

Editor's Introduction

The third issue of the journal is composed of three articles and a review essay. Two of the articles deal with aspects of Indian domestic politics, while the third is focused on India's bilateral relations with one of its most important neighbors, Bangladesh. The review essay is based on Srinath Raghavan's book, *The Most Dangerous Place*, a panoramic account of US-India relations.

Nitasha Kaul's article, "The Political Project of Postcolonial Neoliberal Nationalism" focuses on the success of right-wing electoral politics with the seemingly odd yoking of neoliberalism and nationalism. She argues that the two social forces, though apparently at odds, have actually worked in tandem. Using the Indian case especially under the Narendra Modi regime, she demonstrates how they have worked in concert despite their seeming opposition.

Hugo Gorringe and Suryakant Waghmore, in their article, "Go Write on the Walls That You are the Rulers of the Nation': Dalit Mobilization and the BJP" argue that while the 2014 electoral success of the BJP was seen as a triumph of developmental questions over identity issues, in actuality the BJP's moderation has proved to be limited. Not surprisingly, they contend, the last two years have witnessed an increase in Dalit mobilization against the BJP.

Ali Riaz' article "The Indo-Bangladesh Relationship: 'Saath Saath (Together) or Too Close for Comfort?'" discusses the India-Bangladesh relationship in recent years. He believes that over the past decade relations between the two states have been quite cordial and especially between the ruling parties. He also shows that during this period a number of contentious issues have been resolved, but others nevertheless remain. The article then discusses the prospects of the evolution of the relationship given the resolution of a range of issues while still confronting others that still remain problematic.

Aparna Pande's review essay, based on Srinath Raghavan's book, *Fierce Enigmas* (published in India as *The Most Dangerous Place*), shows how US-India relations have evolved since the eighteenth century to the present day. While the US and India currently enjoy a multifaceted and burgeoning relationship, it was not always so. Pande, based on Raghavan's findings, shows that US engagement with India was all too often held hostage to other actors and events. It frequently fell victim to the American quest for quick results. Despite a long history of people-to-people contacts, mutual ideas of exceptionalism led the two states to view each other with suspicion. Today, the relationship owes much to a common concern about the rise of the People's Republic of China. However, as Pande notes, the relationship still remains susceptible to American policy fluctuations as President's Trump's actions on a range of bilateral and regional issues have demonstrated.

With this issue, we say goodbye to our Assistant Editor, Brandon Miliate, who upon the successful defense of his dissertation, will become the South and Southeast Asian Studies Librarian at Yale University Libraries. We wish him the best for a successful career. In the next issue, we will welcome Aashna Khanna, a graduate student in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington, as his successor.

Sumit Ganguly, *Editor, Indiana University, Bloomington*

Surupa Gupta, *Managing Editor, University of Mary Washington*

Nicolas Blarel, *Associate Editor, University of Leiden*

Neil DeVotta, *Associate Editor, Wake Forest University*

Ronojoy Sen, *Associate Editor, National University of Singapore*

Arzan Tarapore, *Book Review Editor, National Bureau of Asian Research*

Brandon Joseph Miliate, *Assistant Editor, Indiana University, Bloomington*