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KEY=NATIONALISM - SANTANA MENDEZ

Hindutva

Exploring the Idea of Hindu Nationalism

Context

Hindutva

Exploring the Idea of Hindu Nationalism

Penguin Books India

A Restatement of Religion

Swami Vivekananda and the Making of Hindu Nationalism

Yale University Press In this third installment of his comprehensive history of "India's religion" and reappraisal of Hindu identity, Professor Jyotirmaya Sharma offers an engaging portrait of Swami Vivekananda and his relationship with his guru, the legendary Ramakrishna. Sharma's work focuses on Vivekananda's reinterpretation and formulation of diverse Indian spiritual and mystical traditions and practices as "Hinduism" and how it served to create, distort, and justify a national self-image. The author examines questions of caste and the primacy of the West in Vivekananda's vision, as well as the systematic marginalization of alternate religions and heterodox beliefs. In doing so, Professor Sharma provides readers with an incisive entryway into nineteenth- and twentieth-century Indian history and the rise of Hindutva, the Hindu nationalist movement. Sharma's illuminating narrative is an excellent reexamination of one of India's most controversial religious figures and a fascinating study of the symbiosis of Indian history, religion, politics, and national identity. It is an essential story for anyone interested in the evolution of one of the world's great religions and its role in shaping contemporary India.

Hinduism and Hindu Nationalism Online

Routledge The way people encounter ideas of Hinduism online is often shaped by global discourses of religion, pervasive Orientalism and (post)colonial scholarship. This book addresses a gap in the scholarly debate around defining Hinduism by demonstrating the role of online discourses in generating and projecting images of Hindu religion and culture. This study surveys a wide range of propaganda, websites and social media in which definitions of Hinduism are debated. In particular, it focuses on the role of Hindu nationalism in the presentation and management of Hinduism in the electronic public sphere. Hindu nationalist parties and individuals are highly invested in discussions and presentations of Hinduism online, and actively shape discourses through a variety of strategies. Analysing Hindu nationalist propaganda, cyber activist movements and social media presence, as well as exploring methodological strategies that are useful to the field of religion and media in general, the book concludes by showing how these discourses function in the wider Hindu diaspora. Building on religion and media research by highlighting mechanical and hermeneutic issues of the Internet and how it affects how we encounter Hinduism online, this book will be of significant interest to scholars of religious studies, Hindu studies and digital media.

Terrifying Vision

M. S. Golwalkar, the RSS, and India

Penguin Books India Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar (1906-73) Was The Second Sarsanghachalak Or Supreme Guide Of The Hindu Nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (Rss), A Position He Held For Thirty-Three Years. Though He Was Not Its Founder, He Cast The Organization In His Own Image, And Remains To This Day The Most Influential Ideologue Not Only Of The Rss But Also Of All The Organizations Inspired By It Including The Bharatiya Janata Party (Bjp), Which Led The Country S Ruling Coalition From 1999 To 2004. This Unprecedented And Extremely Important Book Is Perhaps The First To Examine Golwalkar S Thought And His Legacy Closely And Critically. Focusing On The Arguments Delineated In The Writings And Speeches Of Golwalkar, Jyotirmaya Sharma Questions The Assumptions Upon Which The Ideologues And Champions Of Hindutva Seek To Establish A Hindu Nation In India. As It Highlights How Much These Arguments Derive From Eighteenth-And Nineteenth-Century Indologists, And How Closely They Parallel Fascist Ideology, The Book Unravels The Confusion, Intolerance And Intellectual Deficit That Has Gone Into Hindu Nationalist Thinking. It Comes To The

Conclusion That The Politics Of Hindu Nationalism Feeds On A Dangerous Concept Of The Nation State And A Misunderstanding Of The Very Idea Of What Hinduism Is And Who Is A Hindu. In Doing So, The Book Also Provides An Opportunity To Engage With The Politics Of Hindutva And Its Various Manifestations In The Contemporary Political Scenario. Praise For Hindutva: Exploring The Idea Of Hindu Nationalism A Valuable, Well-Considered Contribution To The Discussion On The Antithesis Of Secularism Frontline An Excavation Of The Intellectual Genealogy Of Hindutva&[Jyotirmaya Sharma] Has A Gift For Communicating Complex Ideas In Lucid Prose The Telegraph Hindutva Is Short And Written For The Lay Person, Free Of The Academic Exhibitionism That Mars So Many Books On Philosophy, Yet A Product Of Deep Reading And Research. It Is An Important Book India Today Jyotirmaya Sharma S Book, Perhaps For The First Time, Presents A Detailed Descriptive And Historical Account Of Both The Idea Of Hindutva And Its Historical Development. It Fills An Enormous Gap Seminar

