DEMOCRACY IN INDIA – HOW FAR?

Professor: Christophe Jaffrelot
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BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Christophe JAFFRELOT joined the CNRS in 1991; was awarded the CNRS Bronze Medal in 1993; became senior research fellow of second class in 2002 and senior research fellow of first class in 2008.

He has served as deputy director of CERI from 1997 to 2000 and as director from 2000 to 2008.

Has founded four book series published by Fayard, Autrement, Hurst and Palgrave.


Member of the editorial boards of Critique Internationale, Anatolia, Cultures et Conflits, Nations and nationalism, International Political Sociology, Third Frame and India Review.

Professor of Indian Politics and Sociology in the King's India Institute (King's College, London) since 2011.

Permanent Consultant at the Direction de la Prospective of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

President of the research group on emerging countries at Institut Montaigne.

Member of the scientific councils of the Südasien Institut of Heidelberg University, of the Zentrum Modemer Orient / Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin, of the Jindal University (Sonepat - India), of the Center for the Study of Multiilevel Federalism (New Delhi), of the South Asia Center of Göttingen University, of the Encyclopaedia of Mass Violence and of Sciences Po Master of Public Affairs.

Christophe Jaffrelot chairs the Scientific council of the six research centers of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CNRS in Asia since 2007.

He is president of the Political Science section of the French National Committee for Scientific Research (CoNRS) since 2012.

Christophe Jaffrelot is Senior Research Fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS in Paris. He teaches South Asian politics at Sciences Po, Yale and King's College (London).


**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Introduction**

**Session 1: The « world's largest democracy » and political theory – India as the exception?**

**Readings:**

**Part one: Why and how democracy in India**

**Session 2: Why democracy in India? (1) The British graft**

**Readings:**
- David Washbrook, “The rhetoric of democracy and development in late colonial India”, in S. Bose and A. Jalal (eds), Nationalism, development and democracy: state and politics in India, Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 36-49.
Session 3: Why democracy in India? (2) The long-term political and societal factors

Readings:

Part two: Elitism and authoritarianism

Session 4: The « Congress system » or conservative democracy

Readings:

Session 5: The Emergency: the black face of Indian politics

Readings:
Part three: the democratisation of Indian democracy

Session 6: Democracy by caste: the rise to power of the lower castes

Readings:

Session 7: Federalism, from the era of coalitions to BJP’s hegemony

Readings:
- Katharine Adeney and Lawrence Sàez (eds), Coalition Politics and Hindu Nationalism, New-York, Routledge, 2005

Part Four: The ethnicisation of Indian democracy

Session 8: Hindu nationalism takes over

Readings:
Session 9: The marginalisation of Muslims

Readings:

Part Five: What « shining India »?

Session 10: Corruption cum criminalisation of politics and the resilience of the rule of law

Readings:
- Arun Kumar, The black economy in India, New Delhi, Viking, 1999, pp. 17-54.

Session 11: The agricultural crisis and the spreading of Maoism

Readings:
- Deaton and J. Drèze, “Poverty and Inequality in India. A Re-examination”, Economic and political weekly, 7 septembre 2002, pp. 3734-3735.
Session 12: The economic reform and the new middle class

Readings:
- Ashutosh Varshney, "Mass politics or elite politics? Understanding the politics of India's economic reforms", in J. Sachs, A. Varshney and N. Bajpai (eds), India in the era of economic reforms, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 222-60.
- Zoya Hasan, "Changing political orientations of the middle classes in India", in Middle class values in India and Western Europe, New Delhi, Social Science Press, 2002, pp. 152-170.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
India’s Democracy Today. Gilles Verniers. A major political development in Uttar Pradesh in recent years has been the growing elitism in candidate recruitment by parties. While parties claim to have become more socially inclusive, they tend to enrol their candidates from among the new business elites of the state, who seek to further entrench their domination through participation in the democratic process. The Right to Information activists and whistle-blowers in India constantly face risk of harassment, assault, and even murder. The attacks on them are explored, with a special focus on Gujarat, by taking into consideration the nature of the cases they have filed. It has been nearly five years sincenota’s implementation, but how the option is used is not yet understood well. Reflections on the definition of democracy and how far it is reflected in modern India. Abraham Lincoln famously declared that democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. The definition is elegant and easy to remember. But to interpret the meaning and implement it in the political life of a nation is quite another matter. Taking the easiest of the prepositions first: democracy is a government for the people. Let us see how far we, in India, have succeeded in doing this in the 60 years since independence. It will be noticed that about 20% of the population, distributed all over the country, enjoys every facility needed for a comfortable life. For them, India is a well performing democracy. Data | How has the state of democracy in India changed since 2008? Outcomes differ among countries that are democracies. Take for instance the life satisfaction that citizens report. Further, its ranking has dropped in recent years. We should be giving serious thought to both the fact of India’s low ranking on the happiness index and its slide. To my mind, the criterion that in a democracy the people must be satisfied with their life is given very little thought these days.