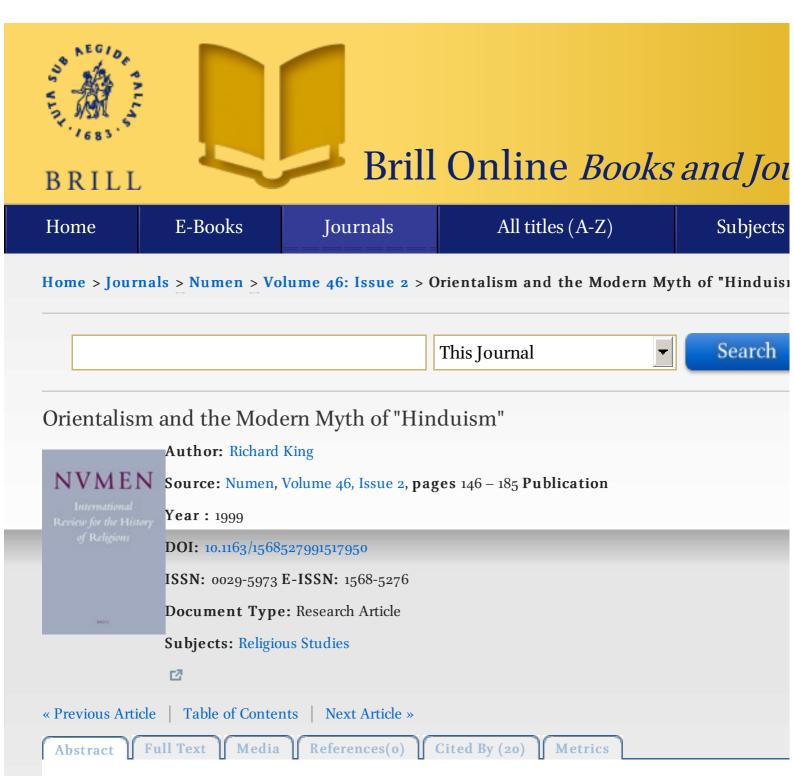
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Is there really a single ancient religion designated by the catch-all term 'Hinduism' or is the term merely a fairly re-Western origin? This paper examines the role played by Orientalist scholars in the construction of Western notions examination of the origins of the concept of 'Hinduism'. It is argued that the notion of 'Hinduism' as a single work construction, largely dependent upon the Christian presuppositions of the early Western Orientalists. However, exof Western Orientalists constitutes a failure to acknowledge the role played by key indigenous informants (mostly construction of modern notions of 'the Hindu religion'. To ignore the indigenous dimension of the invention of 'Hi subject from history and perpetuate the myth of the passive Oriental. The paper concludes with a discussion of the usefulness of the term 'Hinduism'.

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