Majoritarian State

How Hindu Nationalism Is Changing India

Oxford University Press, USA Majoritarian State traces the ascendance of Hindu nationalism in contemporary India. Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP administration has established an ethno-religious and populist style of rule since 2014. Its agenda is also pursued beyond the formal branches of government, as the new dispensation portrays conventional social hierarchies as intrinsic to Indian culture while condoning communal and caste- and gender-based violence. The contributors explore how Hindutva ideology has permeated the state apparatus and formal institutions, and how Hindutva activists exert control over civil society via vigilante groups, cultural policing and violence. Groups and regions portrayed as 'enemies' of the Indian state are the losers in a new order promoting the interests of the urban middle class and business elites. As this majoritarian ideology pervades the media and public discourse, it also affects the judiciary, universities and cultural institutions, increasingly captured by Hindu nationalists. Dissent and difference silenced and debate increasingly sidelined as the press is muzzled or intimidated in the courts. Internationally, the BJP government has emphasised hard power and a fast- expanding security state. This collection of essays offers rich empirical analysis and documentation to investigate the causes and consequences of the illiberal turn taken by the world's largest democracy.

Hindu Nationalism

Origins, Ideologies and Modern Myths

Routledge The rise of authoritarian Hindu mass movements and political formations in India since the early 1980s raises fundamental questions about the resurgence of chauvinistic ethnic, religious and nationalist movements in the late modern period. This book examines the history and ideologies of Hindu nationalism and Hindutva from the end of the last century to the present, and critically evaluates the social and political philosophies and writings of its main thinkers. Hindu nationalism is based on the claim that it is an indigenous product of the primordial and authentic ethnic and religious traditions of India. The book argues instead that these claims are based on relatively recent ideas, frequently related to western influences during the colonial period. These influences include eighteenth and nineteenth century European Romantic and Enlightenment rationalist ideas preoccupied with archaic primordialism, evolution, organicism, vitalism and race. As well as considering the ideological impact of National Socialism and Fascism on Hindu nationalism in the 1930s, the book also looks at how Aryanism continues to be promoted in unexpected forms in contemporary India. Using a wide range of historical and contemporary sources, the author considers the consequences of Hindu nationalist resurgence in the light of contemporary debates about minorities, secular citizenship, ethics and modernity.

A Vision for Hinduism

Beyond Hindu Nationalism

I.B. Tauris This text argues that Hindu nationalism is not only destructive of communal relations, but that it also prevents Hinduism from emerging as a world religion. It presents a vision of Hinduism as a tradition capable of pointing the way towards a future in which all the religions manifest complementary visions of a larger reality.

Modern Hinduism

Oxford University Press, USA The Oxford History of Hinduism: Modern Hinduism focuses on developments resulting from movements within the tradition as well as contact between India and the outside world through both colonialism and globalization. Divided into three parts, part one considers the historical background to modern conceptualizations of Hinduism. Moving away from the reforms of the 19th and early 20th century, part two includes five chapters each presenting key developments and changes in religious practice in modern Hinduism. Part three moves to issues of politics, ethics, and law. This section maps and explains the powerful legal and political contexts created by the modern state--first the colonial government and then the Indian Republic--which have shaped Hinduism in new ways. The last two chapters look at Hinduism outside India focusing on Hinduism in Nepal and the modern Hindu diaspora.

