

Capitalism and Cosmology in Modern India

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Course Description

What is the place of religion and cosmology in informing and animating struggles against perceived oppression and injustice? How have peasants and workers confronted agrarian distress, migration, and factory work? How have lower castes contended with practices of exclusion, stigmatization, and violence? How have *adivasis* responded to processes of development, dispossession, and ecological destruction? What might be the ground-level resources for encouraging nonviolent togetherness among religious communities? In exploring these questions, the course will draw on a range of sources, including ethnography, history, epics, short stories, cinema, and documentary films.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1) Class Participation (10%)

Note: Please do not use laptops, iPads, cell phones, or other electronic devices in class. Bring hard copies of the readings for class meetings.

2) Midterm Exam (40%)

There will be a midterm exam in Week 6.

3) Final Exam (50%)

Students will take an in-class final exam, date TBA.

Course Google Drive Link: TBA

Schedule

Week 1: Modernity, Religion, and the Demos

Cornel West, “Religion and the Left.” *Monthly Review*, July-August 1984:9-14.

Ashis Nandy, “Closing the Debate on Secularism: A Personal Statement.” In *The Crisis of Secularism in India*, ed. Anuradha Dingwaney Needham and Rajeswari Sundar Rajan, pp.107–117. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2007.

Yogendra Yadav, “India Created Cultural Illiteracy in the Name of Modernity.” *The Print*, February 23, 2022.

Suggested:

Film: *Ask Prof Wolff: Religion and Capitalism*. Democracy at Work. 2022. 8 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Film: *Yogendra Yadav: “Are We Back to Democratic Politics?” Reading Elections 2024*. The Wire. 2024. (1:13:35-1:16:38; 1:32:12-1:36:10) [\[Link\]](#)

T. N. Madan, “Secularism in Its Place.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 46, 4 (November 1987):747-759.

Ruth Vanita, “Whatever Happened to the Hindu Left?” *Seminar*, April 2002.

Ashis Nandy, “Return of the Sacred: Politics of Religion in a Post-Secular Age.” In *Regimes of Narcissism, Regimes of Despair*, pp.95-112. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Charu Gupta, “A Communist Ram Rajya? Satyabhakta is a Forgotten Figure of ‘Hindu Left’.” *The Print*, August 16, 2021.

Michael Lowy, “Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels on Religion and Revolution.” In *Religion in Rebellions, Revolutions, and Social Movements*, ed. Warren S. Goldstein and Jean-Pierre Reed, pp.31-39. New York: Routledge, 2022.

Wen Stephenson, “The Gospel of a New Christian Left.” *The Nation*, July 31, 2023.

Vivek Yadav, “On the Decolonisation Debate – Both Sides are Wrong.” *Indian Express*, September 13, 2023.

Yogendra Yadav, “Democracy After Trump.” *Indian Express*, November 12, 2024.

Week 2: Migration and Development

Film: *Disha*. Dir. Sai Paranjpye. 1990. 118 min. [Google Drive]

Christopher Pinney, “On Living in the *Kal(i)yug*: Notes from Nagda, Madhya Pradesh.” *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 33, 1&2 (1999):77-106.

Ashish Kothari and Aseem Shrivastava, “30 Years of Globalization Decreased Economic Security. And Covid Just Proved It.” *The Print*, July 2, 2021.

Suggested:

Film: *Ravish Kumar Take on Kalyug*. 2017. 65 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Film: *Churning the Earth*. Dir. Vivek Singh Sangwan. 2024. 44 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Film: *Yogendra Yadav on Limits to Growth, Grassroots Innovations, and Rethinking Sustainable Development*. 2024. 26 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Wendell Berry, *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture*. Berkeley: Counterpoint, 1977.

