

Columbia University
School of International Affairs and Public Policy
INAF 8615 Globalization and Transformation of Religion and Politics in South Asia

Tuesday 10AM to 12 Noon Eastern

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Globalization and Transformation of Religion and Politics in South Asia

Most of the literature on globalization theorizes and explains it as an economic phenomenon, promoting economic inter-dependence, modernization and expansion of free market principles. Innovation, technology and forces of free market economy are changing the dynamics of globalization, testing the nation-state and giving rise to non-state actors and institutions. The political impact of globalization as a process remains obscure or inadequately studied. Focusing on culture, religion and politics in South Asia the course will analyze the contradictory processes that globalization unleashes; on one side it promotes economic integration and on the other it intensifies conflict, giving new sensibility to ethnicity, religious revivalism and cultural wars. What are the dynamics of globalization in South Asia? This course will center attention on political dimensions; how forces of globalization have transformed the 1) culture of politics and 2) usages of religion in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan. The course would identify and encourage the use of web sources.

Required Texts:

Amy Chua, World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability (New York: Doubleday, 2003)

Ian Talbot, Inventing The Nation: India and Pakistan (London/New York: Arnold/Oxford University Press, 2000)

Strobe Talbot, Engaging India: Diplomacy, Democracy and the Bomb (Washington D.C: Brookings Institution, 2004)

Recommended:

Jagdish Bhagwati, In Defense of Globalization (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004)

Olivier Roy, Globalized Islam: The Search For A New Ummah (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004)

Online journals: To keep abreast with current events in the region the students are encouraged to read the following magazines: Herald (Pakistan) and Economic and Political Weekly (India). asiatimes.com, southasianmedia.net

Requirements:

1. Weekly on line assignments.
2. A mid term examination.
4. The students would be expected to submit a 20-25-page research paper at the end of the course.