Theory of Aryan Race and India: History and Politics. *Social Scientist*, 24(1/3), 3–29. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3520116>
4. Thapar, R. (2009). The History Debate and School Textbooks in India: A Personal Memoir. *History Workshop Journal*, 67(1), 87–98. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hwj/dbn054>
5. Thapar, R. (1990). Communalism and the Historical Legacy: Some Facets. *Social Scientist*, 18(6/7), 4–20. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3517476>

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