- Aseem Shrivastava and Ashish Kothari, *Churning the Earth: The Making of Global India*, pp.166-192 ("Town and Country: An Old Story Gets Much Worse"). New Delhi: Penguin, 2012.
- Gyan Prakash, "Tragic Fable of the Mumbai Mills." *The New York Times*, August 28, 2013.
- Premchand, "A Night in the Month of Poos," trans. M. Asaduddin. In *The Complete Short Stories, Volume 3*, ed. M. Asaduddin, trans. M. Asaduddin and Others, pp.86-94. Gurgaon: Penguin Random House, 2017 [1930].
- Rohit Kumar, "Farmers' Protest: Agriculture Expert Devinder Sharma Answers Frequently Asked Questions." *The Wire*, January 17, 2021.
- Santosh Koshy Joy, "Migration: A Compulsion, Not a Choice." *Indian Express*, January 21, 2021.
- Nirmala Putul, "Where are You, Maya? (*Tum Kaha Ho Maya*)," trans. Kanu Priya. *The Jobar Journal*, 2 (January-June 2021).
- Swati Shikha, "Darbhanga to Delhi: A Train Journey with Migrant Workers." *Outlook*, March 31, 2023.
- Rakhi Bose, "Married Migrants and the Women 'Left Behind': India's Unseen Migration Stories." *Outlook*, March 31, 2023.
- Joydeep Sarkar, "Aboard the Karmabhumi Express, a Reporter Learns of the Dreams of Bengal's Outbound Migrants." *The Wire*, September 23, 2023.
- Glenn Davis Stone, "Why India's Green Revolution Isn't a Blueprint to Feed a Hungry Planet." *The Hindu*, October 7, 2023.
- Harish Damodaran, "Why the Lewis Model on Labour and Industrialization Has Worked in China, Not India." *Indian Express*, October 31, 2023.
- Anirban Bhattacharya, Pranay Raj, and Nancy Pathak, "Average 30 Farmer Suicides Per Day in Modi Govt Years Points to a Systemic Apathy." *The Wire*, December 18, 2023.
- Anumeha Yadav, "Interview: In Search of Forgotten Rice: The Experience of Bengal." *The Wire*, March 2, 2024.
- Yogendra Yadav, "What Kind of India Do We Seek?" *Indian Express*, December 3, 2024.

Week 3: Epics and Politics

Film: *Bharat Ek Khoj 04: Caste Formation*. Dir. Shyam Benegal. 1988. (Shambuka: 8:00-13:30) [\[Link\]](#)

Tulsidas, *The Sea of Separation: A Translation from the Ramayana of Tulsidas*, trans. Philip Lutgendorf, pp.44-47 (Shabari). Cambridge, MA: Murty Classical Library of India, Harvard University Press, 2024.

Philip Lutgendorf, "Dining Out at Lake Pampa: The Shabari Episode in Multiple Ramayanas." In *Questioning Ramayanas: A South Asian Tradition*, ed. Paula Richman, pp.119-136. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000.

The Ramayana of Valmiki: An Epic of Ancient India: Volume VII: Uttarakanda, trans. Robert P. Goldman and Sally J. Sutherland Goldman, pp.104-113, 381-388 (The Sambukavadha, The Killing of Sambuka). Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017.

Kuvempu, *Shudra Tapasvi* (Excerpt), trans. Girish Karnad and K. Marulasiddappa. In *Ramayana Stories in Modern South India: An Anthology*, ed. Paula Richman, pp.119-134. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008.

Suggested:

Film: *Ramayan EP 34*. Dir. Ramanand Sagar. 1987-1988. (Shabari 12:20-34:23) [\[Link\]](#)

Film: *Shambukvadhb*. Jan Natya Manch. 2005. 96 min. [\[Link\]](#).

A. K. Ramanujan, "Three Hundred *Ramayanas*: Five Examples and Three Thoughts on Translation." In *Many Ramayanas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia*, ed. Paula Richman, pp.22-49. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.

The Ramayana of Valmiki: An Epic of Ancient India: Volume III: Aranyakanda, trans. Sheldon Pollock, ed. Robert P. Goldman, pp.240-242 (Sabari). Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Snigdendu Bhattacharya, "Rebels' Ramayana: Periyar and Ambedkar's Critique of Ramayana." *Outlook*, October 1, 2022.

Philip Lutgendorf, "The *Ramayana* in Translation." In *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Religion*, ed. Hephzibah Israel, pp.466-479. London: Routledge, 2022.