Neo-Hindutva

Evolving Forms, Spaces, and Expressions of Hindu Nationalism

Routledge Neo-Hindutva explores the recent proliferation and evolution of Hindu nationalism - the assertive majoritarian, right-wing ideology that is transforming contemporary India. This volume develops and expands on the idea of 'neo-Hindutva' -- Hindu nationalist ideology which is evolving and shifting in new, surprising, and significant ways, requiring a reassessment and reframing of prevailing understandings. The contributors identify and explain the ways in which Hindu nationalism increasingly permeates into new spaces: organisational, territorial, conceptual, rhetorical. The scope of the chapters reflect the diversity of contemporary Hindutva - both in India and beyond - which appears simultaneously brazen but concealed, nebulous and mainstreamed, militant yet normalised. They cover a wide range of topics and places in which one can locate new forms of Hindu nationalism: courts of law, the Northeast, the diaspora, Adivasi (tribal) communities, a powerful yoga guru, and the Internet. The volume also includes an in-depth interview with Christophe Jaffrelot and a postscript by Deepa Reddy. Helping readers to make sense of contemporary Hindutva, Neo-Hindutva is ideal for scholars of India, Hinduism, Nationalism, and Asian Studies more generally. This book was originally published as a special issue of

Contemporary South Asia.

Lies, Lies and More Lies

The Campaign to Defame Hindu/Indian Nationalism

iUniverse It is no coincidence that India's recent rise as a major global power has been closely linked to the increasing influence of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Indian politics. Driven by the philosophy of Hindu/Indian Nationalism, this entity, more of a movement than a political party, has served to instill in Indians a sense of confidence and restore lost self-esteem in a people who suffered foreign domination for over a thousand years. Detractors of this ideology have attempted to paint this philosophy as hate rant and supremacist indoctrination. Far from being that, it is the agonizing cry for justice and dignity of a people long suppressed and long tortured; a cry that embodies the agony of the past and a new-found confidence of the present and which together hopes to ensure a secure future: a future that envisions an inclusive all round economic and social development of a people. The BJP's spectacular victory crafted by Narendra Modi in the 2014 Indian elections serves to emphasize the central role of Hindu/Indian Nationalism in Indian politics, its broad appeal and its comprehensive agenda. Therefore it is imperative for the world at large to attempt a better understanding of this phenomenon; an objective assessment based on hard facts and sound logic instead of the skewed image propagated in the West by its ideological opponents. This book is a must for international statesmen, politicians, businessmen, academics, and others alike who wish to interact with India and Indians

Savarkar

Echoes from a Forgotten Past, 1883–1924

Penguin Random House India Private Limited As the intellectual fountainhead of the ideology of Hindutva, which is in political ascendancy in India today, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is undoubtedly one of the most contentious political thinkers and leaders of the twentieth century. Accounts of his eventful and stormy life have oscillated from eulogizing hagiographies to disparaging demonization. The truth, as always, lies somewhere in between and has unfortunately never been brought to light. Savarkar and his ideology stood as one of the strongest and most virulent opponents of Gandhi, his pacifist philosophy and the Indian National Congress. An alleged

atheist and a staunch rationalist who opposed orthodox Hindu beliefs, encouraged inter-caste marriage and dining, and dismissed cow worship as mere superstition, Savarkar was, arguably, the most vocal political voice for the Hindu community through the entire course of India's freedom struggle. From the heady days of revolution and generating international support for the cause of India's freedom as a law student in London, Savarkar found himself arrested, unfairly tried for sedition, transported and incarcerated at the Cellular Jail, in the Andamans, for over a decade, where he underwent unimaginable torture. From being an optimistic advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity in his treatise on the 1857 War of Independence, what was it that transformed him in the Cellular Jail to a proponent of 'Hindutva', which viewed Muslims with suspicion? Drawing from a vast range of original archival documents across India and abroad, this biography in two parts-the first focusing on the years leading up to his incarceration and eventual release from the Kalapani-puts Savarkar, his life and philosophy in a new perspective and looks at the man with all his achievements and failings.

Hindu Nationalism

A Reader

Princeton University Press Hindu nationalism came to world attention in 1998, when the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won national elections in India. Although the BJP was defeated nationally in 2004, it continues to govern large Indian states, and the movement it represents remains a major force in the world's largest democracy. This book presents the thought of the founding fathers and key intellectual leaders of Hindu nationalism from the time of the British Raj, through the independence period, to the present. Spanning more than 130 years of Indian history and including the writings of both famous and unknown ideologues, this reader reveals how the "Hindutva" movement approaches key issues of Indian politics. Covering such important topics as secularism, religious conversion, relations with Muslims, education, and Hindu identity in the growing diaspora, this reader will be indispensable for anyone wishing to understand contemporary Indian politics, society, culture, or history.

