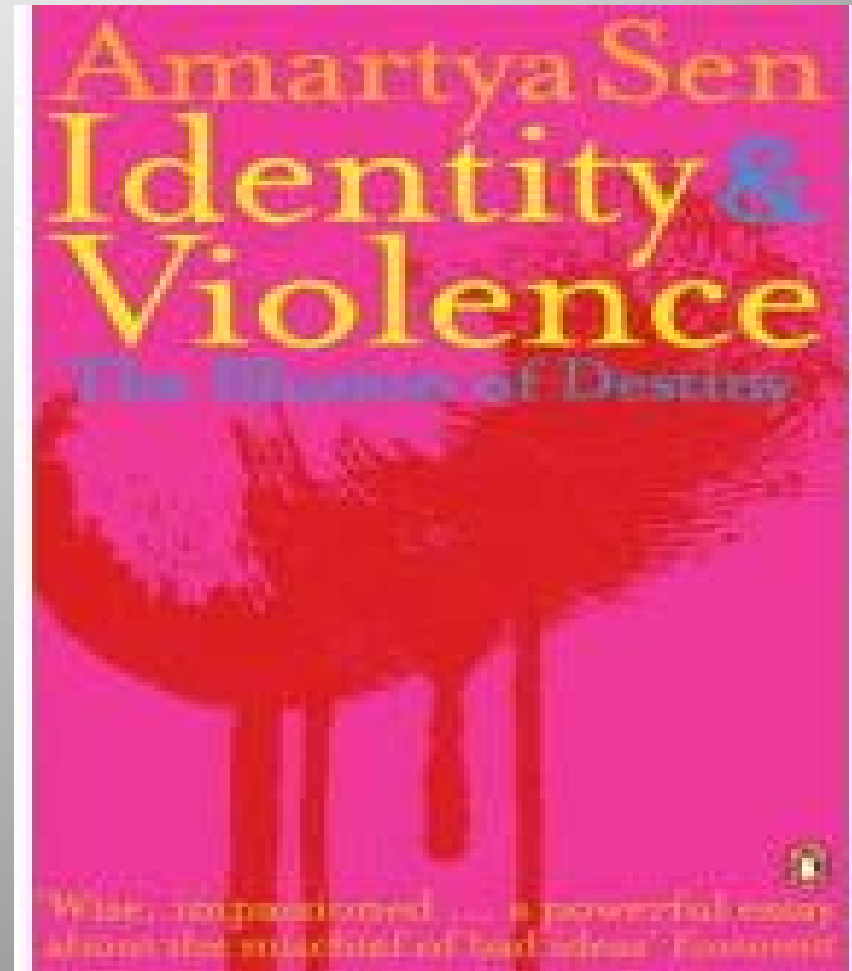


# Identity And Violence The Illusion Of Destiny

**Author** – Amartya Sen

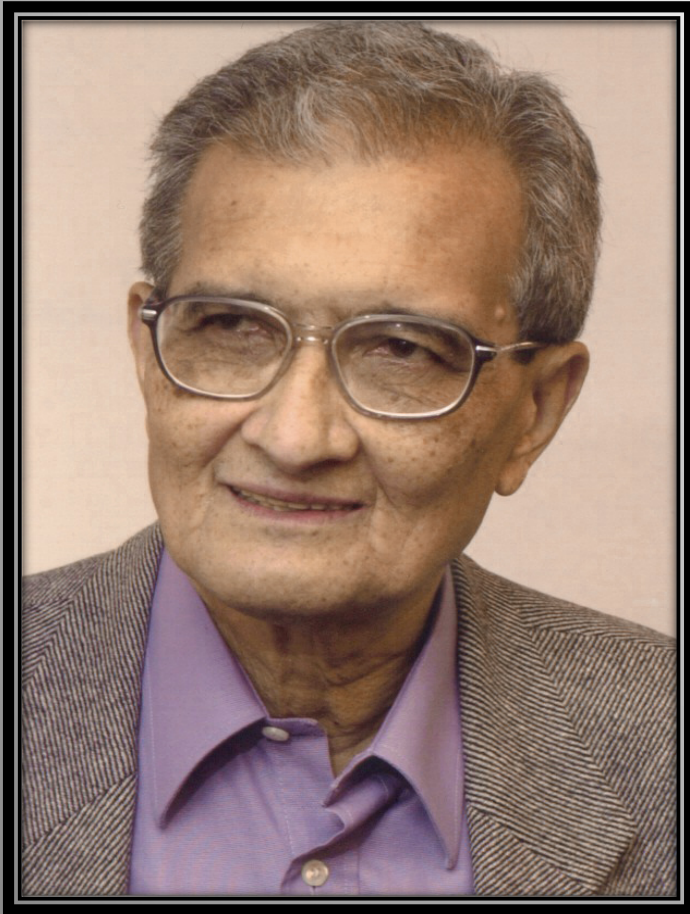
**Publication** – Penguin  
publications



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

Nadine Gordimer

# Author



**Amartya Sen**

- ❑ Born on 3 November 1933, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India.
- ❑ Rabindranath Tagore gave him the name Amartya Sen.
- ❑ Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, 1998.
- ❑ 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*.

# 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

Acceptance of Cultural Diversity – Non-discriminatory public places, Voting rights, Social security, Streamlining of minority food, music.

