

Manu S Pillai

(1990 – Present)



Author's Official Website :

<https://manuspillai.com/>

Manu S Pillai

- **Born:** Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in 1990
- **Education :** Fergusson College, Pune, and at King's College London

He is an Indian historian and author known for his debut non-fiction *The Ivory Throne: Chronicles of the House of Travancore* for which he won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar in 2017.

- **BOOKS:**
 - Ivory Throne: Chronicles of the House of Travancore
 - The courtesan, the mahatma, and the Italian Brahmin: tales from Indian history.
 - Rebel Sultans: The Deccan from Khilji to Shivaji.
 - Bhutan Echoes (Contributor)
- **Awards:**
 - Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, 2017

Fun Fact:

He managed the parliamentary office of Shashi Tharoor in New Delhi, as the Chief of Staff.

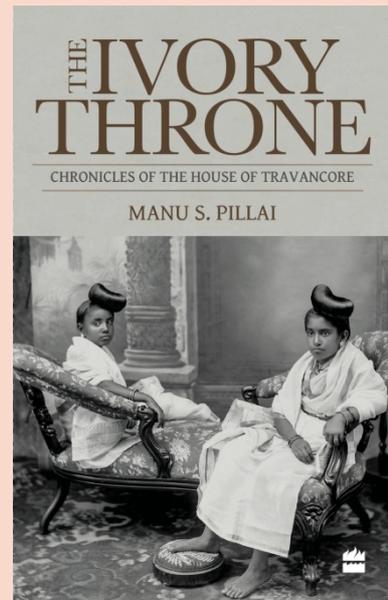
The Ivory Throne :

Chronicles of the House of Travancore

Date of Publication : 2016

Publishers: Harper Collins

The book is a historical book by Indian writer Manu S. Pillai. It covers the journey of Sethu Lakshmi Bayi, during her reign in the house of Travancore.



The introduction sets the historical, political and social background to the book. In 1498, when Vasco da Gama set foot in Kerala looking for Christians and spices, he unleashed a wave of political fury that would topple local powers like a house of cards. The cosmopolitan fabric of a vibrant trading society – with its Jewish and Arab merchants, Chinese pirate heroes and masterful Hindu Zamorins – was ripped apart, heralding an age of violence and bloodshed. One prince, however, emerged triumphant from this descent into chaos. Shrewdly marrying Western arms to Eastern strategy, Martanda Varma consecrated the dominion of Travancore, destined to become one of the most dutiful pillars of the British Raj. What followed was two centuries of internecine conflict in one of India's premier princely states, culminating in a dynastic feud between two sisters battling to steer the fortunes of their house on the eve of Independence.