

# COMMUNALISM&GENDER

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# COMMUNALISM&GENDER

- **Evolution of Indian Culture: Historical Perspective**
- **Composite Culture and Coexistence of different Religions- Unique feature of Indian Civilization**
- **Advent of Islam –Bhakti-Sufi traditions**
- **Popular religion and cohabitation of Hindu-Muslim Communities**
- **Seeds of Communalism –Divide&Rule theory**

- India is a land of multiple faiths and religions leading often to violence and hatred among the people. Those who fan this religious violence do not consider religion as a moral order but use it as a means and weapon to pursue their political ambitions. Communalism essentially leads to violence as it is based on mutual religious hatred. This phenomenon leads to distinction between a communal organisation and a religious organisation. Communalism essentially has following main features.

# Communalism

- It is based on orthodoxy.
- 2) It is exclusive in out look, a communalist considers his own religion to be superior to other religions.
- 3) It is based on intolerance.
- 4) It also propagates intense dislike of other religions.
- 5) It stands for elimination of other religions and its values.
- 6) It adopts extremist tactics including use of violence against other people.

# Communalism

- **Communalism** is used in Modern India to denote attempts to promote primarily religious [stereotypes](#) between groups of people identified as different communities and to stimulate violence between those groups. It derives not from community but from "tensions between the (religious) communities. "communalism" is seen as existing primarily between [Hindus](#), [Muslims](#), [Sikhs](#), and [Christians](#). In contemporary India, "communalism" designates not only the conflicts between extremist religious communities.
- **Political parties are generally considered to play an important role in stimulating, supporting and/or suppressing communalism**

# Communalism

- after the partition of the country, sections of the Indian elite from both the communities are also to be blamed for the problem.
- Communal violence in independent India has been caused by many factors.
- Some general factors are :
- the class divisions
- of our society and the backwardness of our economy has resulted in uneven development of the economy.
- It is the upper classes of the less-developed communities that have enjoyed the fruits of limited growth and hence it is they who have also enjoyed political power.

# Communalism

- Over a period of time some sections among this elite developed a sense of rivalry vis-à-vis their counterparts in other communities. In order to draw support from the masses of their own community, these leaders have often encouraged communal feelings to strengthen their political support. Thus, the traditional beliefs of the society are perpetuated to the advantage of the elites. When they, many among common people, feel insecure because of some adverse circumstances, they often tend to rely on religion, which make them vulnerable to political manipulation to inflame communal passions, some times leading to violence .

# Communalism

- **Communal violence also increases because communal parties carry on religious propaganda in an offensive manner, thereby creating ill-will among the members of the various communities. The political parties in India which adopt a communal attitude should be blamed for encouraging communal feelings which often cause communal violence.**
- **power of smugglers and criminal gangs, local rivalries**



# Communalism

- **between traders of different communities often leads to such violence. Large cities are**
- **also prone to periodic communal riots because of the power of smugglers and criminal gangs. The communal violence after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1993 is an example.**

# Communalism

- communal riots occur in towns which have a history of communal riots. Aligarh and Hyderabad, among other cities, suffer from this trend. Presence of a large proportion of religious minorities increases political rivalry between the upper strata of both these communities who often appeal to their communal identity to gain support. In our society class identities still remain submerged under caste and communal identities.

# Communalism

- **Communalism in India and the sub-continent, the cynical misuse of religion for political ends has been used to mobilise large sections of the people and through this mobilisation gain power. Violence is espoused and used by outfits endorsing this brand of politics. Since 1998, with the Bharatiya Janata Party coming to power – dominating the NDA alliance at the Centre and in many States, especially Gujarat—this has assumed fascist dimensions as the Gujarat Genocide 2002 shows.**

# Communalism

- Arms training by the Bajrang Dal in camps is insidiously, yet publicly arming Indian civil society, creating a public climate of animosity and threat. Verbal abuse is daily flung at Indian minorities making a mockery of secularism as enshrined in the Indian Constitution.
- Quite apart from the real threat faced in some areas by foreign-bred mercenaries, a real and potent threat to the Indian social fabric comes from home-grown terrorists of these outfits who spread terror and venom to silence entire neighbourhoods into silence.

# Communalism

- With economic problems becoming important, the ruling elite of our country manages to convert economic problems like poverty unemployment, price rise etc. into caste and communal ones. People should be careful not to be influenced
- by such tactics. Economic problems of the people, like-poverty and unemployment must be resolved in the country before the problem of communal violence can be totally eliminated.

# Communalism

- the [1984 anti-Sikh riots](#) in which the [Congress party](#) played a major active role in the killing of more than 3,000 Sikhs following the assassination of [Indira Gandhi](#).
- 1992 December 2- Babri masjid demolition by Sanghparivar and subsequent communal violence in various parts of India
- the 1992 [Bombay Riots](#) in Bombay more than 200,000 people (both Hindus and Muslims) fled the city or their homes during the time of the riots. Dead – 900 (575 Muslims, 275 Hindus, 45 unknown and 5 others). The causes for the deaths are police firing (356), stabbing (347), arson (91), mob action (80), private firing (22) and other causes (4).

# Communalism

- the [2002 Gujarat violence](#), 900-2000 dead, mostly [Muslims](#)
- the 2002 [Kaluchak massacre](#), 31 Hindus killed.
- the 2002 [Marad massacre](#), 14 Hindu deaths - [Indian Union Muslim League](#) conspired and executed the [massacre](#).
- the 2006 [Kherlanji massacre](#), lynching of four Dalits.