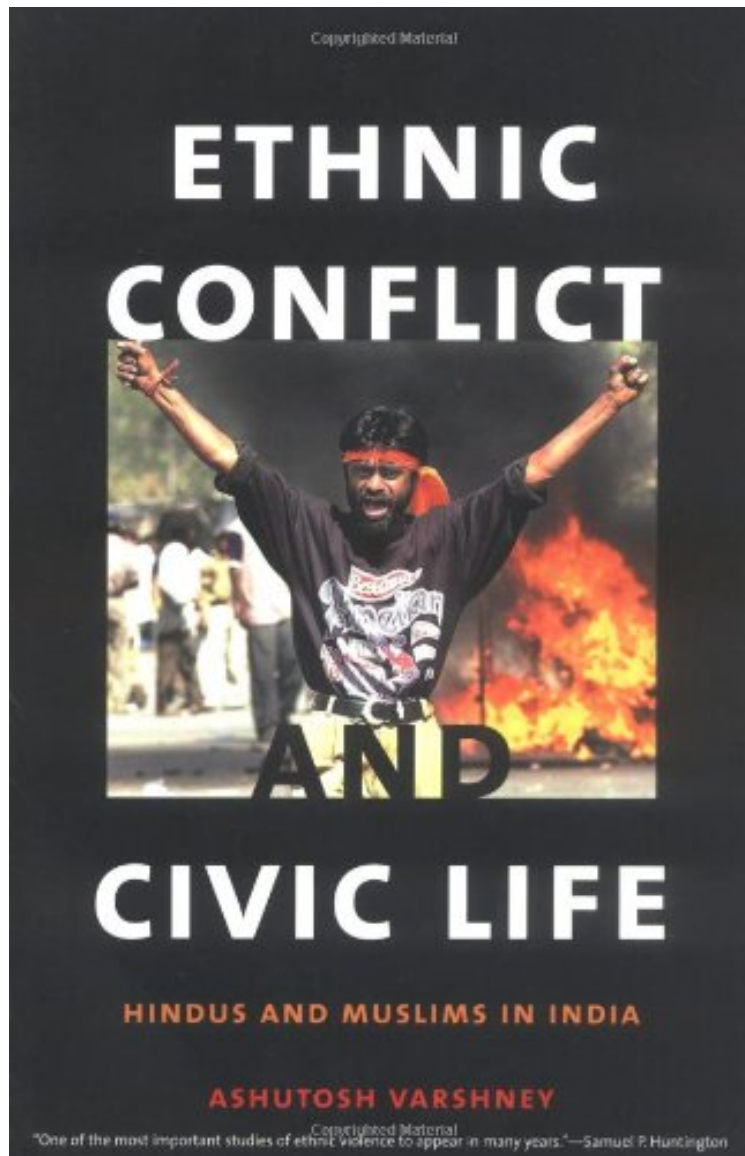


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Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India

Ashutosh Varshney

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Ashutosh Varshney : Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. gear research ..fresh approach and certainly unbiasedBy inzaLet me make it clear that I am neither a Hindu nor a Muslim, so am surprised when people call Varshney's research biased against Muslims, I am not sure how anyone could get that out of this book...if anyone for the sake of argument wanted

