

The Impossible Indian Gandhi And The Temptation Of Violence

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this is a rare view of gandhi as a hard hitting political thinker willing to countenance the greatest violence in pursuit of a global vision that went beyond a nationalist agenda guided by his idea of ethical duty as the source of the self s sovereignty he understood how life s quotidian reality could be revolutionized to extraordinary effect

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this book comprehensively surveys and critically analyses gandhi's ideas on caste and untouchability it emphasizes the fact that gandhi was a considerable thinker who had seminal ideas on the caste question as an intellectual history this book is not just a study of his ideas but also of what he practised it narrates his lifelong struggle against untouchability since his south african days and focuses on his distinctive understanding of the caste question which differed sharply from that of his contemporaries both on the right and the left the book also critically analyses and questions the attribution of strategy to gandhi with regard to both the nationalist and anti untouchability movements the volume will be of great interest to scholars and researchers of history caste and discrimination studies and south asian studies

traditions of asceticism yoga and devotion bhakti including dance and music developed in hinduism over long periods of time some of these practices notably those denoted by the term yoga are orientated towards salvation from the cycle of reincarnation and go back several thousand years these practices borne witness to in ancient texts called upaniads as well as in other traditions notably early buddhism and jainism are the subject of this volume in the oxford history of hinduism practices of meditation are also linked to asceticism tapas and its institutional articulation in renunciation sa ny sa there is a range of practices or disciplines from ascetic fasting to taking a vow vrata for a deity in return for a favour there are also devotional practices that might involve ritual making an offering to a deity and receiving a blessing dancing or visualization of the master guru the overall theme the history of religious practices might even be seen as being within a broader intellectual trajectory of cultural history in the substantial introduction by the editor this broad history is sketched paying particular attention to what we might call the medieval period post gupta through to modernity when traditions had significantly developed in relation to each other the chapters in the book chart the history of hindu practice paying particular attention to indigenous terms and recognizing indigenous distinctions such as between the ritual life of the householder and the renouncer seeking liberation between inner practices of and external practices of ritual and between those desirous of liberation mumuk u and those desirous of pleasure and worldly success bubhuk u this whole range of meditative and devotional practices that have developed in the history of hinduism are represented in this book

in popular imagination lala lajpat rai is frequently associated with bhagat singh who by assassinating j p saunders avenged rai s death caused by a police lathi charge and was hanged for it lajpat rai is also remembered for his fervent opposition to british rule in recent decades however historians have converged with the hindu right in rediscovering lajpat rai as an ideological ancestor of hindutva but what then explains rai s wholehearted approval of congress muslim league cooperation and attempt to endow hindus and muslims with bonds of common belonging why did he reinterpret india s medieval history to highlight peaceful coexistence between hindus and muslims have our hasty conclusions about lajpat rai s nationalist thought concealed its complexities and distorted our understanding of nationalism in general meticulously researched and eloquently written being hindu being indian offers the first comprehensive examination of lajpat rai s nationalist thought by revealing the complexities of rai s thinking it provokes us to think more deeply about broader questions relevant to present day politics are all expressions of hindu nationalism the same as hindutva what are the similarities and differences between hindu and indian nationalism can communalism and secularism be expressed together how should we understand fluidity in politics this book invites readers to treat lajpat rai s ideas as a gateway to think more deeply about history politics religious identity and nationhood

world literature for the wretched of the earth recovers a genealogy of anticolonial thought that advocated collective inexpertise unknowing and unrecognizability early twentieth century anticolonial thinkers endeavored to imagine a world emancipated from colonial rule but it was a world they knew they would likely not live to see written in exile in abjection or in the face of death anticolonial thought could not afford to base its politics on the hope of eventual success mastery or national sovereignty j daniel elam shows how anticolonial thinkers theorized inconsequential practices of egalitarianism in the service of an impossibility a world without colonialism framed by a suggestive reading of the surprising affinities between frantz fanon s political writings and erich auerbach s philological project world literature for the wretched of the earth foregrounds anticolonial theories of reading and critique in the writing of lala har dayal b r ambedkar m k gandhi and bhagat singh these anticolonial activists theorized reading not as a way to cultivate mastery and expertise but as a way rather to disavow mastery altogether to become or remain an inexpert reader divesting oneself of authorial claims was to fundamentally challenge the logic of the british empire and european fascism which prized self mastery authority and national sovereignty bringing together the histories of comparative literature

and anticolonial thought elam demonstrates how these early twentieth century theories of reading force us to reconsider the commitments of humanistic critique and egalitarian politics in the still colonial present

through examinations of gandhi s critics both individuals and groups this book shows the complexity of indian society and opinion at the time of the indian independence movement

transcript of interviews with various indian political leaders

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