Veer Savarkar Father of Hindu Nationalism

Lulu.com Great leaders of the past century dominated Indian political scene for a decade or two. But Savarkar's name shines brightly from 1900 to 1966. Gandhiji said, 'No independence without Hindu-Muslim unity.' But Pakistan was created. When the late Prime Minister Nehru chided the Hindu nationalists for advocating Hindu Raj, Savarkar said, 'The choice, therefore, is not between two sets

of personalities but between two ideologies, not Indian Raj or Hindu Raj but Muslim Raj or Hindu Raj, Akhand Hindustan or Akhand Pakistan.' He knew Savarkar personally and wrote his biography in Marathi. The English version 'Veer Savarkar, Father of Hindu Nationalism' has been done now. Savarkar's biography enables the reader to understand the politics of the last century.

Cosmic Love and Human Apathy: Swami Vivekananda's Restatement of Religion

Harpercollins The truth is rarely simple. The common consensus is that Swami Vivekananda, as Sri Ramakrishna's chosen disciple, spread his master's message across the world. The fact, though, is that after Ramakrishna's death in 1886, Vivekananda not only shifted the devotional emphasis of the new monastic order from Kali to Shiva, he also embraced a world far removed from Ramakrishna's - a world that was rational, scientific, masculine, orthodox and nationalistic. The essays in this volume examine Vivekananda's formulation of Hinduism as religion: the most definitive restatement of Hinduism in modern history. Erudite yet accessible, consistently probing and sceptical of hoary traditions, controversial and thought-provoking, Cosmic Love and Human Apathy is an invaluable addition to the existing scholarship on one of India's greatest religious and social icons. Swami Vivekananda's Restatement of Religion 'A book of substance and importance written in an engaging, straightforward style, illuminated by flashes of wit and, of course, by the author's deep knowledge of the cultural background and historical record. [It] will become the classic statement about Vivekananda in this generation' - David Shulman

The Secret Life of Another Indian Nationalism Transitions from the Pax Britannica to the Pax Americana

Cambridge University Press It highlights shifts over two centuries as the geopolitical context has transitioned from the Pax Britannica to the Pax Americana.

Modern Indian Political Thought

Text and Context

SAGE Publishing India In contrast to the existing literature on the subject, this book carries a context-driven conceptualization of the major strands of political thought that emerged in India in the past two centuries. It focuses on India's peculiar socio-political processes under colonialism that influenced the evolution of such thoughts. The distinguishing feature of this book is its linking of the text of Indian political thought with the context. In doing so, it challenges the ethno-centric interpretation of nationalism that despite its roots in western Enlightenment, evolved differently because of the context in which it was articulated.

Hindutva or Hind Swaraj

Harper Collins Born out of a meditation on the ideas of the nation state and nationalism, and what the new power structures and centres mean for the very idea of India, Hindutva or Hind Swaraj is a manifesto -- written in the form of aphorisms, using shifting tones and styles to make a deep, elegant and heartfelt point about the human cost of radicalization. This last work of Jnanpith award winner and pre-eminent writer U.R. Ananthamurthy is a creative response to the rise of Hindutva nationalism in India. Juxtaposing V.D. Savarkar's idea of Hindutva with M.K. Gandhi's concept of Hind Swaraj, the book examines the two directions that were open to India at the time of Independence.

Why I Am a Hindu

Oxford University Press Hinduism is one of the world's oldest and greatest religious traditions. In captivating prose, Shashi Tharoor untangles its origins, its key philosophical concepts and texts. He explores everyday Hindu beliefs and practices, from worship to pilgrimage to caste, and touchingly reflects on his personal beliefs and relationship with the religion. Not one to shy from controversy, Tharoor is unsparing in his criticism of 'Hindutva', an extremist, nationalist Hinduism endorsed by India's current government. He argues urgently and persuasively that it is precisely because of Hinduism's rich diversity that India has survived and thrived as a plural, secular nation. If narrow fundamentalism wins out, Indian democracy itself is in peril.

