

The birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi and the land that produced Mohammad Ali Jinnah, 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. It provides much-needed insights into the dominant impulses of identity formation, cultural change, political mobilization, religious movements and modes of communication that define modern Gujarat.

It 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. The book will appeal to those in politics, sociology, history as well as the general reader.

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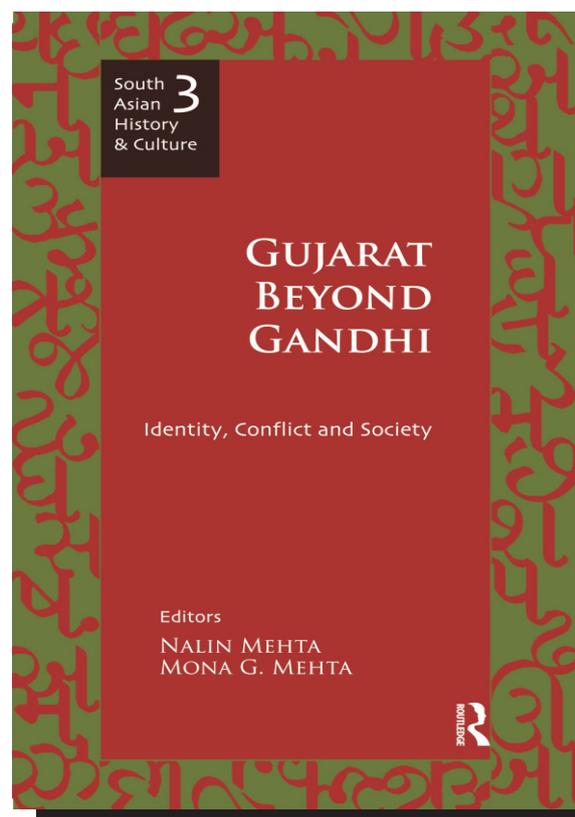
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