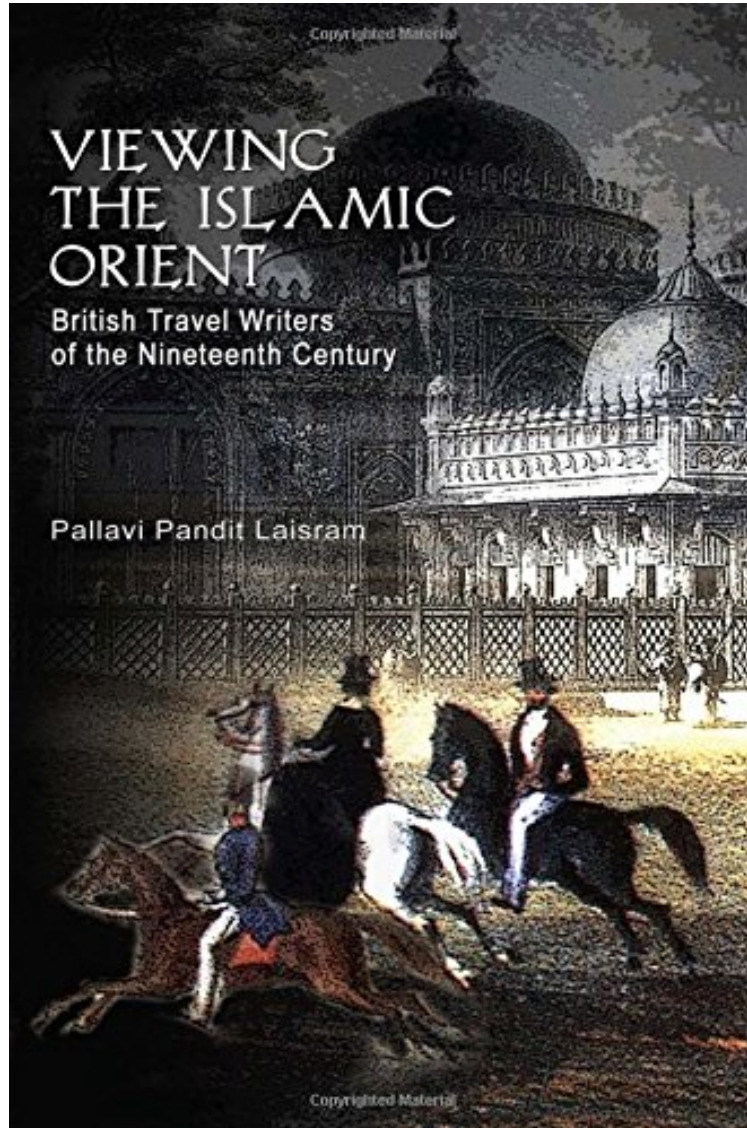


Viewing the Islamic Orient: British Travel Writers of the Nineteenth Century

Pallavi Pandit Laisram

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The Islamic Orient studies the travel accounts of four British travelers during the nineteenth century. Through a critical analysis of these works, the author examines and questions Edward Saids concept of "Orientalism" and "Orientalist" discourse: his argument that the orientalist view had such a strong influence on westerners that they invariably perceived the orient through the lens of orientalism. On the contrary, the author argues, no single factor had an overwhelming influence on them. She shows that westerners often struggled with their own conceptions of the orient, and being away for long periods from their homelands, were in fact able to stand between cultures and view them both as insiders and outsiders. The literary devices used to examine these writings are structure, characterization, satire, landscape description, and word choice, as also the social and political milieu of the writers. The major influences in the authors analysis are Said, Foucault, Abdel-Malek and Marie Louise Pratt.

About the Author Pallavi Pandit Laisram is at the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts, Hyderabad, India. She has been Adjunct Faculty, Montgomery College, Maryland, USA, and has just returned to India after completing her Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University, USA.