Aaron Sherraden, *Sambuka and the Ramayana Tradition: A History of Motifs and Motives in South Asia*, pp.21-55 ("Sambuka's Earliest Death"). London: Anthem Press, 2023.

Week 4: Caste and Religion

Film: *Sadgati (Deliverance)*. Dir. Satyajit Ray. 1981. 48 min. [Google Drive] [\[Link\]](#)

Premchand, "A Poor Woman's Cry," trans. Gillian Wright. In *The Complete Short Stories, Volume 1*, ed. M. Asaduddin, trans. M. Asaduddin and Others, pp.218-228. Gurgaon: Penguin Random House, 2017 [1911, 1918].

Suggested:

Satyajit Ray and Amrit Rai, Screenplay of *Sadgati* (Hindi; English trans. David Rubin).

Premchand, "Salvation," trans. M. Asaduddin. In *The Complete Short Stories, Volume 3*, ed. M. Asaduddin, trans. M. Asaduddin and Others, pp.601-608. Gurgaon: Penguin Random House, 2017 [1931].

Ramchandra Gandhi, "Is Ahimsa Non-violence?" In *I am Thou: Meditations on the Truth of India*, pp.159-162. Pune: Indian Philosophical Quarterly Publications, 1984.

Nandini Gooptu, *The Politics of the Urban Poor in Early Twentieth-Century India*, pp.143-184 ("Untouchable Assertion"). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Richard H. Davis, *The Bhagavad Gita: A Biography*, pp.10-35. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015.

P. K. Yasser Arafath, "Onam, Mahabali and the Narrow Imaginations of the Right." *The Wire*, April 9, 2017.

Aaron Sherraden, "Recasting Shambuk in Three Hindi Anti-Caste Dramas." In *Performing the Ramayana Tradition: Enactments, Interpretations, and Arguments*, ed. Paula Richman and Rustom Bharucha, pp.65-82. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Harshvardhan and Shivam Mogha, "Remembering Swami Achutanand: The Pioneer of Dalit Identity and Consciousness in North India." *The Wire*, July 16, 2022.

Mayank Jain Parichha, "How Ramnami Sect in Chhattisgarh Fights India's Brutal Caste System By Tattooing Ram's Name." *Outlook*, October 1, 2022.

Abhik Deb, "Hathras Stampede: How Caste Discrimination Has Stoked the Popularity of Dalit Spiritual Leaders." *Scroll.in*, July 7, 2024.

Week 5: Religion and Protest

Film: *Nishant (Night's End)*. Dir. Shyam Benegal. 1975. 137 min. [\[Link\]](#) (Prime Video)

Premchand, "The Sacrifice," trans. M. Asaduddin. In *The Complete Short Stories, Volume 1*, ed. M. Asaduddin, trans. M. Asaduddin and Others, pp.663-672. Gurgaon: Penguin Random House, 2017 [1918, 1920].

M. K. Gandhi, "Between Cowardice and Violence." In *The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi*, ed. R. K. Prabhu and U. R. Rao. Ahmedabad: Navajivan, 1960.

David Hardiman, *Noncooperation in India: Nonviolent Strategy and Protest, 1920-22*, pp.253-304 ("*Asahyog Andolan: The Noncooperation of the People, 1920-1922*"). New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Suggested:

Uma Chakravarti, "The Development of the Sita Myth: A Case Study of Women in Myth and Literature." In *Everyday Lives, Everyday Histories: Beyond the Brahmanas and Kings of 'Ancient' India*, pp.222-230. New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2006 [1983].

Nitin Sinha, "Forms of Workers' Protest amidst Dilemmas of Contesting Mobilizations: The Jamalpur Strikes of 1919 and 1928." In *Labour Matters: Towards Global Histories; Studies in Honour of Sabyasachi Bhattacharya*, ed. Marcel van der Linden and Prabhu P. Mohapatra, pp.280-294. New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2009.

Bhavana Pankaj, "Who was Mandodari? Not Just Ravana's Wife." *Sahapedia*, January 30, 2020. [\[Link\]](#)

Nikhila H, "Nishant and the New Dawn: Towards a Sacerdotal-Secular Modernity?" In *ReFocus: The Films of Shyam Benegal*, ed. Sneha Kar Chaudhuri and Ramit Samaddar, pp.29-47. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2023.