Religion and the Global Politics of Human Rights

Oxford University Press Are human rights universal or the product of specific cultures? Is democracy a necessary condition for the achievement of human rights in practice? And when, if ever, is it legitimate for external actors to impose their understandings of human rights upon particular countries? In the contemporary context of globalization, these questions have a salient religious dimension. Religion intersects with global human rights agendas in multiple ways, including: whether "universal" human rights are in fact an imposition of Christian understandings; whether democracy, the "rule of the people," is compatible with God's law; and whether international efforts to enforce human rights including religious freedom amount to an illicit imperialism. This book brings together leading specialists across disciplines for the first major survey of the religious politics of human rights across the world's major regions, political systems, and faith traditions. The authors take a bottom-up approach and focus particularly on hot-button issues like human rights in Islam, Falun Gong in China, and religion in the former Soviet Union. Each essay examines the interaction of human rights and religion in practice and the challenges they pose for national and international policymakers.

The Emergence of Hindu Nationalism in India

Oxford University Press, USA This volume examines a key stage in the development of Hindu nationalism as a political ideology. It focuses on various movements during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century which sought to mobilize Hindus by advocating specific ideas of what it meant to be Hindu. It situates the ideology in the broad context of colonial rule, particularly with respect to the roots of Indian nationalism and the impact of colonialism on religion and caste. Much of the current literature on Hindu nationalism begins with the 1920s, and this book provides essential background material.

Hindu Nationalism in India and the Politics of Fear

Springer The representation of the Muslims as threatening to India's body politic is central to the Hindu nationalist project of organizing a political movement and normalizing anti-minority violence. Adopting a critical ethnographic approach, this book identifies the poetics and politics of fear and violence engendered within Hindu nationalism.

History and the Making of a Modern Hindu Self

Routledge Taking the contentious debates surrounding historical evidence and history writing between secularists and Hindu nationalists as a starting point, this book seeks to understand the origins of a growing historical consciousness in contemporary India, especially amongst Hindus. The broad question it poses is: Why has 'history' become such an important site of identity, conflict and self-definition amongst modern Hindus, especially when Hinduism is known to have been notoriously impervious to history? As modern ideas regarding notions of history came to India with colonialism, it turns to the colonial period as the 'moment of encounter' with such ideas. The book examines three distinct moments in the Hindu self through the lives and writings of lower-caste public figure Jotiba Phule, 'moderate' nationalist M. G. Ranade and Hindu nationalist V. D. Savarkar. Through a close reading of original writings, speeches and biographical material, it is demonstrated that these three individuals were engaged with a modern historical and rationalist approach. However, the same material is also used to argue that Phule and Ranade viewed religion as living, contemporaneous and capable of informing both their personal and political lives. Savarkar, the 'explicitly Hindu' leader, on the contrary, held Hindu practices and traditions in contempt, confining them to historical analysis while denying any role for religion as spirituality or morality in contemporary political life. While providing some historical context, this volume highlights the philosophical/political ideas and actions of the three individuals discussed. It integrates aspects of their lives as central to understanding their politics.

Essentials of Hindutva

Hindutva: Who is a Hindu? is an ideological pamphlet by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Originally published under the title Essentials Of Hindutva in 1923, it was retitled Hindutva: Who Is a Hindu? when reprinted in 1928.

Hindutva - Marathi

Analysis on exploring the idea of Hindu nationalism.

Grounding Morality

Freedom, Knowledge and the Plurality of Cultures

Routledge Put together to honour one of the most influential philosophers in recent times, Mrinal Miri, this book brings together articles on philosophy, politics, literature and society, and updates the status of enquiry in each of these fields. In his philosophical writings, Miri has broken the stranglehold that early training has on academics and written on a range of themes and areas, including analytical philosophy, political philosophy, tribal identity, ethics and, more recently, an abiding engagement with the ideas of Gandhi. The articles in this volume mirror some of Miri's concerns and philosophical interests, but go beyond the format of a festschrift, as they seek to enhance and restate themes in moral philosophy, ethics, questions of identity, Gandhi's philosophy, and offer a fresh perspective on themes such as secularism, religion and politics.

