“One of the few world intellectuals on whom we may rely to make sense out of our existential confusion.”

Nadine Gordimer
Author

- Born on 3 November 1933, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India.
- Rabindranath Tagore gave him the name Amartya Sen.
- Currently he is working as Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University.
- Famous books: *The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity*, and *Identity and Violence: the illusion of destiny*. 

Amartya Sen
Purpose

• To explore the lines that divide the people
• Miniaturization of human beings
• To search the hope of harmony in today’s disturbed world.
Basic Idea

• Identity is a multi-dimensional concept
  – Not a matter of discovery but of choice under certain constraints
  – Others’ perceptions about an individual’s chosen identity

• Illusion of single identity fuels conflict

• Adoption of humanitarian approach, broadening intellectual horizons as solution
Violence of Illusion

• Identity as a basis of violence due to:
  – Civilizational clash
  – Religious rivalry
  – West and anti-West
  – Cultural differences
  – Opposition to globalisation
Religion & Civilization

• ‘Clash of Civilizations’
  – Basis for unique categorisation into different civilizations questionable
  – Doubtful whether these civilizations would actually clash

• Religious Affiliation
  – Makes the same mistake of classifying individuals on the basis of a single identity
    • Religious identity only one membership among many
    • Important to give attention to individuals’ scientific interests, professional obligation, literary involvements and political affiliations

    – Emphasis on only the religious identity has serious implications for world peace
West & Anti-west

Reasons of Conflict

• Imperialism – Colonization, Slave trade
• Globalized trade in arms (esp. G-8 nations)
• Cultural imperialism – Hollywood, Music & Lit.
• Globalisation – Free Trade, WTO
• Interference in sovereign matters – War on Terror, Iraq War, Present day Syria
• Racism – Islamophobia, Racial Supremacy
Multiculturalism

• Excessive emphasis over ascriptive attributes – Religion, Class, Gender, Language
• Integration v/s Assimilation – Challenge for a cultural minority
• Modern day Britain – Peaceful multi-cultural society

Globalisation – Yes or No

Bones of Contention

• Globalisation – “Western” curse
• Anti-globalisation – Free trade as evil, “sweat shops” in Asian countries
• Counterproductive patent regimes – esp. in case of life-saving drugs & medicine
• Discriminatory trade barriers
• Debate over academic & technological innovations of East & West
Knowledge & Technology Sharing
Innovative Thoughts

Rich Diversified Experience

Critical Analysis of Sociological & Communitarian Theories

Contemporary Global Social Phenomenon
FRAMEWORK

Formation of Identity

Religious Context

Cultural Generalizations

Parochial Views versus Global Views

Multiculturalism
PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF AUTHOR

• Bewilderment as a child when witnessed horrific violence

• London Bombings

• Account of the Winston Churchill’s Remark over Bengal Famine
Bonding / Chemistry between Reader & Author

- Almost throughout the book, very well bonding with reader

- Quite thought provoking and forces reader to introspect
Critical Analysis
An excellent effort to deal with the complex issues.
The BIG Questions
How identities are really created and their crucial inter relation with other real life processes?

Does not answer the issue of prioritising identities which happen all the time?
Why the cultivation of singularity is so successful, in a world of so obviously plural affiliations? " 
• Question of nation building by the governments and its relation with the questions of identities ??
• Quite repetitive

• language scholarly

• Sometimes less interesting
Ogden Nash's poem ("A Plea for Less Malice Toward None")

"Any kiddy in school can love like a fool,
But hating, my boy, is an art."
REVIEWER’S OPINION

“One of the few world intellectuals on whom we may rely to make sense out of our existential confusion.”

- The book Identity and violence is a simple and easy to understand collection of essays
- Gives a different perspective to the problem of violence and identity
- The present work can help one gain a different insight into this problem
- An excellent effort to deal with complex issues like identity, multiculturalism, plural mono culturelism etc.
- Lays much emphasis upon rational choice making that helps us decide our priorities
This book marks another move of Amartya Sen to shift away from welfare and development economics.
Only limited aspects of “Identity” explored.
OUR ENDORSEMENT

• New Insights about the complex contemporary issues

• Grey matter for an intellectual discussion

• Profoundly Humane
Thank You