Week 6: Midterm Exam

Week 7: Divinity, Reform, and Struggle

Film: *Devi*. Dir. Satyajit Ray. 1960. 100 min. [Google Drive]

Mrinal Pande, "The Evolution of Durga, from Demon Slayer to Nourishing Mother." *Scroll.in*, October 3, 2016.

Sumanta Banerjee, "Revisiting Kali: An Amalgam of Aboriginal Deities and a Symbol of Rebellion." *The Wire*, July 19, 2022.

David Hardiman, "Adivasi Assertion in South Gujarat: The Devi Movement of 1922-3." In *Subaltern Studies III: Writings on South Asian History and Society*, ed. Ranajit Guha, pp.196-230. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Prabal Saran Agarwal and Harsh Vardhan Tripathy, "Remembering Birsa Munda, the Social Reformer and Revolutionary Leader." *The Wire*, June 9, 2021.

Suggested:

Film: *Satyajit Ray Speaking About Indian Audiences Back in 1989*. (0:00-0:30) [\[Link\]](#)

David Hardiman, *The Coming of the Devi: Adivasi Assertion in Western India*, pp.6-17, 55-67, 78-83 (from "Introduction," "Propitiating the Devi," "The Adivasi Community"). Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Kenneth W. Jones, *The New Cambridge History of India III.1: Socio-Religious Reform Movements in British India*, pp.30-39 ("The Brahmo Samaj"). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Mrinal Pande, "Busting the Myth of the 'Sacred Mother'." In *The Other Country: Dispatches from the Mofussil*, pp.87-89. New Delhi: Penguin, 2011.

Dhiraj Kumar Nite, "Worshipping the Colliery-Goddess: Religion, Risk and Safety in the Indian Coalfield (Jharia), 1895-2009." *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 50, 2 (2016):1-24.

Nivedita Menon, "Beyond the Eurocentrism-Indigenism Binary: Counter-Narratives to Hindutva Claims." *Economic and Political Weekly* 54, 38 (September 21, 2019):37-45.

Nolina S. Minj and Rahi Soren, "Remembering Santal Hul: The First Struggle Against Imperialism." *The Wire*, June 30, 2021.

Harsh Vardhan and Shivam Mogha, "Santhal Hul Wasn't Just the First Anti-British Revolt, It Was Against All Exploitation." *The Wire*, June 30, 2022.

Sushma Asur, "In the Land of Asurs Where God is Formless." *Outlook*, October 3, 2022.

Ashwini Kumar Pankaj, "Most of the Tenets of Gandhi's Philosophy Come From Adivasis." *Outlook*, November 25, 2022.

Suhasini Raj, "A Hindu Goddess Festival Where Indian Progressivism Is Alive and Well." *The New York Times*, October 25, 2023.

Sarveswar Sipoy, "Goddesses Tamed: Is a Unified Religious Identity Recasting Female Deities in a Passive Mould?" *Scroll.in*, November 10, 2023.

Week 8A: Development, Violence, and Justice

Film: *Aakrosh*. Dir. Govind Nihalani. 1980. 140 min. (Prime Video)

Mahasweta Devi, "'Draupadi', Mahasweta Devi's Memorable Short Story, and Still Chillingly Relevant." *Scroll.in*, July 31, 2016.

Jacinta Kerketta, "For 30 Years, Jharkhand Adivasis Have Trekged Up the Hills of Netarhat – To Renew a Protest Pledge." *Scroll.in*, April 22, 2022.

Suggested:

Film: *The Hunt*. Dir. Biju Toppo. 2015. 45 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Jacinta Kerketta, *Angor* ("An Evening in the Village," "O City," "The Weapons in My Hands," "Ears of Paddy Tied Bound By the Dam," "The River That Was," "The Dust of Development," "The Call of the Dombari Hill," "Why Is the Earth On Fire," "Stirring Embers Into Flames," "Reawakening," "The Age for Motherhood," "Angor"). Kolkata: Adivaani, 2016.