The Saffron Wave

Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in Modern India

Princeton University Press The rise of strong nationalist and religious movements in postcolonial and newly democratic countries alarms many Western observers. In The Saffron Wave, Thomas Hansen turns our attention to recent events in the world's largest democracy, India. Here he analyzes Indian receptivity to the right-wing Hindu nationalist party and its political wing, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which claims to create a polity based on "ancient" Hindu culture. Rather than interpreting Hindu nationalism as a mainly religious phenomenon, or a strictly political movement, Hansen places the BJP within the context of the larger transformations of democratic governance in India. Hansen demonstrates that democratic transformation has enabled such developments as political mobilization among the lower castes and civil protections for religious minorities. Against this backdrop, the Hindu nationalist movement has successfully articulated the anxieties and desires of the large and amorphous Indian middle class. A form of conservative populism, the movement has attracted not only privileged groups fearing encroachment on their dominant positions but also "plebeian" and impoverished groups seeking recognition around a majoritarian rhetoric of cultural pride, order, and national strength. Combining political theory, ethnographic material, and sensitivity to colonial and postcolonial history, The Saffron Wave

offers fresh insights into Indian politics and, by focusing on the links between democracy and ethnic majoritarianism, advances our understanding of democracy in the postcolonial world.

Bangladeshi Migrants in India

Foreigners, Refugees, or Infiltrators?

Oxford University Press In January 2011, Felani Khatun was shot dead while attempting to cross the border from India to Bangladesh. Her body remained hung on the fence as a warning to those who illegally crossed an international border. Migration to India from the current geographical and political entity called Bangladesh is more than a century old and had begun long before the nation states were created in South Asia. Often termed as 'foreigners' and 'infiltrators', Bangladeshi migrants such as Felani find their way into India for the promise of a better future. Post 1971, there has been a steady movement of people from Bangladesh into India, both as refugees and for economic need, making this migration a complex area of inquiry. This book focuses on the contemporary issue of undocumented Bangladeshi migration to the three Indian states of Assam, West Bengal, and Delhi, and how the migrants are perceived in light of the ongoing discourses on the various nationalisms in India. Each state has a unique history and has taken different measures to respond to Bangladeshi migrants present in the state. Based on extensive fieldwork and insightful interviews with influential members from key political parties, civil society organizations, and Hindu and ethnic nationalist bodies in these states, the book explores the place and role of Bangladeshi migrants in relation to the inherent tension of Indian nationalism.

Make Me a Man!

Masculinity, Hinduism, and Nationalism in India

State University of New York Press Looks at the ideals of masculine Hinduism—and the corresponding feminine ideals—that have built the Indian nation, and explores their consequences.

Prophets Facing Backward

Postmodern Critiques of Science and Hindu Nationalism in India

Rutgers University Press The leading voices in science studies have argued that modern science reflects dominant social interests of Western society. Following this logic, postmodern scholars have urged postcolonial societies to develop their own "alternative sciences" as a step towards "mental decolonization". These ideas have found a warm welcome among Hindu nationalists who came to power in India in the early 1990s. In this passionate and highly original study, Indian-born author Meera Nanda reveals how these well-meaning but ultimately misguided ideas are enabling Hindu ideologues to propagate religious myths in the guise of science and secularism. At the heart of Hindu supremacist ideology, Nanda argues, lies a postmodernist assumption: that each society has its own norms of reasonableness, logic, rules of evidence, and conception of truth, and that there is no non-arbitrary, culture-independent way to choose among these alternatives. What is being celebrated as "difference" by postmodernists, however, has more often than not been the source of mental bondage and authoritarianism in non-Western cultures. The "Vedic sciences" currently endorsed in Indian schools, colleges, and the mass media promotes the same elements of orthodox Hinduism that have for centuries deprived the vast majority of Indian people of their full humanity. By denouncing science and secularization, the left was unwittingly contributing to what Nanda calls "reactionary modernism." In contrast, Nanda points to the Dalit, or untouchable, movement as a true example of an "alternative science" that has embraced reason and modern science to challenge traditional notions of hierarchy.

Articles of Faith

Religion, Secularism, and the Indian Supreme Court

Oxford University Press Examining the constitutional and legal foundations of the place of religion in India, Articles of Faith studies the relationship between religion and state. It closely analyses the decisions of the Supreme Court from the 1950s on Articles 25–30 of the

Indian Constitution, as well as other relevant laws and constitutional provisions. The book discusses the Supreme Court's interpretation of the constitutional right to freedom of religion and its influence on the discourse of secularism and nationalism. While examining the role of the Court in defining and demarcating religion as well as religious freedom, practices, and organizations, this volume also highlights important issues such as interpretative traditions and legal doctrines developed by the judiciary over the years. This new edition has an expanded and revised introduction, which looks at the new literature on secularism and religious jurisprudence, both in India and other secular democracies. It also includes an afterword, which examines recent landmark judgments on religion by the Supreme Court of India, such as the one on triple talaq.

