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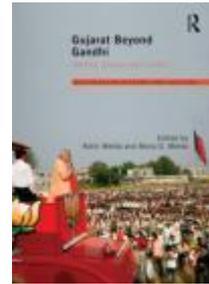
Gujarat Beyond Gandhi

Identity, Society and Conflict

Edited by **Nalin Mehta, Mona Mehta**

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The birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi and the land that produced Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, Gujarat has been at the centre-stage of South Asia's political iconography for more than a century. As Gujarat, created as a separate state in 1960, celebrates its golden jubilee this collection of essays critically explores the many paradoxes and complexities of modernity and politics in the state. The contributors provide much-needed insights into the dominant impulses of identity formation, cultural change, political mobilisation, religious movements and modes of communication that define modern Gujarat.



This book touches upon a fascinating range of topics – the identity debates at the heart of the idea of modern Gujarat; the trajectory of Gujarati politics from the 1950s to the present day; bootlegging, the practice of corruption and public power; vegetarianism and violence; urban planning and the enabling infrastructure of antagonism; global diasporas and provincial politics – providing new insights into understanding the enigma of Gujarat. Going well beyond the boundaries of Gujarat and engaging with larger questions about democracy and diversity in India, this book will appeal to those interested in South Asian Studies, politics, sociology, history as well as the general reader.

This book was published as a special issue of *South Asian History and Culture*.

Author Biography

Nalin Mehta is Joint Editor of *South Asian History and Culture* (Routledge) and Honorary Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University Singapore. His books include the award-winning *India on Television: How Satellite News Channels Changed the Way We Think and Act* (Asian Publishing Award 2009) and most recently he has co-authored the best-selling *Sellotape Legacy: Delhi and the Commonwealth Games*. Formerly Deputy News Editor and anchor at Times Now, as a journalist he has covered pivotal events in Gujarat for nearly a decade, including the earthquake of 2001, the 2002 riots and assembly elections in 2002 and 2007. He writes a weekly column for Mumbai Mirror and its sister publications.

Mona G. Mehta is Assistant Professor of Politics at Scripps College in Claremont, California, where she teaches politics of South Asia and comparative politics. Her research examines the processes by which a functioning democracy and a vibrant civil society have paradoxically become implicated in producing exclusion and Hindu-Muslim conflict in Gujarat. She has a Ph.D from the University of Chicago where she has taught courses in social science theory and identity politics in South Asia.

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