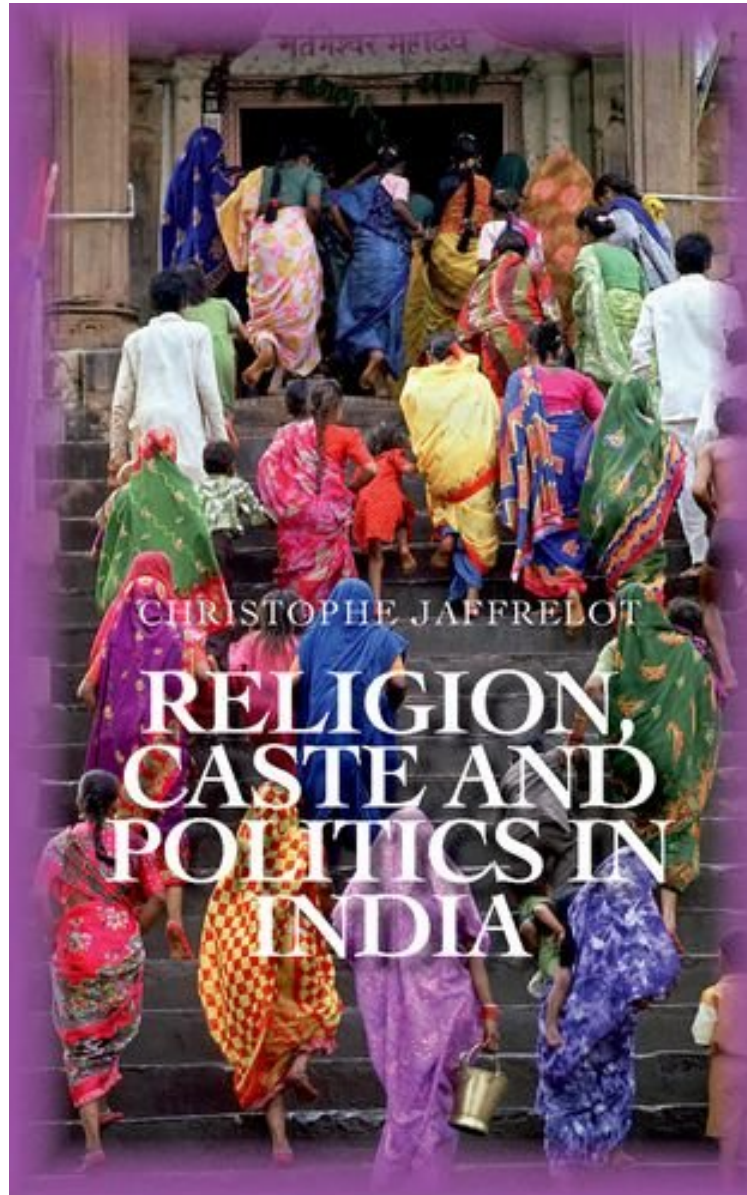


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## Religion Caste and Politics in India (Comparative Politics and Internatioanl Studies)

*Christophe Jaffrelot*

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## Politics in India (Comparative Politics and International Studies):

After Independence the Nehruvian approach to socialism in India rested upon three pillars: secularism and democracy in the political domain; state intervention in the economy; and diplomatic Non-Alignment mitigated by pro-Soviet leanings after the 1960s. These features defined the "Indian model," and even the country's political identity. From this starting point Christophe Jaffrelot explores the manner in which some of these dimensions have been transformed over the course of time, more especially since the 1980-90s. The world's largest democracy has sustained itself by making more room, not only for the vernacular politicians of the linguistic states, but also for Dalits and OBCs, at least after the Mandal Commission report. But the simultaneous--and related--rise of Hindu nationalism has put the minorities--and secularism--on the defensive, and in many ways the rule of law is on trial too. The liberalisation of the economy has resulted in growth but not necessarily in development: while the new middle class is changing the face of urban India, the rural areas lag behind and inequalities have become more acute. India has also acquired a new global status, that of an emerging power seeking new political and economic partnerships in Asia and in the West, where the United States remains the first choice of the Indian middle class. The traditional Nehruvian system is giving way to a less cohesive but a more active India, a country that has already become what it is against all the odds. Christophe Jaffrelot tracks India's tumultuous journey of recent decades, exploring the role of religion, caste and politics in weaving the fabric of a modern democratic state.

"Christophe Jaffrelot has for some fifteen years been a major research scholar working first on Hindu nationalist politics, and more recently on low caste politics in India.... this book should prove to be a popular and useful resource for researchers and students interested in exploring his work" --Dr John Zavos, University of Manchester

About the Author: Dr. Christophe Jaffrelot is Research Director at the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) and teaches South Asian politics and history at Sciences Po (Paris). From 2000-8, he was Director of CERI (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales) at Sciences Po. Arguably one of the world's most respected writers on Indian society and politics, his publications include *The Hindu Nationalist Movement and Indian Politics, 1925 to the 1990s*, *India's Silent Revolution: The Rise of the Lower Castes in North India*, and *Dr. Ambedkar and Untouchability: Analysing and Fighting Caste*, all of which are published by Hurst.