

The Role of Religion in Indian Politics and Government

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Abstract: India is a country with a huge population and a multireligious culture. The majority of Indians worship Hinduism, with Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists making up the minority. All four of the major global religions—Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism—were created in India. The role of religion in India's social, economic, and political life has always been substantial. India's history demonstrates how important religion was to the country's development. We may see the many roles that religions have played in India's history. The constitution of India declares it to be a secular nation, but we haven't been able to make this a reality in day-to-day life. Religion has always had a crucial role in Indian politics. As a consequence of disagreements between various religious groups, there have been a number of communal riots around the country. Gandhi said in 1942 that "Religion is a personal matter which should have no place in politics" but added that "politics in India is incomplete without religion." India managed to draft a constitution that guaranteed everyone's equality and outlawed all kinds of discrimination while being split along religious lines. Religious discrimination and inequality are major issues in India. Many innocent people have been hurt in the name of religion. Religion is one of the most important tactics used by Indian politicians to gain the favor of the population. The majority of Indians still lack political literacy and often aren't aware of the tactics used by these shrewd politicians. Because they are aware of how passionately dedicated Indians are to their faith and their readiness to sacrifice everything for it, these power-hungry people are exploiting religion. Due to the significant influence of religion on Indian politics, the bulk of political parties in the country were created by religious institutions. There is often bias of certain groups when they seize power. As a result, the minority community is impacted. Our foreign policy are significantly influenced by the religious politics of our country.

Keywords: Secularism, Democracy, Religion, Politics, India, Governance, Diversity, Citizenship, Separation, Pluralism

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