Singing a Hindu Nation

Marathi Devotional Performance and Nationalism

Oxford University Press Singing a Hindu Nation is a study of rāgsgrīya kīrtan, a western Indian performance medium that combines song, Hindu philosophical discourse, and nationalist storytelling. Author Anna Schultz demonstrates how, through this particular form of musical performance, the political becomes devotional, and explores why it motivates people to action and violence.

Modi's India

Hindu Nationalism and the Rise of Ethnic Democracy

Princeton University Press "Although ethnic and sectarian tensions have always been a feature of modern Indian history, the country was founded and governed in its first decades by a nationalist political movement - associated with the Indian National Congress -- that stressed the non-sectarian nature of Indian citizenship. Hindu nationalism, a contrary political force, was born in the 1920s but didn't take off politically until the 1990s. It finally secured national power in 2014 when a populist leader, Narendra Modi -- a former governor of the province of Gujarat -- leveraged a reputation for successful economic reform and popular resentment toward the country's Muslim minority to lead his Hindu nationalist party, the BJP, to national victory. In this book, Christophe Jaffrelot recounts how the Hindu nationalist movement under the leadership of Modi's BJP has deeply transformed the country. Jaffrelot's main argument is that the reign of Modi and his BJP has ushered India into a new type of regime - what he calls ethnic democracy. Modi's rule relies

undeniably on popular consent. (In last month's Indian federal elections, Modi consolidated his 2014 win with a decisive electoral victory.) But under the BJP India has largely jettisoned the country's previous commitment to the preservation of the rights of religious and ethnic minorities. This book is based both on the author's long years of research in India and on recent extensive interviews conducted across the country with civil servants, government supporters, opponents of the BJP, and members of religious minorities. Because of the tense atmosphere of intimidation throughout the country, many of Jaffrelot's interlocuters refused to speak on the record; he has given them pseudonyms in this book. The book recounts how proponents of secularism and pluralism, including academics and NGO workers, have been brought to heel; how Christians and Muslims have been increasingly marginalized in national and regional elections; and how the Hindu nationalist government has fostered the development of a shadow "cultural police force" -- with formal and informal ties to the state -- that censors public speech and intimidates political opponents. The book begins with an overview political history of modern India, explaining how the modern Indian state arose out of the heritage of British colonialism and then out of the Indian Congress-led national liberation movement. The bulk of the book takes up the rise and the rule of Hindu nationalism - Hindutva - and that of the strongman Modi, whose canny brand of populism has proven to be a game changer"--

The Greater India Experiment

Hindutva and the Northeast

Stanford University Press The assertion that even institutions often viewed as abhorrent should be dispassionately understood motivates Arkotong Longkumer's pathbreaking ethnography of the Sangh Parivar, a family of organizations comprising the Hindu right. The Greater India Experiment counters the urge to explain away their ideas and actions as inconsequential by demonstrating their efforts to influence local politics and culture in Northeast India. Longkumer constructs a comprehensive understanding of Hindutva, an idea central to the establishment of a Hindu nation-state, by focusing on the Sangh Parivar's engagement with indigenous peoples in a region that has long resisted the "idea of India." Contextualizing their activities as a Hindutva "experiment" within the broader Indian political and cultural landscape, he ultimately paints a unique picture of the country today.

Messengers of Hindu Nationalism

How the RSS Reshaped India

Oxford University Press The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a Hindu nationalist volunteer organization. It is also the parent of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Prime Minister Modi was himself a career RSS office-holder, or pracharak. This book explores how the RSS and its affiliates have benefitted from India's economic development and concurrent social dislocation, with rapid modernization creating a sense of rootlessness, disrupting traditional hierarchies, and attracting many upwardly mobile groups to the organization. India seems more willing than ever to accept the RSS's narrative of Hindu nationalism--one that seeks to assimilate Hindus into a common identity representing true 'Indianness'. Yet the RSS has also come to resemble 'the Congress system', with a socially diverse membership containing a distinct left, right and center. The organization's most significant dilemma is how to reconcile the assault from its far right on cultural issues like cow protection with condemnations of globalization from the left flank. Andersen and Damle offer an essential account of the RSS's rapid rise in recent decades, tracing how it has evolved in response to economic liberalization and assessing its long-term impact on Indian politics and society.