to make a case for this book being biased there would be one for it being biased against Hindus!(which it is not either to be fair). But I guess if you are looking for Islamophobia you find it anywhere just as people promoting Islamophobia find reasons to be Islamophobic.. sad but true. Also this book is clearly in the genre of an optimistic search for ethnic peace..which makes it a tad bit 'innocent' but honestly that is the only reason I would read a book about ethnic conflict.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book!!By jnuwalaThis very compelling book tells the story of Hindu-Muslim violence in India not by relying on a hunch, or ideological predisposition, but by drawing on hard data. Tightly written, the book will make you think about ethnic violence in a systematic and intelligent manner. The author's significant argument that civil society is implicated in preventing riots in certain Indian cities has important implications both at the personal as well as the political level. For it makes us ask ourselves, as citizens how does our participation or non participation in civic life impact Hindu-Muslim relations in our cities? Furthermore, how can the state and international agencies encourage and entrench the kind of civic behavior that diminishes the prospect of conflict turning into riots? Should be read by all concerned citizens.19 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Groundbreaking researchBy Prof-SilverSpringMDI've worked and taught in the field of peacebuilding for 25 years and consider this book the single most important research that has been done in the field. Varshney breaks new ground in conducting indepth research into why some cities in India into fell into violence and some did not during times of high national tension.He presents clear and extremely useful findings about what is useful and what is not useful in resisting violence. Specifically, his research shows that creating structures that bring people together to work for a common cause or benefit(such as Hindu-Muslim traders cooperatives, joint community development committees, peace committees, etc.) has a marked effect in reducing violence.I present Varshney's findings in a variety of settings worldwide and find audiences always highly responsive. My students love the book and find Varshney's ideas so clear and insightful that the often refer back to him later.This book in my view is an example of scholarship at its best: well-designed, provocative, clear in its conclusions. On top of that is it unusually lucid in writing style. I consider it a "classic" - a book that will endure for many years and that deserves to be on the shelf of any serious student of ethnic or religious violence.You can read the first and last few chapters and get the real benefits of the book.Ron KraybillProfessor of Conflict TransformationEastern Mennonite University

This timely book, updated for the paperback edition, examines how civic ties between Hindus and Muslims in different Indian cities serve to contain, or even prevent, ethnic violence. It is of interest not only to South Asian scholars and policymakers but also to those studying multiethnic societies in other areas of the world.An outstanding work of social science, one of the most important studies of ethnic violence to appear in many years.Samuel P. Huntington, author of *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*An important breakthrough in understanding the problem of ethnic conflict globally.Robert Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone*, as quoted in the *New York Times*A lasting contribution to our understanding of how to tackle the roots of communal violence in India.Radha Kumar, *Foreign Affairs*Scholars have hailed [Varshneys] book as a major breakthrough, while the United Nations has already adopted his method to study Muslim-Christian violence in Indonesia.*New York Times*A timely, groundbreaking study.Kenneth J. Cooper, *Boston Globe*"Impressive. . . . Varshneys findings are intuitively satisfying and also useful. It was a pleasure to discover work so uniformly rigorous and admirable in its theory, methodology, empiricism, and ethnicity."Rick A. Eden, *The Key Reporter*

"An outstanding work of social science, one of the most important studies of ethnic violence to appear in many years." "An important breakthrough in understanding the problem of ethnic conflict globally." "A lasting contribution to our understanding of how to tackle the roots of communal violence in India." From the Back Cover "A landmark synthesis. Varshney's comparison of communal violence and tranquillity in urban India is lucid, theoretically self-conscious, original, and empirically convincing. It should launch a veritable flotilla of comparable studies of civil life in its admirable wake." James C. Scott, Yale University "Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life is an outstanding work of social science, one of the most important studies of ethnic violence to appear in many years. This book will decisively shape future scholarly research on this subject and deserves to have an important impact on public policy concerning ethnic conflict." Samuel P. Huntington, author of *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* "Varshney's rich findings about what types of civil society organizations and activities help contain religious conflict and which do not open up a whole new agenda for theorists and activists alike." Alfred Stepan, author of *Arguing Comparative Politics* "Varshney has taken us a long way in understanding intra-Indian variations in communal violence, and he leaves a set of unanswered questions for future research. What more can be asked from a work of social science?" David Laitin, Stanford University "South Asia scholars and social scientists will have to read Varshney, they will cite him, and they will learn from him." Susanne Hoerber Rudolph, University of Chicago About the Author Ashutosh Varshney is Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies and the Social Sciences and Director of the Brown-India Initiative at Brown University.