

## **A Unique Book About the History of Tamil Speaking People of Sri Lanka**

*Dr Murugar Gunasingam is a rarity amongst Sri Lankan Tamil professionals. While many of his contemporaries went into medicine, business or science he has devoted his life to researching the history of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.*

March 5, 2014 (FPRC) -- Dr Murugar Gunasingam is a rarity amongst Sri Lankan Tamil professionals. While many of his contemporaries went into medicine, business or science he has devoted his life to researching the history of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

He says 'The history that I was taught in school was the history of the majority Sinhalese despite the fact that the island has historically consisted on two nations. I was determined to produce a book that was well researched and did not rely on secondary sources.'

In order to do track down primary sources, he has travelled to the Hague, London and Lisbon to trawl through records kept by the former colonising powers. He also travelled to Goa and the USA in search of relevant material for this book. The product of this research and more than 3 years of hard work has resulted in conclusions that may surprise many people interested in the history of Sri Lanka.

'Long before the emergence of the first Anuradhapura kingdom, chiefdoms and minor seats of rule became established in the Tamil regions of the north, north-west and north-east of Sri Lanka' says the author.

He says of the Cola period in Sri Lanka: 'It is evident that Saivism reached its peak during this period but Buddhism was also a significant religion among the Tamils. Saivism also occupied an important place among the rulers of that period.'

The fall of the kingdoms of Anuradhapura and Polannaruva had a great impact on both religions. When the Sinhalese dynasty moved south Buddhism also moved with them. The Jaffna kingdom encouraged Saivism which became the dominant religion amongst Tamils.

The thick jungle that separated the country gradually led to two nations that developed separately. A Tamil Saiva nation grew in the north and a Sinhalese Buddhist nation established in the south.'

Whether you believe the 'origin myth' in the Mahavamsa or not, this book is essential reading for anyone seriously interested in a well researched history of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Contact details: [sales@ohmbooks.co.uk](mailto:sales@ohmbooks.co.uk)

The book is available in English and Tamil versions on [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk), [Abebooks.com](http://Abebooks.com) and also directly from the Ohm Books website.

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