The present study is an attempt to reconstruct the picture of society in the region of Southern Karnataka from the fifth to the early eleventh centuries, delineating its political, structural and religious dimensions. I have tried to underline the significant role of the brahmanas in the stabilization of a state structure in this region and in coping with its growing complexities. The question is necessarily linked with the hierarchization of society and it is interesting that even the Jainas in this region show deep influence of the varna ideology.

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