

Fall 2008

Columbia University

School of International Affairs and Public Policy

INAF 8615 Globalization and Transformation of Religion and Politics in South Asia

Tuesday 9 AM to 10:50 AM Eastern

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Globalization and Transformation of Religion and Politics in South Asia

Few scholars, experts or policy makers would have imagined that the first decade of 21st Century would be shaped by the forces of religious extremism and globalization. The role of religion in globalization processes in South Asia deserves attention and sustained analysis. 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 religious and political impact of globalization as a process remains obscure or inadequately studied. Focusing on culture, religion ,politics and governance 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, Islamic extremism, assertive Hindu nationalism, cultural wars and modes of governance. Is there any codependence and co- determinism between religion and globalization in South Asia? This course will centre attention on dimensions of religion, politics and governance; 1) how forces of globalization have transformed the culture of politics and 2) usages of religion in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan :3) how globalization is changing the style and modes of governance . The course aims to analyze the interplay of these processes and emerging patterns in South Asia. 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)

Ahmed Rashid, Decent into Chaos: How the war against Islamic extremism is being lost in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia (London: Allen Lane, Penguin Books, 2008)

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

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

Recommended:

Amy Chua, Day of Empire: How Hpyerpowers Rise To Global Dominance—And Why They Fall (New York: Doubleday, 2007)

Thomas L. Friedman, The World is Flat: A Brief History of The Twenty- First Century (New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2005)

John McGuire & Ian Copland, Hindu Nationalism and Governance (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007)

Saeed Shafqat (Edited by) New Perspectives on Pakistan: Visions for Future (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2007)

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

*** Some of the Recommended Readings could change.

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

Method of Evaluation

Weekly assignments carry a weightage of 30%, Mid Term Exam 25% and Final Research Paper 45%.

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.
5. The School of International & Public Affairs does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean's Disciplinary Procedures. The Code of Academic & Professional Conduct can be viewed online at:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Method of Instruction

***This is an online course and is being offered successfully since Fall 2005; interactive method used, whereby through a Chat Room Facility students exchange views with the Instructor and each other. Weekly readings and one page assignments are required.