# Globalisation – Yes or No

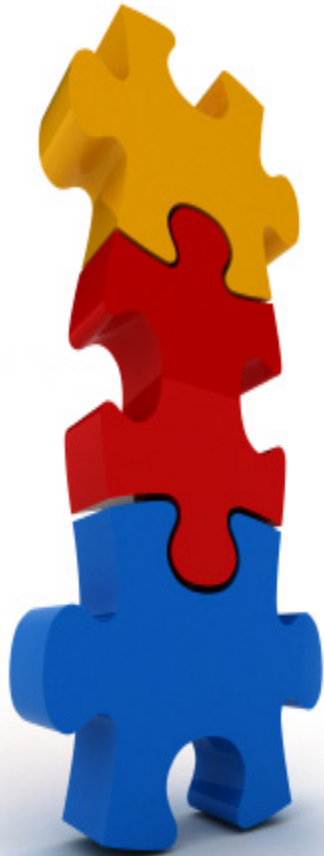
## Bones of Contention

- 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

## A 3D illustration of five white humanoid figures standing around a circular arrangement of colorful puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are arranged in a ring, with colors including yellow, orange, red, black, purple, blue, and green. The figures are positioned around the ring, appearing to be working together to assemble or maintain the structure. The background is plain white.



# AUTHOR'S INPUTS



**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."



**Conclusion**



# REVIEWER'S OPINION

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

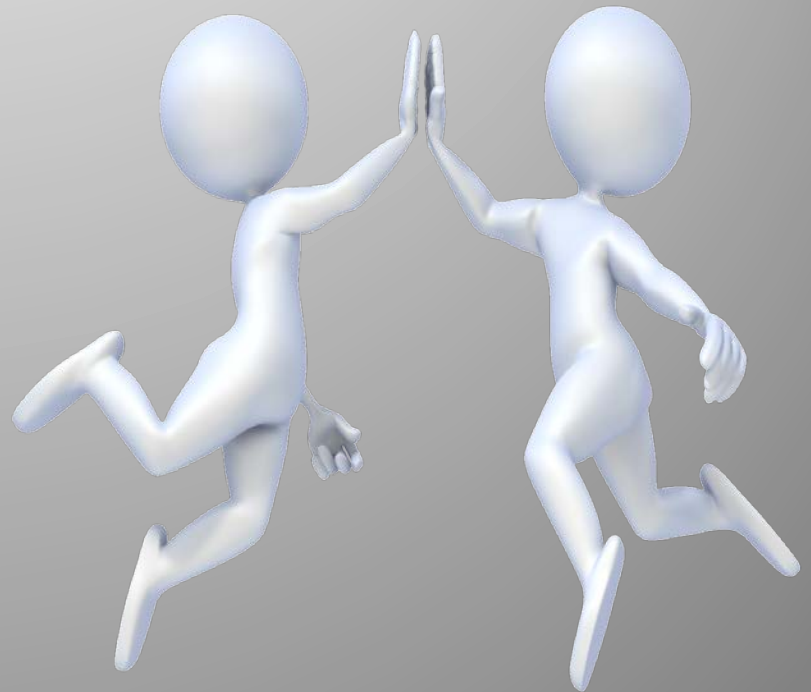


- The book Identity and violence is a simple and easy to understand collection of essays
- Gives a different perspective to the problem of violence and identity
- The present work can help one gain a different insight into this problem
- An excellent effort to deal with complex issues like identity, 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.

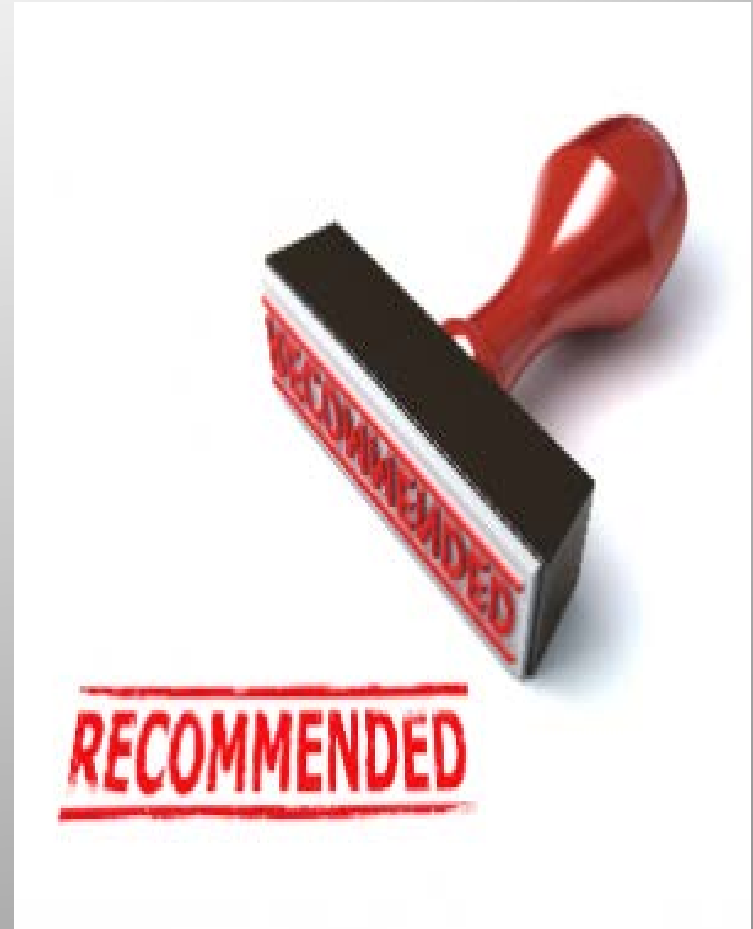


Only limited aspects of  
“Identity” explored.



# OUR ENDORSEMENT

- New Insights about the complex contemporary issues
- Grey matter for an intellectual discussion
- Profoundly Humane







*Thank You*