Sadhus in Indian Politics

Dynamics of Hindutva

SAGE Publishing India Exploring the role of sadhus in Hindutva politics, this book deconstructs the idea of 'power' reflected in the milieu of spiritual authority in India.

Hindutva as Political Monotheism

Duke University Press In Hindutva as Political Monotheism, Anustup Basu offers a genealogical study of Hindutva—Hindu right-wing nationalism—to illustrate the significance of Western anthropology and political theory to the idea of India as a Hindu nation. Connecting Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt's notion of political theology to traditional theorems of Hindu sovereignty and nationhood, Basu

demonstrates how Western and Indian theorists subsumed a vast array of polytheistic, pantheistic, and henotheistic cults featuring millions of gods into a singular edifice of faith. Basu exposes the purported “Hindu Nation” as itself an orientalist vision by analyzing three crucial moments: European anthropologists’ and Indian intellectuals’ invention of a unified Hinduism during the long nineteenth century; Indian ideologues’ adoption of ethnoreligious nationalism in pursuit of a single Hindu way of life in the twentieth century; and the transformations of this project in the era of finance capital, Bollywood, and new media. Arguing that Hindutva aligns with Enlightenment notions of nationalism, Basu foregrounds its significance not just to Narendra Modi's right-wing, anti-Muslim government but also to mainstream Indian nationalism and its credo of secularism and tolerance.

Hindutva For The Changing Times

Indus Scrolls Press Senior RSS leader J Nandakumar, in Hindutva for the Changing Times, states that Hindutva (Hindu-ness) is the apt expression that captures the spiritual, intellectual, religious, philosophical and political dimensions of the millennia-old Dharmic civilization. The book will interest academicians, political thinkers, sociologists and intellectuals, as it is the first time that an RSS leader has attempted to analyze topics such as Multiculturalism versus Hindu Universalism, Cultural Marxism, Environmentalism, Dataism through the Hindutva prism. He states Hindu Rashtra will remain the unchanging core of the RSS. Vedic scholar David Frawley has written the foreword for this thought-provoking book.

Public Hinduisms

SAGE Publications India Public Hinduisms critically analyses the way in which Hinduism is produced and represented as an established feature of modern public landscapes. It examines the mediation, representation and construction of multiple forms of Hinduism in a variety of social and political contexts, and in the process establishes it as a dynamic and developing modern concept. The essays in this volume are divided into themes that address different aspects of the processes that form modern Hinduism. The book includes discussions on topics such as ecumenical initiatives, the contemporary interpretation of particular sampradaya and guru traditions, modes of community mobilisation and the mediation strategies of different groups. It also provides India and diaspora-focused case studies as well as 'Snapshot' views elaborating on different themes. Taking a critical approach to the idea of Hinduism and the way it becomes public, the book provides an interesting read on contemporary Hinduism.

Return of the Swastika

Hate and Hysteria versus Hindu Sanity

Arktos Return of the Swastika presents a collection of essays by the Belgian historian and Indologist Koenraad Elst, who is renowned for his writings on Indian history and Hindu nationalism. The subjects of these essays are manifold, ranging over issues pertaining to the Hindu Right, communitarianism, the European New Right, immigration from Islamic countries, fascism both historical and contemporary, and European neo-paganism. Several of the essays also discuss the alleged connections between Hinduism and the more esoteric and pagan-oriented elements of Nazism, including a critique of the neo-Nazi mystic Savitri Devi, who attempted to depict Hitler as an avatar of the Hindu god Vishnu. The running theme through all of these essays is Elst's exploration of how ideas and symbols are misrepresented by their opponents and those who seek to alter their meanings for their own purposes, and an insistence on understanding things as they are rather than through their representation by others. For Elst, the Nazi appropriation of the swastika, one of the most ancient symbols of human civilisation and a sacred sign of Hinduism, and its subsequent demonisation by anti-fascists in the West is a case in point. The answer is not to ban the swastika, and thus cede the right to define it to those who misuse it, but rather to insist on its actual meaning, allowing it to be reborn and to flourish freely once again.