

Analysis of Hindutva in the light of Constructivist Approach

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Abstract

Hindutva has become very important topic in the analysis of Indian Political System after the rise of Bhartiya Janta Party (B.J.P.) in 1990s. This is because B.J.P. highlighted the cultural aspect of Hindutva in its manifesto and it declared construction of Ram Mandir as the representation of true sentiment of Indian people. The victory of B.J.P. in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections under leadership of Modi achieving majority on its own, has made Hindutva even more relevant. Constructivism is a very important approach in International Relations that contends that Reality is inter-subjective. It is constructed by the interactions among different players and institutions. Constructivism also emphasises that endogenous factors that shape the identities and interests within a state are highly relevant. The paper tries to analyse the different factors that have played key role in furthering Hindutva like Construction of ideal past; enforced inferiority by the colonial rulers; perception of defeat of past thousand years among many Hindus; Hindutva as means to establish solidarity overcoming caste barriers; specific situation of India comprising 94% of global Hindu population and major religious sites and Urbanization through Constructivist lens as moulding and shaping of self identity among large number of Hindus is essential to understand Hindutva. The interaction between material and ideational factors has been analysed in the light of historical context.

Keywords: Hindutva, Constructivism, Stickiness, Fluidity, Concretization of Abstract Ideas, Colonial Discourse.

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