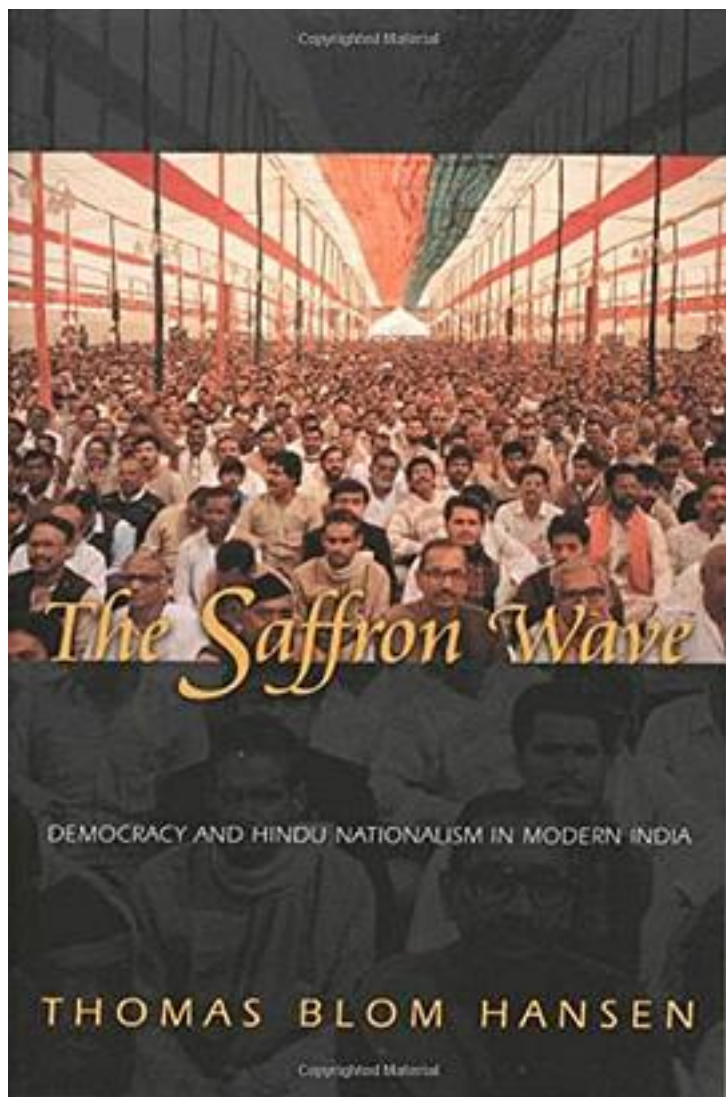


The Saffron Wave



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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.

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评论

民主的体制里如何生出一个本质上与民主精神相悖的民族主义运动。。。

大概是说，一种融合了中产阶级价值观、强调印度民族主义、排外反穆斯林反贫民大众民主的政治力量，如何动员各种已存在的话语遗产，通过民主体制，占据了印度政治结构的核心位置。问题是好的，但是真心不适应这种没有核心概念，不知道在和谁对话，知道从哪里开始但不知道在哪儿结束的叙述方式。。

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