

Continued from front flap

Narsi Mehta, in *Sant Bhasha* by Kabir and Raidas, in *Avadhi* by Tulsidas, and of course in Braj by Mira, Surdas, Svami Haridas, and many others.

Finally, in his anthology *Ram-carit-mala*, he reworks the story of Rama, which acquires a poignant existential meaning for him as a prince in exile with his throne usurped by his brother.

Mobilizing Krishna's World allows us a glimpse into a world of intrigue involving political and religious reform movements, but one that also provides a promise of comfort in turbulent times.

HEIDI R. M. PAUWELS is Professor of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington.

Cover image: *Radha Offering Flowers to Yogi Krishna*, Kishangarh school, ca. 1750–60. Ink, color, and gold on paper (30.5 × 20.5 cm). National Museum, New Delhi, accession no. 63.1769. Courtesy National Museum (New Delhi)

Cover design: OSDATA, Hyderabad

'A *tour de force*. Heidi Pauwels brings into focus the histories and relationships of the sectarian communities that lived, thrived, and competed in eighteenth-century north India.'

John Stratton Hawley
Claire Tow Professor of Religion at Barnard College
Columbia University

'Pauwels takes us deep into the world of a renowned *rasika* or connoisseur of divine beauty and love, who transcended sectarian debates to seek out joyful companionship in devotional feeling.'

Molly Aitken
Associate Professor of Art History
The City College of New York

'Pauwels lucidly explains one of the most complex phases of Indian history. She makes the 18th century come alive as a time of shifting political and military alliances, an evolving Hindu ecumene and tremendous cultural inventiveness.'

Kavita Singh
Professor & Dean, School of Arts and Aesthetics
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Original price: US \$90.00

Special Indian price: ₹ 1050/-



Orient BlackSwan

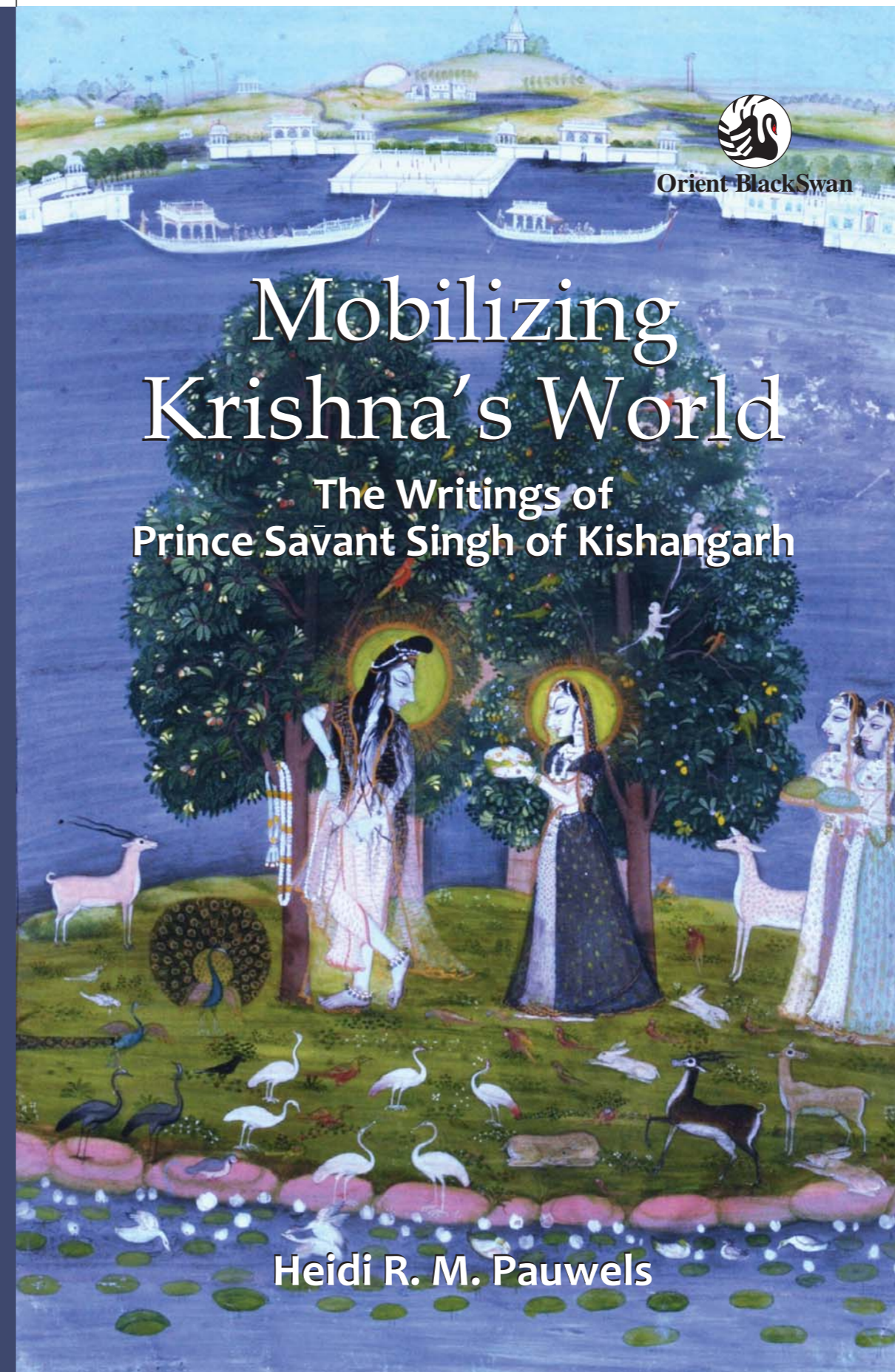
Pauwels: *Mobilizing Krishna's World*

www.orientblackswan.com



Pauwels

Mobilizing Krishna's World



Savant Singh (1694–1764), the Rajput prince of Kishangarh, is famous for commissioning beautiful works of miniature painting and composing Krishna *bhakti* poetry under the nom de plume Nagaridas. Behind the idyllic world of the poetry and paintings lies a tragic life story: while designated the crown prince by his father, he never managed to ascend the throne, losing it to his younger brother. In the political tumult of the mid-eighteenth century, it proved hard to forge the necessary military alliances to regain his kingdom.

While on the road, seeking support for his cause, Savant Singh continued composing poetry. This book studies three of his more lengthy works authored in this turbulent period: an autobiographical pilgrimage account, *Tirthananda*; a hagiographic anthology, *Pad-prasang-mala*; and a reworking of the story of Rama, *Ram-carit-mala*. While mobilizing soldiers, Savant Singh also mobilized myths, songs, and stories about saints to cope with his personal and political crisis.

In *Tirthananda*, Nagaridas focuses on the comfort of the *satsang* he finds in *tirthas* along the way, and in Braj where he settled down. His account of how major festivals were celebrated in Braj at the time provides historical depth to today's calendar cycle of this center of Krishna pilgrimage. In *Pad-prasang-mala*, he provides anecdotes that attest to the popularity of his favorite devotional songs, including those in Sanskrit by Jayadeva, in Marathi by Namdev, in Gujarati by

Continued on back flap