Making India Hindu: Religion, Community, and the Politics of Democracy in India

David E. Ludden

Abstract

"Written in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition, Making India Hindu brings together the work of eminent scholars to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on communalism in India." "With an in-depth introduction and a new Preface, these essays show how Hindutva's spreading and deepening influence has drawn sustenance from cultural trends that permeate modern Indian history and from multifarious media that propagate-Hindutva." "This is a significant read for historians, political scientists, and students and scholars interested in the role of politics, religion, and nationalism in South Asia."--BOOK JACKET

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India is choosing a new government. Many pundits predict that the country's 814 million voters will make Narendra Modi the next prime minister of the world's largest democracy. Kalpana Jain, Harvard Divinity School student and a former editor at the Times of India, offered her perspective on the elections that end on May 12 and the role of religion in Indian politics. In my experience of religion in India, I experienced an openness in the practice of religion, which HDS Professor Diana Eck describes so poignantly in her book “Encountering God,” as finding her understanding of faith in God's manyness, while during her work in India. This online version of Contesting the Nation: Religion, Community, and the Politics of Democracy in India (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996, published in India as Making India Hindu, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1996) is a pre-publication manuscript that includes essays which were not published but does not include footnotes, bibliography, tables, glossary, and index.) Thus the identification of India with Hindu and Hinduism is deeply problematic. Indian Nationalism and the Politics of Hindutva Sumit Sarkar. 270. Glossary. Written in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition, Making India Hindu brings together the work of eminent scholars to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on communalism in India. With an in-depth Introduction and a new Preface, these essays show how Hindutva's spreading and deepening influence has drawn sustenance from cultural trends that permeate modern Indian history and from multifarious media that propagate Hindutva. While the first edition helped explain the rise of Hindutva across the world in the 1980s, the second edition, updated to the 2004 elections, highlights the d