Kriti Sharma, "Mapping Violence in the Lives of Adivasi Women: A Study from Jharkhand." *Economic and Political Weekly* 53, 42 (October 20, 2018):44-52.

Abhishek Angad, "Adivasis of Jharkhand's Tana Bhagat Community Up in Arms, Demand Self-Rule." *Indian Express*, October 25, 2022.

Gladson Dungdung, "Pathalgadi Movement: Thousands' Fate Hangs in the Balance." *Outlook*, October 28, 2022.

- Rahul Ranjan, "The Politics of Memory: Birsa Munda Statues in Jharkhand." *Outlook*, November 26, 2022.
- Nolina Minj, "The Cost of Protesting Against Mining in Gadchiroli." *Scroll.in*, September 27, 2023.
- Regina Hansda, "Five Ways In Which Hemant Soren and Jharkhand Are Carving a New National Agenda for Adivasi Politics." *The Wire*, February 8, 2024.
- Anumeha Yadav, "Grains of Life: How Chotanagpur's Adivasis Are Reviving Native Varieties of Rice." *The Wire*, March 3, 2024.
- Supriya Sharma, "Where is India's Forgotten War Headed?" *Scroll.in*, October 17, 2024.

Week 8B/9A: Spirits, Illness, and Death

Film: *The Women Betrayed*. Dir. Sehjo Singh. 1993. 41 min. [[Link](#)]

Film: *Thengapalli*. Sristhi Films. 2020. 9 min. [[Link](#)]

Shashank S. Sinha, "Culture of Violence or Violence of Cultures? Adivasis and Witch-hunting in Chotanagpur." *Anglistica AION* 19, 1 (2015):105-120.

Nazish Hussain, "The First Healers." *Caravan*, July 1, 2022.

Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, "Baso-Mai's Story." *Indian Literature* 51, 3 (239) (May-June 2007):111-124.

Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, "Desire, Divination and Death." *Indian Literature* 54, 2 (256) (March-April 2010):83-94.

Suggested:

Film: *Buddha Weeps in Jadugoda (Ragi: Kana: Ko Bonga Buru)*. Dir. Shriprakash. 1999. 56 min. [Google Drive]

Sangeeta Dasgupta, "Reordering a World: The Tana Bhagat Movement, 1914-1919." *Studies in History* 15, 1 (1999):1-41.

David Hardiman and Gauri Raje, "Practices of Healing in Tribal Gujarat." *Economic and Political Weekly* 43, 9 (March 1, 2008):43-50.

M. K. Gandhi, *M. K. Gandhi's Hind Swaraj: A Critical Edition*, eds. Suresh Sharma and Tridip Suhrud, pp.65-71 ("Brute Force"). New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2010 [1909].

Satyajeet Kumar, "Jharkhand: Tana Bhagats Show How to Beat Covid-19 Waves, No Positive Case Yet." *India Today*, June 16, 2021.

Sumeda, "Explained: What are the Laws Against Black Magic and Superstition in India?" *The Hindu*, October 20, 2022.

Dhirendra K. Jha, "Code of Silence." *Caravan*, December 28, 2022.

Maya King, "Their Ancestors Were Convicted of Witchcraft in Connecticut. They Want Justice." *New York Times*, February 16, 2023.

Abhik Bhattacharya and Md. Asghar Khan, "The Deep Roots of Misogyny." *Outlook*, March 1, 2023.

Ashfaq E, "A Killing Jolted Kerala Five Years Ago. Did It Change Anything?" *Scroll.in*, April 5, 2023.

Nolina Minj, "For Jharkhand's Asurs, the Present Matters More Than a Mythic Past." *Scroll.in*, December 8, 2024.

Week 9B: Religion, Politics, and Nonviolence

Film: *Ram ke Naam (In the Name of God)*. Dir. Anand Patwardhan. 1992. 75 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Philip Lutgendorf, *The Life of a Text: Performing the Ramcharitmanas of Tulsidas*, pp.371-392 ("The Politics of *Ramraj*"). Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.

