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This book discusses the achievements and characteristics of oriental astronomy during the ancient and medieval periods. It describes the regional development and mutual influence of Babylonian, Hellenistic, Indian, Chinese, Arabic and European astronomy from about 3000 B.C. to recent times. A wide range of topics is reviewed critically, for example ancient and medieval astronomical instruments and observatories and the ancient records relating to aurorae, sunspots, eclipses, supernovae and comets. Results of many recent investigations in the field of oriental astronomy are also presented. The book illustrates the development of astronomy from the earliest endeavours concerning time determination to the attempts at predicting the position and conjunction of heavenly bodies. This led to the development of trigonometry and algebra which revolutionised astronomical planetary models. The interplay between social needs, new observations and theory illuminates some of the most fascinating and fundamental problems relating to the growth of science in widely disparate cultures. The book is likely to be of interest not only to astronomers but also to those interested in the history of science and philosophy.

Cover illustration: Jaipur Observatory, popularly known as the Jantar Mantar, completed in 1734.

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