



Political Violence and the Police in India

By K S Subramanian

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Increasing political violence in India is challenging the government's ability to resolve conflicts democratically. Combining scholarship with professional experience as a police officer for more than three decades, author K.S. Subramanian sketches the growing crisis of governance in two ways: by assessing the Central Government's police organizations and through case studies of regions and communities bearing the brunt of political violence. The author is thus able to take the reader behind the scenes?whether it is on police partisanship in communal riots in Gujarat, the Home Ministry's approach to the Naxalite problem, the violence against Dalits, or the violation of human rights in India's North-East. His is a plea for reconciling the modernizing impulses of 'civil' society and the democratic urges of 'political' society.

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Editorial Review

Review

K S Subramanian's book is a well-written and scholarly work dealing perceptively with the problems of growing political violence in the country and the failure of the Indian police to combat it....Subramanian's scholarly book will be a valuable addition to the literature on police issues in India. His analysis is lucid and cogent and illumined by his wide-ranging study and comprehension of police problems and dilemmas in other countries of the world.

(The Little Magazine)

[This book] is well-documented and well-written....a good addition to the literature on the study of the Indian state, the police and the Intelligence Bureau.

(DNA (Mumbai))

The author...talks of the increasing political violence in India that is challenging the government's ability to resolve conflicts democratically....The book concludes with suggestions for police reforms.

(Organiser)

The book is significant because it helps challenge the narrow confines of the public debate on police reform, which invariably descends into politician bashing and, therefore, see reforms as freeing the police from their clutches....it is a splendid reference book for anyone interested in understanding the role of police in the Indian state and society.

(Economic & Political Weekly)

A retired IPS officer, who stood out as a conscientious cop throughout his career, calls India...a seemingly democratic State that is highly militarised, using exceptional brutality against its own people while still picking up leaves from old colonial hand book....It is not often that one finds a senior police officer (albeit retired) writing about the army, police and paramilitary forces while, at the same time, calling a spade a spade. For this reason, K S Subramanian's book makes a remarkable reading. In 250 pages, he covers a wide spectrum of issues on political violence.

(Combat Law)

In case studies of regions and communities affected by political violence, Subramanian takes the reader behind the scenes—whether it is on police partisanship in the communal pogrom in Gujarat, the official approach to the Naxalite problem, the violence against dalits and adivasis, or the violation of human rights in northeast India.

(www.livemint.com)

In this clear and highly informative book, K S Subramanian, a former police and intelligence officer and an accomplished scholar, shows how, from the very moment of Independence, the new political bodies swiftly ensured that law and justice were replaced by law and order; order, namely established power, wealth and authority, was to be maintained by any means and at any cost.

(The Hindu)

With the clinical detachment of a highly skilled surgeon, Mr Subramanian has laid bare the innards of the Indian state with all its frightening ugliness. Sinister attributes of the state which he has so adroitly and masterfully revealed would fascinate, nay, hypnotise any discerning reader....Chilling, compelling and controversial it should be compulsory reading for all the entrants to the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service. Even if one disagrees one must know what one was disagreeing with. It should adorn the book-shelf of all serious students of Indian governance.

(Mainstream)

The separatist movements in the peripheral regions that question the very legitimacy of the Indian state's dominance were spawned by a variety of post-independence developments. It is such a landscape of violence that K S Subramanian portrays in the book under review together with, and this is what adds immensely to the value of the work, the response of the Indian state thereto. In doing so, he has delved deep into history, sociology, economics, mass psychology and electoral politics, not to mention administrative dystrophy and political skulduggery, severely affecting the Indian state's capacity to address and contain the rising tide of social and political unrest and violence, so as to pinpoint the structural and organizational infirmities of the Indian state and its various mechanisms in managing violence and conflict in a turbulent society....An important feature of the book is the plentiful data on many aspects of crime and public order that the author has meticulously collected to flesh out arguments....'The Indian police system as a whole ... is afflicted by organizational, managerial, and policy crisis. Politicization, criminalization, corruption, brutality and human rights violations are eating into its vitals. Public order maintenance and political intelligence take up most of the time of the Indian police with little left for crime prevention, crime detection and service provision. The police leadership has remained a prisoner of the political party in power at all levels and has failed to contribute to organizational renewal and revitalization, research and training and the nurturing of professional skills' (p. 57).

(The Book Review)

K S Subramanian provides a comprehensive, well-balanced analysis of the history, organisation and contemporary functioning of the central police forces (including the Intelligence Bureau). This is an up-to-date, insider perspective from a person with broad administrative experience, who is also sensitive to human rights issues. (Paul R Brass)

It does not strive to make sensational disclosures or generate a shock. The book offers a methodical and near-comprehensive analysis of issues that confront the security of institutions which the author refers to collectively as the "Indian police system". His analytical tools are manifold but inter-related....The net result is a unique historical perspective that brings together academic evaluation of the macro issues on the security

front and a distinctive perspective that encapsulates an understanding of even organisational matters at the micro level. More specifically, this is a perspective that could have been developed only by a person who knows the system from inside and at the same time has adequate academic credentials to advance a sociological discourse.

(Frontline)

About the Author

K S Subramanian a former officer of the Indian Police Service, is Senior Fellow at Schumacher Centre for Development, New Delhi. He has worked as Assistant Director of the Intelligence Bureau (1967–72); Director, Research and Policy Division, Union Home Ministry, New Delhi (1980–85); Professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi (1991–93); Director General, State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development, Government of Tripura (1993–97); and Professor, Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (2002–03). He has been a Visiting Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla (1973–75); Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford (1983–84); Centre for Contemporary Studies, Nehru Memorial Library, Teenmurti House, New Delhi (1986–91); and Institute of Development Studies, Sussex (1989–90). He was a member of the Concerned Citizens Tribunal?Gujarat 2002.

He has authored Parliamentary Communism: Crisis in the Indian Communist Movement (1989) and contributes regularly to various national newspapers and journals. His current research interests include the role of voluntary action in rural development.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Payne:

Here thing why this Political Violence and the Police in India are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Political Violence and the Police in India giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no e-book that similar with Political Violence and the Police in India. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your approach home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Political Violence and the Police in India in e-book can be your alternative.

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John Carroll:

The book untitled Political Violence and the Police in India contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the woman idea with easy way. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read it. The book was authored by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice learn.

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