Saba Naqvi, *In Good Faith: A Journey in Search of an Unknown India*, pp.73-76, 107-111, 141-146 ("Lord Vishnu's Lady," "A Mecca in a Mandir," "Two Faiths, One House"). New Delhi: Rupa, 2012.

Suggested:

Film: *'Historic Hurt' is a Modern Phrase. Muslims Were Integral to South Indian Gods*. The Print. 2023. 7 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Film: *"Disappointed That Ram Ke Naam is Still Relevant": Anand Patwardhan on Janmabhoomi Movement Politics*. The Wire. 2024. 31 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Film: *Why Ayodhya Turned Its Back on Narendra Modi and BJP*. The Wire. 2024. 14 min. [\[Link\]](#)

Ramchandra Gandhi, *Sita's Kitchen: A Testimony of Faith and Inquiry*, pp.1-25 ("Prologue"). Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992.

Vinay Lal, "Advaita's Waterloo." *Social Scientist* 21, 5-6 (May-June 1993):82-89.

Purushottam Agrawal, "Kan Kan Mein Vyape Hein Ram': The Slogan as a Metaphor of Cultural Interrogation." *Oxford Literary Review* 16, 1-2 (1994):245-264.

Ashis Nandy, Shikha Trivedy, Shail Mayaram, and Achyut Yagnik, *Creating a Nationality: The Ramjanmabhumi Movement and the Fear of the Self*, pp.47-50. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Phyllis Herman, "Relocating Ramrajya: Perspectives on Sita's Kitchen in Ayodhya." *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 2, 2 (August 1998):157-184.

Nandini Gooptu, *The Politics of the Urban Poor in Early Twentieth-Century India*, pp.231-238. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Ramachandra Guha, "Hindu Popes: India Seems to be Imitating Europe's Medieval Past." *Telegraph*, March 6, 2004.

Rajni Bakshi, "Why Sita Ki Rasoi Could Be Key to the Future." *Times of India*, October 3, 2010.

Harish Trivedi, "The Return of Ram." *Indian International Centre Quarterly* 43, 2 (Autumn 2016):183-191.

Purushottam Agrawal, "Being Hindu in a Hindu Rashtra." *India Today*, November 18, 2019.

Valay Singh, "Ayodhya's Forgotten Mahant and His Message of Peace." *The Wire*, November 19, 2019.

Prabal Saran Agrawal and Harsh Vardhan Tripathy, "Remembering Madari Pasi: The Uncelebrated Peasant Leader of the Eka Movement." *The Wire*, September 18, 2020.

David Hardiman, *Noncooperation in India: Nonviolent Strategy and Protest, 1920-22*, pp.65-90 (from "Struggles Against Landlordism"). New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Ashutosh Bhardwaj, "The Many Faces and Transformations of Ram and His Story." *Outlook*, October 23, 2022.

Ramachandra Guha, "Demolition." *Fifty-Two*, Week 89, Season Two, November 12, 2022.

S. N. Sahu, "The Row Over Ramcharitmanas Is Not New. Even Gandhi, Vivekananda Were Outraged by Some Verses." *The Wire*, March 27, 2023.

Badri Narayan, "Ram, Ramayana, and Ramcharitmanas are Part of a Lived Faith – Politicising Them is Fraught with Peril." *Indian Express*, April 4, 2023.

Amrita Dutta, "Reading Tulsidas in the Age of Hindutva." *Scroll.in*, April 16, 2023.

Krishna Pratap Singh, “Why the News of Ayodhya Temple Consecration Evoked Renewed Interest in the Ramanandi Sect.” *The Wire*, November 8, 2023.

Ayush Tiwari, “Did Ram Say Kick Out the Poor?” The Discontent of the Displaced in New Ayodhya.” *Scroll.in*, December 6, 2023.

“Ayodhya: Once There was a Mosque.” *The Wire*. 2023.

Sudarshan Iyengar, “Gandhi’s Ram is Not in the Ram Mandir.” *The Hindu*, February 13, 2024.

Week 10: Hostility and Tolerance

Ashis Nandy, “Telling the Story of Communal Conflicts in South Asia: Interim Report on a Personal Search for Defining Myths.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 25, 1 (2002):1-19.

Premchand, “Violence is the Supreme Religion,” trans. Alpana Neogy. In *The Complete Short Stories, Volume 3*, ed. M. Asaduddin, trans. M. Asaduddin and Others, pp.86-94. Gurgaon: Penguin Random House, 2017 [1926].

Ramchandra Gandhi, “Two Cheers for Tolerance.” *India International Centre Quarterly* 34, 1 (Summer 2007 [1995]):146-51.

Suggested:

Premchand, “Holy Judges,” trans. M. Asaduddin. In *The Complete Short Stories, Volume 1*, ed. M. Asaduddin, trans. M. Asaduddin and Others, pp.514-522. Gurgaon: Penguin Random House, 2017 [1916].

Nandini Gooptu, *The Politics of the Urban Poor in Early Twentieth-Century India*, pp.221-231, 288-291. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Charu Gupta, “Anxious Hindu Masculinities in Colonial North India: *Shuddhi* and *Sangathan* Movements.” *Crosscurrents* 61, 4 (December 2011):441-454.

C. M. Naim, “The Maulana Who Loved Krishna.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 48, 17 (April 27, 2013):37-44.

Vineet Gill, “Negative Capability: Munshi Premchand’s Hidden Gifts.” *Caravan*, July 1, 2018.

Week 11: Epics, Ethics, and Border Crossings

Film: *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*. Dir. Kabir Khan. 2015. 152 min. [Google Drive]

Kabir Khan, “Ramayana Special: This God is Yours, This God is Mine.” *Indian Express*, November 10, 2015.

Ismat Ara, “Making Dua in a Hindu Household, Or My Earliest Memories of a Secular India.” *The Wire*, November 4, 2020.

Suggested:

Film: *Vivek (Reason)*. Dir. Anand Patwardhan. 2018. 105 min. [Link]

Film: *Love and Politics: Kabir Khan on Human Moments, Limitations on Filmmaking, The Power of Hindi Cinema*. 2023. (29:12-30:12) [Link]

Film: *Déjà Vu: Story Of Saleem, Who Saw Gujarat 2002 and Delhi 2020*. The Wire. 2023. 9 min. [Link]

Saadat Hasan Manto, “Toba Tek Singh.” In *Manto: Selected Short Stories*, trans. Aatish Taseer, pp.1-11. Noida: Random House India, 2008.

Ruth Vanita, "Hymn to the Intellect: A Reading of the *Hanuman Chalisa*." In *India and the World: Postcolonialism, Translation and Indian Literature, Essays in Honour of Harish Trivedi*, ed. Ruth Vanita, pp.189-201. New Delhi: Pencraft, 2014.

Mrinal Pande, "The Sanjivani Quest: An Uttarakhand Village Hasn't Forgiven Hanuman for Defacing Their Holy Mountain." *Scroll.in*, July 31, 2016.

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty, "A Hindu and a Muslim Started Living Together. What Happened Next Won't Surprise You." *The Wire*, October 15, 2016.

Yashee, "Why Faisal Khan, Held for Offering Namaz in a Temple, is Convinced Hate Will Never Win in India." *Indian Express*, January 17, 2021.

Azeez Tharuvana, "A Thousand Flowers Bloom: The Many Muslim Versions of the Ramayana." *Caravan*, November 1, 2021.

Farida Pacha, "As India's Religious Polarisation Intensifies, I Miss the Bohra Diwali Celebrations of My Childhood." *Scroll.in*, November 5, 2021.

Shail Mayaram, *The Secret Life of Another Indian Nationalism: Transitions from the Pax Britannica to the Pax Americana*, pp.227-264 "Sushila Rawat, the Healer of Husain Tekri: Myth and Medical Pluralism as Resistance to Hindutva"). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

P. Raman, "The 'Real' Kerala Story: Tales of Communal Harmony from Ground Zero." *The Wire*, May 31, 2023.

Samridhi Tewari, "Crowds Cheer for Urdu-Speaking Ravana at Four-Day Cultural Festival." *The Hindu*, February 25, 2024.

Week 12: Concluding Thoughts

Final Exam: TBA